

Hapton Parish Council

Monday, 11th June 2012

Present: Councillor Birbeck (in the Chair), Barker, Dawson, Kayley, Lakeland.

Others: Borough Councillor Greenwood, S. Watson (Clerk) and 3 residents.

Parish Council Agenda

Councillor Tim Birbeck opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, and specifically welcomed the new Clerk.

12/13/017 Apology for absence

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Puckett-Gouldin and District Councillor Cunningham.

12/13/018 Declarations of Interest / Code of Conduct

Members were reminded about the Councillors Code of Conduct. Councillor Kayley declared a prejudicial interest in the Allotments.

12/13/019 Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 14th May were noted. Outstanding Allotment rents were received and it was noted that there were still 2 rents to be paid, the Chair will follow these up.

It was noted that acceptance of office and declarations of interest forms will be completed by the next meeting.

12/13/020 Minutes of the last meeting held on the 14th May 2012.

The minutes of the last meeting were submitted for approval as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Hapton Parish Council meeting on the 14th May 2012 are approved as a correct record.

The Christmas Light Switch on was confirmed for Friday 30th November 2012 and will be held in partnership with the school. The Brownies and Scouts will also be invited to attend the disco. The Borough Engineers need to be notified of the date and it was suggested that the parish attempts to get a celebrity for the Switch-On.

There were no further actions under the minutes.

12/13/021 RESOLVED: That the meeting would close to welcome comments from members of the public.

Borough Councillor Greenwood updated the meeting on the Over 60s Tea Dance on the 2nd July at Padiham Town Hall where refreshments were being provided free of charge. There is also a meet the Leader of the Council and Council Officers event been arranged for 4 to 6pm on Tuesday 12th June at Padiham Town Hall, the Chair agreed to attend. The Space Bus has visited Hapton but has had a poor take-up, it was noted it is available on a Wednesday night and had not been well advertised but also clashes with the youth provision at the Community Centre, it was agreed that a poster would be displayed in the Centre.

Over 600 questionnaires have been delivered, a resident of Water Street stated that they had not received a questionnaire and it was explained that the budget prevented the whole of the Parish being targeted. It was suggested the Parish Council may be able to fund additional questionnaires. 18 responses have been received to date. It was agreed that the Parish Council would investigate the provision of additional copies.

A tree had fallen at Bridge Street and an old mooring ring is sticking from the ground, it was suggested that the ring is painted to make it more visible.

12/13/022 The meeting was formally re-opened for business

12/13/023 Update on Website

It was noted that no progress had been made and that the financial details were needed to lodge the domain name and 1 year hosting fees, the website has been developed and is just waiting for the domain to publish it. The Clerk will investigate further and an expenditure of up to £30 was suggested. Once hosted photos of events could be displayed and a best picture competition considered.

RESOLVED: That an expenditure of up to a maximum of £30 is approved for the website domain name.

12/13/024 Update on Recreation Ground

A Sport England funding bid is being drafted with a closing date of the application of 9th July, an Officer at the Borough Council will prepare the bid for submission through the Parish Council. The survey shows that 50% of respondents have children, however 72% use the playground and 92% felt a separate play area for older and younger children was needed. 69% wanted play equipment on the Bowling Green and 85% felt the current provision was very poor. A Burnley Express article was circulated that stated more money would be available for recreation grounds and Wards Opportunities Funds may be available again this year as well as County Council funding. The Council for Voluntary Services can offer advice on funding sources and it was agreed that a visit should be arranged.

There was a suggestion that the Green had the wrong type of soil and it was agreed that this would be investigated with the Borough Council. Previous funding could be used for match funding if it had been received by the Parish Council rather than by the Borough Council. It was also suggested that Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields funding may be available.

12/13/025 Reports from representatives of outside Bodies

It was noted that the Centre needed a clean and a suggestion was made to hire a cleaner, although how this would be funded and by whom wasn't established as several groups use the facility. It was agreed that a letter will be sent to ask users to check the building is clean before and after use and ask each group to allocate a couple of representatives to clean the building. A wall board will be provided to check the facilities. The Borough Council will be asked to ensure the play inspectors are not leaving rubbish. A check list will include the kitchen, toilets, bins emptied and room vacuumed. The Chair agreed to check if a cleaner would be available.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council would hire a cleaner at a cost of up to £40 to bring the facilities back up to standard then a letter will be sent to groups to check cleanliness before and after use.

Cllr Lakeland attended the PACT (Police and Communities Together) meeting on the 6th June. Padiham Police Station now has an extra police officer for 30 hours per week and the school will be given details, police have assured that they are patrolling the picnic area and Hambledon Walk and are taking number plates and writing to potential offenders. The Hambledon Road speed limit is the National Speed limit, but a small area is 30mph, therefore restrictions are not available and the police are unlikely to reduce the limit due to the nature of the road. If sheep are on the road it is the owner's responsibility. It was noted that mobile phones are also being used by drivers in the area. The ground is uneven and walking without the lights can be difficult. The Chair has contacted Highways about a gate at Castle Clough Lane, but as the road is private this cannot be removed.

The Blue Stone Archeology group will apply for English Heritage for permissions once the undergrowth is cleared. A letter requested the coat of arms and the date the Parish was established.

12/13/026 Finances

The following bank balances were noted.

- Fundraising Account £1,914.65
- Expenses £2,751.25
- Env. Account £5,359.55

Bank Charges have been incurred and the Clerk will check if these can be reclaimed.

12/13/027 Planning Applications

One planning application had been received, (AA/APP/2012/0232) - Proposed raising of ground level area between nos 24 and 26 by 600mm to match existing ground level of existing footpath - 24 Mill Hill Lane, Hapton. Contact Aftab Ahmed at Burnley Borough Council. Contact for application - Mr Anthony Carter, 24 Mill Hill Lane. There were no objections.

A question was asked if the Borough Council could stop arctic wagons using the village, however the planning application for this had already been approved. It was suggested that the proposed bridge should be built to alleviate the problem. It was agreed that an update would be provided for the next meeting.

Motorbikes are using the Canal towpath and need a barrier to be re-instated at Knotts Bridge which was removed to allow contract mowers access. Any improvements need to include methods to prevent motorbikes.

It was agreed that the bench in this location had stood the test of time and additional benches would be welcomed.

12/13/028 Correspondence

There was no correspondence received.

12/13/029 Visual Audits

The hanging baskets are up and are looking good. The No. 1 light on Church Street is staying on 24 hours a day and the pavement at Whitefield Street needs repairs. P.J. Tractors have been damaging grassed areas and need a letter to be sent requesting they pay for the repairs.

The Street sign on Wood Street is missing and the welcome to Hapton flowerbed needs some attention. The Simpson Street picture is looking tired and the wall is in need of a re-plaster although this belongs to a resident. The company will be approached to see if the wall can be repaired prior to repainting and a fund raising event was suggested for the project.

A question was asked why areas of the Recreation Ground are not being mowed, it was explained that these were wildlife areas. It was suggested that lupines are re-introduced to the railway embankments.

12/13/030 Date of next meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Monday 9th July 2012 at the Community Center.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.