



**THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF
THE HEALEYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ONLINE THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021**

Present:

Councillor A. Pearson (Chair)
Councillors J. Robson, A. Wallace, D. Dixon, A. Hird, K. Spencer
Councillor O. Johnson
L. Standish (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

1. Apologies for Absence
Cllr J. Considine via Cllr O Johnson
2. Declarations of Interest
None
3. Public Participation
One
4. Confirm Minutes Ordinary Meeting held on 26 November 2020
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 November 2020 were accepted as a true and correct record.
5. Chairman's Report
 - Cllr Pearson thanked Councillors A. Hird and D. Dixon for the removal of the Christmas lights and tripod, delays were due to COVID restrictions and weather.
 - Awaiting information and evidence from the landlady of The Horse & Groom to register it as an Asset of Community Value. Once the information is received an application can be put forward, item to be added to our next agenda.
 - The applicant for parish councillor withdrew his application due to a change in circumstances. The vacancy will be carried through to the election period.
6. County Councillor Report
 - A full council meeting has been published on Facebook, which is 4 hours long due to the budget setting of 2021/2022
 - Council tax notice will be sent out to members and is less than 5% as recommended by Central Government
 - Remote meetings are coming to an end of the recommended period and are due to go back to face to face meetings.
 - Cllr Dixon questioned the change of paths to bridle ways and advised he was opposed to the plans. The British Horse Society and Rights of Way will put the changes out for consultation with parish councils and local residents.
 - Cllr A Pearson asked for the progress of the well to be chased, as this should have been unblocked.
 - Cllr Robson stated the CCTV had still not been disconnected, could this be chased so we can get the WW1 Board installed. It should have been disconnected 17 December 2020.

7. Correspondence

- A resident responded to an ongoing query, Cllr A Hird contacted the resident and left a voicemail to which there was no reply. Cllr A Wallace advised that the concern was the fencing, which appeared to be a stock fence, which isolates that area of the woods and the deer being able to jump the fence. Cllr D Dixon advised that there had been no previous problems, the concern may be the change of use, but is unaware of any change of use. Cllr Pearson advised that if the land was being changed to a garden then there would be a need for a change of use being filed. Clerk to reply to advise that this is out of the parish councils' control and the resident would need to contact the Planning Department at Durham County Council with any concerns if the land has been changed from agricultural to garden.
- Notification of Registration on Consultation Database, was passed on to members. Members can give their views via this database; this is still under implementation so can members please respond to any communication/notifications.
- NHS & Frontline Workers Day 5th July, to be added to March Agenda to allow time to arrange a small event.
- Census, 21st March, to raise awareness. A poster is to be displayed in the noticeboard.
- A link to scams to be added to our website, online training to make residents aware of scams.

8. Finance

1) Accounts for Payment

A-Byte annual fee £288.00 given current circumstances to remain with A-Byte this year, scheduled to arrange another website supplier in September's meeting. **AGREED**

2) Account balances summary update

The current Parish Council bank balance, after the deduction of outstanding uncleared payments is £25,222.99. **AGREED**

3) Budget Setting 2021/2022

It was **AGREED** that a budget of £2000 to be set for the bench repairs, £400 to be taken from the flower tubs as the annual cost has been reduced and £450 to be deferred from this financial year to next year's budget. There is a surplus in village projects which can also be used. **RESOLVED**

9. Clerk's Report

- Licence and invoice being prepared for WW1 Board, CCTV pole is still in place and not disconnected, Cllr O Johnson is chasing the disconnection.
- Tarmacadam for Consett Road was estimated at a cost of £20,000 from Durham County Council. The parish are unable to contact a private contractor as the land belongs to the Local Authority. The item is to be added to our next agenda and chased by County Councillors. 20 tonnes of chippings were requested for potholes and paths, Cllr Pearson to chase with Durham County Council as nothing has been delivered. Cllr Wallace will also report the paths to Durham County Council via their website.
- Contractors were contacted for the installation of the fossil but there has been no reply. Cllr Pearson will chase written requests and Clerk to chase another contractor via email.
- Waste bin has not been installed at the top of Black Paths, clerk to contact Durham County Council, Cllr Hird to purchase stickers for "dog waste" from the internet.

10. Planning Application

Planning permissions were forwarded to members during December and January, there were no comments or objections. No applications have been received February.

11. Consett Road Junctions

The proposals for this junction are inadequate. Lines are going to be placed at the corners of the junctions to stop the parking problem but need to be extended further to enable sufficient visibility. Cllr Pearson to contact Durham Council to advise them that the parish are doubtful that the changes will alleviate the problem and request further monitoring in a view to extend the lines.

12. Drone Footage

There has been no contact from the company and it is assumed that they are closed as they are a non-essential company. As soon as restrictions lift the clerk will contact them.

13. Parish Paths and Woods Review

Awaiting costs from the Rights of Way Team, Cllr Pearson will chase. Cllr Dixon highlighted that there was an issue with fencing and dogs getting on to farmers land and worrying sheep. Cllr Hird will investigate, as some posts may need renewing. Cllr Wallace advised that the community have made some comments on the amount of litter in the woods and has been to clean and tidy the areas of concern, as no litter pick has been arranged due to current restrictions.

14. Parish Benches Review

Cllr Wallace has circulated a comprehensive document outlining proposed scheduled repairs, to be forwarded to contractors. The remaining repairs will be documented and a proposal will be prepared for our next meeting, to complete works this year. Details will be forwarded to the clerk regarding the purchase of one new bench.

15. Secure Storage

The village hall is relocating their boiler upstairs and space has become available in the cellar for storage for the parish, there may not be enough space to store everything as the floor space is not very big. Cllr Pearson will have a further discussion with the village hall as to what space is available. There are storage containers to rent for approx. £80 per month, which can be negotiated, based at Mount Pleasant (A68). Cllr Hird has a contact number and will ring them to enquire further, regarding quotes. There has been no further information received regarding the storage at the scout hut.

16. Tripod Removal

This item was discussed earlier in the Chairman's report, thanks were given to Cllr Dixon and his helpers.

17. Newsletter

Cllr Robson requested a short newsletter to be distributed before Easter to keep in touch with the community. To include a small booklet with the VE Day photographs, messages from the local churches and schools, progress on parish benches etc to reach out to the community to let them know we are still here. Information to made available by mid-March. Cllr Pearson to confirm with CDALC regarding any restrictions due to COVID and pre-election.

18. Date of the next Ordinary Meeting

25 March 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

22. Confidential items

None

Conclusion of meeting at 20:40

Signed Cllr A Pearson Chair of the Council