**Minutes of the meeting of HEATHER PARISH COUNCIL held Tuesday 9 August at 7pm at the David Taylor Memorial Hall**

Members present**:** Chairman, Councillor J Clarke

Councillors Fell, Harris, Pettitt, Petty and Wright

In attendance: Cllr V Richichi, District Councillor

Cllr D Harrison, County Councillor

Mr P Taylor, Allotment coordinator

PC Edward Fowkes and colleague

Ms Sonia Lear, Community Engagement Officer, Public Health, County Council

Mrs Jan Shepherd, Parish Clerk

There were no apologies for absence

Declaration of Interest: as on the Register of Interests

**62. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated in advance and were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Petty, seconded by Cllr Harris with all in favour

**63. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**64. Public question and answer session**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**65. County Councillor Comments**

This item was brought forward to enable Cllr Harrison to attend a later meeting as well.

He had been in touch with the clerk about the Speed Activated Signs which had been requested and she had, as a result of that conversation, produced a sheet (attached as Appendix One) with the details of what we are asking for, the companies we have contacted, our preferred option and the costs. We have requested one for Pisca Lane and one for Mill Lane but would ask that the County Council instruct us on the positioning of the signs. He has undertaken to follow this up and arrange for the funding to become available and the County Council to give us the advice we need re position. The clerk can then order the equipment to benefit the users of the village who are plagued by speeding traffic.

He further informed us that there had been problems with the Ibstock road closure. He understood that we continue to have problems with HGV vehicles travelling through a restricted zone. He said that RS Grab Hire vehicles were supposed to turn left when they leave the depot, but try as he and we might, there are a lot of drivers who still turn right because it is nearer to where they want to go. Despite companies having been told about it many times, he agreed with our councillors that the time had come for them to receive substantial fines if they are caught travelling through the village.

Some photographs had been sent out of a vehicle in the village on 5th August. He requested that the local Beat officer contact the company again.

At this point, Cllr Harrison said if there was anything during the month he could help with, for the clerk to contact him and he left the meeting.

**66. Community Policing**

PC Edward Fowkes reported as follows:

* There had been problems at the fishing lakes over the last week or so but it is in process of being resolved.
* He informed us that speed gun checks will be done in the village very soon
* He had stopped a farm vehicle travelling along with a child on the lap of the driver
* He remains concerned about the traffic at the school emphasising that the regulations can’t be met for the path at the school. He and the District Councillor both suggested the only possible way forward to alleviate the parking problem at school was double yellow lines, but that is probably not a satisfactory solution.
* He will meet some of our councillors for a Patch Walk on 10th August.
* He was told that a lot of lorries are coming out of QPI now and requested that he speak to the site owner with a request that there is a notice to instruct lorry drivers to turn right out of there.

He was thanked for his attendance and it was noted that we have had much more information from and cooperation with the police since he had been our Beat Officer.

**67. Welcome to our guest for the evening, Sonia Lear, Community Engagement Officer, Public Health at the County Council**

Sonia was welcomed by Cllr Clarke and invited to tell us about her role. She has been appointed to cover the rural villages of North West Leicestershire and has already met or been introduced to a fair number of people in the village during her first visit to the village. She is focussing on health and well-being, which includes topics as diverse as weight management and drug dependency. She will be working with and connecting with as many local groups as possible to ensure that she is aware of the needs of the local community. She has discovered to date that the village is an inter-active village and supportive of the residents. She attended the Scarecrow Festival and would be interested in setting up a Coffee morning if there was a need for a regular event like that.

She is the contact person for the community if we have problems with any County Support Services including Adult Social Care. One of her roles is to give gentle support to those who have lost confidence during the pandemic and are struggling to get back to a normal lifestyle. She is part of the County Council Liaison Team.

She was thanked for her attendance and for her visits to the village to date. She said she would keep in touch via the clerk and if we needed her for anything, we could also contact her via the clerk.

**68. District Councillor Comments**

Cllr Richichi began by telling the council that he thought we would be receiving some new planning applications before too long.

He was fearful that we may have an application for:

Rosconn for 139 – to complete the site that they had requested some years ago

LCC for 59 – an application that had been withdrawn but may now be resubmitted

He said that if they were submitted, he would also resubmit for his site on Swepstone Road. He thinks these will be coming soon as the County are unable to identify the amount of land for building the required number of houses as stipulated by central government by 2036 without every village in the County having some of the numbers in their communities.

The local plan shows unmet needs and a new plan is needed. There is a further development near the airport which has not yet been approved and is in its’ infancy.

Being a wealthy council, this area is ripe for building new properties.

He was happy to support the request given to our County Councillor for speed activated signs on Mill Lane and Pisca Lane.

**69. Report from Allotment Coordinator**

There is currently just one plot that needs some attention, Plot 1b. The clerk will contact. The skip ordered recently was delivered, filled and collected within just a few hours and the plot cleared.

**70. Report from Tree Warden**

There is no report at this time.

**71. Village Issues**

* Play area inspections were carried out on 19th, 25th July and 1st August.
* Action from Play Area Inspection reports – we continue to monitor all the actions required and respond accordingly. It was agreed that the bin liner required for the Belcher Close area should be ordered. If it turns out to be a bit too big, then we will deal with that as required.
* To notify the council of burials at the cemetery – we are expecting three burials at the cemetery before the end of August, all of them are reopened plots.
* Following a query about the soil heap at the cemetery where excess soil from new burials is heaped, the clerk suggested that it may be possible to have one of two solutions:

Level the soil and put new grass on it to make it all green and less of an eyesore

Have a fence put around the whole of that corner about four feet high so that all of the excess soil can be put over the fence and will not be seen

The councillors agreed to visit the cemetery together and decide which of the two options they favoured or if they came up with a different solution. They will report back to the next meeting.

* The councillors have all undertaken training on the Code of Conduct. The clerk had sent a copy of the NWL model for their perusal and suggested that we consider adopting this code in line with the District Council and other Parishes in the District. After due consideration and having read the document prior to the meeting, it was proposed and agreed that the Code of Conduct is accepted as the Code of Conduct for Heather Parish Council. The clerk will make the necessary adjustments and put it on our website.

**72. Village Hall**

* Progress on Land Registry – update on progress. Everything submitted by NWLDC. The clerk will try and find out more for the next meeting.
* The number of bookings is increasing gradually and all bookings can be viewed on the website.

**73. Accounts**

The following payments for July were approved at the August meeting

434.24 clerk’s salary

32.59 clerk’s expenses

19.68 WaterPlus

479.16 CJ Springthorpe re hanging baskets

Council income for July is as follows:

185.00 Burial

Village Hall expenses for July 2022

62.15 Eon for Village Hall

16.56 British Gas for Village Hall

280.23 Cleaning of Village Hall

10.78 WaterPlus

160.16 Firestop services for check and service of all fire equipment

Village Hall Income for July 2022

536.00 rent for classes and activities paid in this month.

All invoices sent up to date for end of July

The Bank statement for Heather Parish Council for July 2022 was received 9/8/2022

The Bank statement for Heather Recreation Ground for July 2022 was received 9/8/2022

**74. Planning Applications**

Applications

22/01074/OUT 2 Newton Road erection of 2 dwellings with vehicular

Heather access & layout – resubmit 19/00104/OUT

## Decisions this month and decision awaited

19/01441/OUT Land rear of 55 Mill Lane erection of two detached dwellings

Heather

(Further amendment received 10/12/2021)

22/00756/REM 2 Newton Road Erection of three dwelllings with vehicle

Heather access + off street parking

Application approved 4/8/2022

**75. Chairman’s comments**

The Chairman and councillors brought the following matters to our attention:

* The councillors congratulated the Scarecrow Festival Committee on an excellent return for the festival. It was a brilliant event and so good to see the village buzzing. The clerk is to write to the committee.
* The Football Club and Queens Head are holding their Music Festival at the weekend. We are requested to monitor noise levels. This will be done by the District Council.
* The road sweeper has done the gutters on Mill Lane
* The Millings was all cut before the festival so that people could walk through easily.
* The stile between John Petty’s land and Phil Lewis’s land appears to have lost the middle step. Clerk is to investigate.
* An electric fence sign has appeared but there does not appear to be an electric fence there.
* The Church wish to say thank you for the use of the hall during the Scarecrow Festival when the sum of £200 was raised.
* It was suggested we ask Bartletts to come and put a sensor on the floodlight at the far side of the car park rather than leave it on all the time on a timer with the rising cost of electricity.
* There was a question asked about The Old Cowsheds and whether it is an adopted road or not. The clerk will investigate.
* The clerk was also asked to write to the Waste department at the District Council for their help with the bins for the Festival which worked exceedingly well.

**76. District and County Council business**

District Council:- nothing to date

County Council: - nothing to date

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council: Nothing to date

# 77. Correspondence and circulars

Nothing to date

**Next meeting**

To confirm the dates below:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th September 2022 at the David Taylor Memorial Hall at 7pm – see web site for details

Future meetings:

11th October; 8th November; 13th December; 10th January 2023; 14th February 2023; 14th March 2023. All meetings will be held at the David Taylor Memorial Hall at 7pm.

Web site address -www.heatherparishcouncil.org.uk