

## HEATHER PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Heather Parish Council Held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7pm at The David Taylor Memorial Hall Heather**

Present: Councillor Phil Harris (Chair), Councillor Steve Pettitt (Vice Chair),  
Councillor Garry Johnson, Councillor Alison Wright, Councillor John  
Clarke, Councillor John Petty.

Donna Purday (Parish Clerk)

In Attendance: County Councillor Dan Harrison

Members of the Public: Virge Richichi, Peter Fell

Apologies for Absence: District Councillor Guy Rogers

#### **1. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Wright declared an interest in planning application number 22/00377/VCU.

#### **2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March had been circulated before the meeting and it was proposed by Councillor Clarke that they were a true and accurate record and seconded by Councillor Wright.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Public Question and Answer Session**

There were no Public Questions asked.

## **5. Community Policing**

The Clerk confirmed she had received no feed back from PCSO Fowkes for the month of March.

## **6. District and County Councillor Comments**

County Councillor Harrison reported that he is pleased to see more positive responses between the Clerk and County Highways with regards to the VAS sign project. He was concerned that there may be a delay on the sourcing of the posts to support the VAS signs. He suggested to speed up the process that the Clerk might research obtaining them on behalf of the Council. He confirmed that now the process is gathering pace that he does not want us to lose momentum.

The Clerk circulated the quotes that we have received so far for the VAS signs and structural testing of the lamp columns. Councillor Pettit confirmed that it would be a good time to get the Columns tested for the Hanging Baskets. He confirmed they need testing every 30 months.

The preferred option is for the VAS signs to be located near lamp column number 7 on Pisca Lane on a separate post and lamp column number 13 on Mill Lane also on a separate post. This would be a safer option than on the lamp columns.

Councillor Johnson asked if there was any funding available to assist the parish in paying for the light column testing or the play parks. The Clerk confirmed that she regularly searched the County Councils notifications for funding and nothing fits the criteria to enable us to apply.

It was suggested that we invite our Community Services Officer to the next meeting to explore any potential Grant funding.

The preferred supplier for the VAS signs is Coeval Option number two.

## 7. Village Issues

- Councillor Clarke raised that there is a circus that is due to go to Cattows Farm commencing on the 19<sup>th</sup> April the Clerk is to contact NWLDC enforcement to enquire if they are aware. Councillor Harrison is also contacting LCC Highways enforcement.
- **Allotment Inspection Dates – 19<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March & 2<sup>nd</sup> April.**
- **Play Area Inspection Dates – 19<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March & 2<sup>nd</sup> April.**

Councillor Johnson confirmed that he will remove the rope at the Belcher Close play area within the Calendar month for replacement. He apologised for the delay in removal which has been due to family commitments and illness.
- **VAS Signs**

Please see Minute number 5 District & County Councillors Comments. The Structural Testing of the Street light Columns were also discussed at this point, and it was decided that we should commission the Quote from The Electrical Testing company.
- **Community Chest Grant**

The Clerk confirmed that an appointment has been made with Luke from Sutcliffe's for the installation of the new swings at Mill Lane on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April between 12 to 1pm. Councillor Harris and Councillor Pettit have confirmed they will be there for the meeting.
- **Defibrillator**

Councillor Johnson discussed the replacement of the Defibrillator Pads and batteries and the options available he suggested that the best way forward would be to order new pads and batteries for both defibrillators then to buy replacements approximately two months before the expiry date, all were in favour. The Clerk is to forward on Anthony Parkes the First Responders contact details to Councillor Johnson

- **Moles**

The quotes were discussed, it was agreed that the Clerk contact Andrew Dennis to carry out the work at the combined price of £290 for both Mill Lane and Sweptstone Road.

- **Clerks Contract**

The Chair has confirmed he will discuss further with the Clerk.

## **8. Cemetery**

- It was confirmed that exploratory work has been done with a small digger by Messrs G Fox at the proposed site for the cemetery extension they confirmed that they had taken away some of the soil and there is builders rubble located there.

The Clerk has expressed concern that if the waste was transferred from one site to another if there are any contaminants in the waste there could be serious consequences for the Council.

- Councillor Pettitt stated that the waste that has been dumped there is from the building work that was done at Belcher Close, and that the rubble would be relatively new.
- Councillor Pettitt will be contacting Mr Fox for a quote and the clerk is to contact some groundworks companies for quotes.

## **9. Annual Parish Meeting**

- To be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May at 7pm 2023 before the Parish Meeting. The Clerk to put a post on Facebook.

## **10. Village Hall**

- **Kitchen Blind**

The Clerk is to order a blind from Blinds Direct in Plain Red Councillor Johnson has agreed to fit it.

- **Defibrillator Training**

It was requested that the clerk email Reuben from the ambulance service to chase for some dates.

- **Hall Security**

The Clerk raised concerns that there are keys that have been issued to hall users that have since stopped booking with us and that keys have not been returned. She confirmed that she has just bought 5 keys. It was proposed by Councillor Clarke that we purchase a Keysafe for casual users of the village hall and seconded by Councillor Wright. The Policy will be that we change the code every month.

Councillor Johnson reported that he had noticed while waiting to get into the village hall that the security camera on the side of the hall is damaged and needs repairing.

- **Manhole**

Requires measuring.

- **Loose Slabs**

Councillor Harris and Councillor Pettit have will count how many slabs require repairing or levelling. We will then contact SDI for a quote for the work.

- **Water Heater**

The Clerk confirmed that we are waiting on a reply from Heather Craft Club. It was agreed that the preferred option is the BIBO Water dispenser.

- **Village Hall Management Committee Meeting Date**

Confirmed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2024 Clerk to invite a representative from each regular hall user and the management committee.

- **Water Plus Meters**

The Clerk has confirmed she has requested for smart meters to be installed due to them being free of charge.

## 11. Finance – Heather Parish Council

The Clerk presented the end of year accounts to the Council which were approved.

The following payments were approved:

£843.60 Clerks Salary minus £18.00 Overpayment 9<sup>th</sup> Jan = £825.60

£ 25.39 Clerks Expenses

£466.46 LRALC Membership

- **Heather Parish Council-Income Outstanding**

£ 55.00 Interment fees (Co-operative Funeral Service) Burial Plot no 3.

- The Cash reserve account was discussed, and all agreed we should open an instant access account with Wise Bank.

- **Village Hall Finance**

The following payments were approved:

£147.00 EDF Energy Electricity Bill

£ 48.00 AJ Bartlett

£133.63 E Holmes Cleaners Salary

- **Village Hall Income for April**

£765.00

## 12. Planning Applications

### Decisions this month and Decisions awaited.

23/01510/OUT	Land off Swebstone Road Heather LE67 2RF	Erection of No1 Self Build Dwelling (Outline all Matters Reserved)
23/01512/OUT	111 Swebstone Road Heather LE67 2RF	2 Self Build Dwellings (Outline All Matters Reserved)

23/01635/OUT Land off Pisca Lane Heather LE67 2QF	1 Self Build Dwelling (Outline all Matters Reserved)
23/01634/OUT Land off Pisca Lane Heather LE67 2QF	2 Self Build Dwellings (Outline all Matters Reserved)
24/00082/OUT Land Adj to 26 Pisca Lane Heather LE67 2QF	Erection of one self-build dwelling (Outline All Matters Reserved)
24/00268/LBC Heather Hall Sweystone Road Heather LE67 2RF	Replacement of 3 Fireplace surrounds
23/00131/NMA 8 Mill Lane Heather LE67 2QE	Amendment to Planning Perm 23/00131/FUL To allow Change to Dormer Cladding
22/00377/VCU 2 Station Terrace Heather LE67 2QN	Amendments to conditions 2,7,11, & 12 of 22/01547/FUL

- Councillor Petty Queried Planning application number 22/00377/VCU. Due to Councillor Wright having an interest in the application she left the room. He asked if the proposed change to the driveway was coming close to his property, he was advised by that there are no changes to the original conditions that had already been agreed to by NWLDC and that the visibility on the original plan was adjusted to allow for visibility for vehicle access to the road. He then went on to say that he was concerned about all the development that is happening in Heather and the traffic problems it is causing.

### 13. Chairpersons Comments

- Councillor Wright returned to the meeting.
- Councillor Johnson apologised for his lack of input into meetings as he feels that he is still learning about Parish Council matters.
- Councillor Petty expressed his disappointment that the District Councillor was not in attendance it was made clear that there is no necessity for him to attend.
- Councillor Petty has also reported that there are problems with the Sewerage treatment works due to the heavy rainfall he is concerned that a property in the area of Mill Lane may be flooded.

- Councillor Clarke feels that there is a need to reach out to the parishioners of Heather and would like to introduce a Parish Newsletter. It was suggested that we could put something out via the Ibstock community voice and should look into further and that links could be put out via Facebook and Heather Leicestershire and Spotted Heather.
- Councillor Wright raised that she has spoken to Ian of SDI about the invoice split for the Village Hall it was agreed that he should charge one third for the Village Hall and two thirds for the rest of the village. She reported that Ian is struggling to cut the grass at the cemetery. Pots are being placed at the end of the new row of graves needing him to trim instead of cutting with his mower. He also asked if the graves could be levelled, we have said no and that they will settle in time. She also confirmed that Ian has the fences on his list of work to do.
- Councillor Pettit had nothing to add.

#### **14. Next meeting**

To confirm the next meeting will be Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of May at the David Taylor Memorial Hall at 7pm see Website for details.

#### **15. Future Meetings**

11th June 9<sup>th</sup> July 13<sup>th</sup> August, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> November, \* 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024. All meetings to be held David Taylor Memorial Hall at 7pm.

Website Address- [www.heatherparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.heatherparishcouncil.org.uk)



