

## HEATHER PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Heather Parish Council Held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 at 7pm at the David Taylor Memorial Hall**

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

Donna Purday (Parish Clerk).

In Attendance: Paul Taylor (Allotment Co-Ordinator).

Members of the Public: Marina Brooks (Scarecrow Festival Co-Ordinator) Holly Johnson (Scarecrow  
Festival Co-Ordinator) Lindsay Weaver (on behalf of Parish Clerk)  
Anthony Parkes (Ambulance First Responder). Peter Fell, Virge Richchi.

Apologies: Councillor Phil Harris  
District Councillor Guy Rogers

### **117. Declarations of Interests**

- Councillor Clarke declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application numbers 23/01510OUT and 23/01512/OUT.
- Councillor Clarke wished it to be noted that there was some untrue reporting during the meeting on January the 9<sup>th</sup> which resulted in some untrue information being passed on.

### **118. Minutes**

- The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> January had been circulated before the meeting it was proposed by Councillor Pettitt that they were a true and accurate record it was seconded by Councillor Petty all were in favour.

### **119. Matters Arising**

- The Clerk introduced Anthony Parkes - Ambulance Community First Responder to the meeting. He reported that earlier on the day there had been an incident in the village that he was in attendance.
- There are a total of three defibrillators in the village, two of which the Parish are responsible for, one near the school and one at the Village Hall. The third defibrillator is at Heather St John's football Club for which they are responsible.
- He needed to deploy a defibrillator of which he used his own but found that the defibrillator near the school required new pads and the charge was also down on the battery (it had not been checked for 18 months).
- He confirmed that they need checking once a week, and also that new pads and at least one battery needs to be sourced as a matter of urgency.
- Holly Johnson suggested that Parishioners awareness of where all the locations of the defibrillators could be highlighted via the Parish and the Scarecrow festivals Facebook pages.
- Anthony confirmed the code to access them is C159X and talked through how to deal with an emergency in the event of a Cardiac arrest.
- Councillor Johnson has agreed to take over weekly maintenance of the Parishes Defibrillators and has requested the Parish Clerk sends the emails from Anthony to him so the pads and battery can be sourced and replaced.
- The Clerk has requested that she is contacted when the flowers are in bloom that have been planted as part of the Green Shoots initiative so that Communities can come to the village to take photos for further publicity.

- The Clerk has also confirmed that the SPF Communities levelling up grant has been approved for the full amount as requested and the money should be in the new account any time the Clerk is to contact Sutcliffe's to arrange the commencement of the work.

## 120. Public Question and Answer Session

- Peter Fell raised that after the last funeral the churches' green bin was filled with the wreaths from the last funeral in the Cemetery. It was discussed and determined that the Parish needed to source a bin for our own use which would need to be paid for as a commercial collection. It was requested the Clerk contact Refuse at NWLDC for a price.
- Holly Johnson then did a report about last years, Scarecrow festival she advised that they made a profit of £6375.00 she then went on to confirm the amounts that they have donated to the various organisations within the village one of which is for the Parish Council of £1,200 for the hanging baskets.
- Holly then went on to discuss the £3,000 that is ringfenced for the Table Tennis Table for Heather Recreation Ground. We had already reported back to Holly how expensive Redlynch's quote was. It was discussed and decided that we should investigate the installation further with other companies and explore the possibility of QPI laying the base to reduce costs.
- Holly has also asked if the Table Tennis Tables do not come to fruition is there anything else they could assist in the funding of.
- She also confirmed that the dates for the festival this year will be the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> August inclusive and has confirmed she will need to work with us to arrange bins and liaise with the police on parking, and grass cutting.
- Holly also would like to arrange to have some Christmas lights in the Village on the tree at the church and was wondering if there are any volunteers who would be happy to help with decorating and the scarecrow festival supply the lights and pay a contribution to the church for the electrical costs. She also asked if the Parish Council would be willing to have some decorations at the village hall and the Scarecrow Festival fund them.

- Holly also asked if it would be possible to hold a coffee morning in the village hall to gain ideas for the forthcoming festival on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1pm to 3pm it was proposed by Councillor Wright that they have the hall free of charge and seconded by Councillor Pettitt. Holly has also said they do need assistance with the marketing of the Scarecrow festival and asked if anyone had any suggestions of anyone who may be able to help.

### **121. Community Policing**

- The Clerk reported two incidents in January, one of a suspicious vehicle on the Sparkenhoe Estate on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January, and an abandoned dog on Gadsby Road on the 12<sup>th</sup> January that is now in safe hands.

### **122. District and County Councillors Comments**

- No District and County Councillors Present.

### **123. Report from Allotment Holder Co-Ordinator**

- Paul Taylor has raised concerns about the entrance to the allotments again and that the entrance is dangerous due to the lack of response from National Grid. It was requested that the clerk contact LCC highways and the National Grid to request they make the entrance safe.
- Paul has also requested that the available plots be offered before the new season so the ground can be worked, to avoid the plots being overgrown the Clerk is to offer the spaces out to the people on the waiting list. It was also confirmed that Susan Dance does not want to move plots and wants to work a quarter plot.

### **124. Village Issues**

- **Play Area Inspection Dates: 12/1 and 22/01**
- **Belcher Close** – The Clerk has reported that online playgrounds require the rope removed to replicate. Councillor Johnson has offered to remove it so that we can send it to them.

- **Activated Vehicle Signs** – The outcome of the last email was discussed from Angie Dunn of LCC Highways and it has been requested that the Clerk email her again submitting the original request, and that if that cannot be done ask that she attends a future meeting to discuss further.
- **Moles** – The Clerk has reported that Andy the Mole man has been in touch about the moles at both Mill Lane and Heather Recreation ground. It has been requested the clerk contacts him for an individual price for each area and also a combined price.
- **Community Chest Grants** – It was requested that the Clerk contacts Sutcliffes to commence the work.
- **Community Speed Watch** – Councillor Clarke has confirmed he would like to take part in the campaign there needs to be 12 people in total (4 teams of three) Councillor Clarke, Councillor Wright and Councilor Pettitt has volunteered. The Councillors are going to ask around the Village and it was suggested that something could be put out on the Facebook page.
- **Cemetery Extension** – It was suggested that due to budget constraints that another company contacted to investigate how much the work would cost and that instead of boreholes it may just be a case of removing the top part and that it may be ok underneath. Councillor Pettitt is looking into further.

## 125. Village Hall

- **The Kitchen Blind** - is to be measured & the Clerk is to source a roller blind online from Bilnds 2 go.
- **Boiler Service** – Councillor Wright has confirmed that Councillor Harris has arranged for CV Lane to service the boiler on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, and the the hole in the hall wall will also be repaired. There is also a radiator that is cold. The Clerk also raised that while the boiler is being serviced that there is a leak underneath the boiler, and that the hot tap in the mens toilet is leaking. The handle in the disabled toilet also needs tightening.

## 126. Finance

- **Precept** – The Clerk presented the statement to the Council based on the preferred precept that the Councillors requested of £15,000 and expressed concern that based on

the projections the council will be going into the cash reserve. We have a major project coming up with the cemetery and is concerned the Council may run out of money. Mrs Weaver was invited to speak by the chair she confirmed that we are putting ourselves in risky position. Due to the District and County raising council tax the Council wanted to be cautious in raising the precept too much to protect the Parishioners. It was proposed by Councillor Clarke that the precept be increased to £16,000 per year and seconded by Councillor Pettitt all were in agreement.

- Ways of increasing income into the Parish was also discussed, and it was suggested that the Clerk contact Castle Donington Parish Council as they receive funding from the download event.
- **Finance Reports Parish Accounts-** The Clerk presented the reports for December to the Parish Council and were approved by the Chair.
- **December Parish Expenses approved.**
  - £783.54– Clerks Wage
  - £108.66 – Clerks Expenses
  - £245.00 – LRALC audit fees
  - £135.76 – Election Fees (under query with NWLDC)
  - £ 90.00 – Liz Holmes (Wages to be transferred to HRG Account)
- **Parish Income**
  - No Bank Statements available
- **Village Hall Income**
  - Not Actioned by Clerk yet
- No bank statements available
- Clerk is to request details off Councillor Johnson to add his details to the Bank account.
- The Clerk checked the progress of the Parish Councillors signing up for full access of the bank accounts.

## 127. Planning Applications

23/01510/OUT	Land off Sweystone Road Heather LE67 2RF	Erection of no. 1 Build dwelling (outline all matters Reserved)
23/01512/OUT	111 Sweystone 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)

- Councillor Pettitt has expressed concerns about the planning applications off Pisca Lane and the line of vision being obstructed by some trees and the street light.

## 128. Chairpersons Comments

The Chair – Councillor Wright has requested that SDI be contacted to repair the fence on the bridge at Mill Lane and also to do a weed kill at the garden of Remembrance. She has also reported that there is a Silver Birch Tree at Mill Lane Recreation Ground that is resting on a BT line it has been requested that the Clerk contact BT to see if they will cut it back.

Councillor Pettitt – Has been approached by Heather Craft Club to request that a photo of Olive Marsden be placed in the Village Hall.

Councillor Johnson – Nothing to add.

Councillor Clarke – Remarked that he has taken off the notice board a poster that had been put by the Conservative party

Councillor Petty – Commented that the Road Sweeper has made a good job and that the drains are now free. He also raised that the light on the Car Park is out – The Clerk is to contact Bartletts

The Clerk- has reported that on Checking the Burials Book memorial garden ashes have been entered in there . The Clerk is to look into the possibility of purchasing a book for Memorial Garden Records.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> March 7pm at The David Taylor Memorial Hall.

### **Future Meetings**

9<sup>th</sup> April , 14<sup>th</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> 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 at The David Taylor Memorial Hall at 7pm

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