

HEATHER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Heather Parish Council Held on Tuesday November
14th at 7pm at the David Taylor Memorial Hall

Present: Councillor P Harris, Councillor S Pettitt,
Councillor J Clarke, Councillor J Petty, Councillor G Johnson.

Donna Purday (Parish Clerk)
Paul Taylor (Allotment Co-ordinator)

In Attendance County Councillor Dan Harrison,
PCSO Mike Walker & PCSO Edward Fowkes

Fifteen members of the public

Apologies Parish Councillor A Wright
District Councillor Guy Rogers

Declaration of Interests: None

82. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Meetings held on Tuesday the 10th October had been circulated before the meeting and it was proposed by Councillor Pettitt and seconded by Councillor Clark that they were a true and accurate record all were in favour.

83. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

84. Statement from Councillor John Clarke re. Cattows Event 4th & 5th November

Please see statement additional document provided by Councillor Clarke that was given at the meeting with appropriate advice and information on the correct channels to submit complaints about the above event.

85. Public Question and Answer Session

1. A member of the public raised the question if it would be possible to contact the organisers of the event to request if it would be possible for the village to receive financial compensation for the inconvenience caused due to the traffic congestion, parking issues, noise light and air pollution.
2. 2 Four 6 Events, had sent a representative who stated that he had come to gain feedback from the parishioners and to try to work out some solutions as they have some more events coming up in the village. He stated that he understood the villagers' frustrations and wanted to work with them so they could mitigate any problems going forward.
A villager stated that all they want is to protect the parishioners and for the event organisers to operate within the law due to the village ending up in gridlock when an event at Cattows.
3. County Councillor Dan Harrison, stated that, he was attending the meeting on behalf of Leicestershire County Council and County Highways. He went on to apologise to the members of the public about the traffic problems. He said that he had met with James Ludlam with regards to the illegal make up of the Bridal Way and that it was going to be reinstated back to its former use.
4. The spokesperson from 2 Four 6 Events stated that James Ludlam has indicated he would like to start working with the Parish Council
5. One of the attendees wished to seek clarity going forward that there is a need for the organisers to work with residents, she stated that there was very nearly a fatal accident near her property as a vehicle had swerve to avoid a car turning out of the exit to the farm.
6. Councillor Pettitt reported that he had called Tanwir from 2 Four 6 events. Tanwir was not aware that there used to be a forum with Cattows Farm, NWLDC, representatives of the village and the event organisers. Councillor Pettitt advised Tanwir that the villagers have made previous complaints about events and confirmed that the Parishioners are keen to restart the forum. He also confirmed to the attendees that an investigation is underway with Licensing. The question was asked about the possibility of using silent fireworks due to the distress caused to animals and more advance notice from the organisers going forward.

7. One of the residents asked the police how much notice they received of the event and also stated that Derbyshire 4x4 response attended but conditions were so bad that Leicester 4x4 was called in too. PCSO Fowkes confirmed they were given 4 weeks' notice of the event and when they did a sweep of the village earlier in the day there appeared to be no major problems. Another attendee disputed that and said the village was gridlocked at 1.45pm with solid traffic and up to a 3 hour wait. PCSO Walker went on to say that he would like to see a long-term solution with such measures as temporary speed reductions and improved access. The question was also asked why the main drive was not used for entry/exit of vehicles and why only one exit was used. It was also asked if it would have been possible due to it being a ticketed event that could not the attendees be contacted to advise of the potential problems due to the weather.
8. The Representative from 2 Four 6 stated that they had put temporary speed reductions in place, but an error had been made in placement which was rectified for the following days event. He also said that he had come on behalf of the event organisers and Cattows farm to ensure that the information given was factual and to make clear what had happened taking into consideration all of the negative press that had been put out.
9. A resident of Holyoake Crescent stated that car owners attending the event had parked their cars in front of drives and walked to the event thus making it difficult for emergency vehicles to gain access should they need to, and could the Council do anything to prevent parking, also if the weather was bad could other events be cancelled. A resident suggested that they contact him and he would go around with his 4x4 and tow the car onto the highway.

The Chair and Parish Council wishes to make it clear that all incidents should be reported to the Police on 101 and or the District Council and County Council as necessary and that at no point the Parish Council will be held responsible for an individual and/or residents actions.

10. The Chair thanked the members of the public for their feedback and for ensuring the meeting did not become heated. He advised that they were welcome to stay for the next part of the meeting but would be unable to take part in the discussion.

86. Community Policing

PCSO Fowkes reported the following:

2nd October – Abandoned car reported.

20th October a car with no MOT reported on Marston Way

8th November theft of a camera at the Cattows event

8th November Parking issues

87. District & County Councillors Comments

No further Comments

88. Village Issues

Allotments

1. Paul Taylor the allotment co-ordinator reported that the entrance to the allotments is still in a poor condition following the remedial works done to the pylons by the National Grid despite them returning. The chair is going to investigate and source some gravel to make the entrance good.
2. An email request has been sent in by a resident asking if they could keep racing pigeons at the allotment. It was discussed by the Councillors and was decided against due to a no livestock policy being in place.
3. There are two free plots on the allotments that are available at present it has been requested that the people on the waiting list be contacted to relet. The Clerk is to action.

Play Area Inspection dates 16/10, 23/10, 30/10, 13/11

- The Rope at Belcher Close is now measured, and the clerk is to arrange repair.

Community Grant Progress

- Three quotes are needed to progress the application Kompan and Sutcliffe have already visited Mill Lane and Playdale today quotes are awaited to progress the application.

Hanging Baskets

- CJ Springthorpe's quote was presented to the members by the Clerk. It has been requested that two other quotes be sourced from the Measham Plant Warehouse and Hathern Nursery Whatton Road to compare.

Cemetery Progress

- The Clerk and Councillor Pettitt attended Heather Cemetery on Wednesday 8th November with NWLDC's Burials officers Sue Beirne and Alison Hayter to discuss the Cemetery plan. It required redrawing due to the row that has just been completed starting on the plan to the left rather than 7 plots in. The plot numbers are correct. It has now been redrawn, requires checking and there will be an electronic copy as well as a hard one. Accessibility was also discussed, which it was advised to leave a space vacant near the entrance to allow for diggers to gain access. This will leave us with 15 available plots.

It was also suggested that we could also consider setting up a memorial garden with monuments in the new cemetery for ashes to be interred and that they prove very popular in the cemeteries that NWLDC manage.

The officers from NWLDC advised that when Hugglescote cemetery was extended they employed Cuckoo Gap to do the ground works and that we needed to pursue the extension as soon as possible. It is believed there may be rubble and hardcore underneath the area where the extension will be and requires some test holes to be dug the Clerk is to arrange.

89. Village Hall

1. Boiler

Still requires a service to contact an engineer the Chair is to organise.

2. Gopak Tables

The Clerk advised that she had contacted The Church Buying Group to purchase and that we required a Purchase Order agreement or prepayment at the time of order which cannot be done due to the new bank accounts not being set up. The Chair is going investigate further.

3. The Clerk also reported that we have a new regular booking that has been made by the Brownies on Fridays in the Village Hall starting on the 19th January 2024.

90. Accounts

To approve the following payments for October 2023

██████████ Clerks Salary
£ 84.00 - CJ Springthorpe Hanging Basket watering
£534.60 - Scribe Accounting Software
£234.00 - Shaw & Sons Register of Purchased Graves
£ 71.51 - NWLDC Greenshoots
£82.37 – Water Plus

Council Income for October 2023

£205.00 – Lee Cooper Burials
£132.92 – Wayleaves payment National Grid

Village Hall Expenses for October 2023

£468.65 – AJ Bartlett Electrical Remedial work & PAT testing
£ 13.66 – British Gas
£63.98 – Eon
£160.29 – E Holmes Cleaner

Village Hall Income for October 2023

£1,180.00 Hall Hire Various

To Receive the Bank Statements for Heather Parish Council for October 2023
To Receive the Bank Statements for Heather Recreation Ground for October 2023

91. Planning Applications

Decisions this month and Decisions awaited.

23/01211/FUL Old Thorntree Farm Heather	Extension to Existing Commercial Unit and Change of use to Joinery Workshop.
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92. Chairpersons Comments

The Chair had nothing further to add.

Councillor Johnson - No further comment.

Councillor Petty -Requested the Road sweeper on Mill Lane.

Councillor Clark - No further comment.

Councillor Pettitt – Requested an out of hours emergency number.

A member of the public did try to offer their opinion at several points during the council session held above. It was made clear by the Chair on a number of occasions that he was able to stay but was no longer able to contribute.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday the 12th December 2023 7pm at The David Taylor Memorial Hall.

Future Meetings

9th January 2024, 13th February 2024, 12th March 2024

All Meetings to be held at The David Taylor Memorial Hall at 7pm

Website address: www.heatherparishcouncil.org.uk