

HEATHER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Heather Parish Council Held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7pm at the David Taylor Memorial Hall

Present: Councillor Phil Harris, Councillor Steve Pettitt, Councillor Alison Wright, Councillor John Clarke, Councillor John Petty.

Donna Purday (Parish Clerk)

In Attendance District Councillor Guy Rogers, District Councillor Simon Lambeth for Ibstock West.

Peter Fell (Resident), Virge Richichi (Resident) and one further member of the public.

Apologies Councillor Garry Johnson, & Paul Taylor

Declaration of Interests: None

105. Minutes

- The minutes of the Parish Meetings held on Tuesday December the 12th had been circulated before the meeting it was proposed by Councillor Alison Wright and seconded by Councillor Petty that they were a true and accurate record, all were in favour.

106. Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising.

107. Public Question and Answer Session

- No questions were asked.

108. Community Policing

- The Clerk read out the email from Leicestershire police regarding incidents during December. It was discussed that the police presence in Heather seems to have improved with the utilisation of Police cadets and police officers.
- It was remarked that there more has been emphasis on patrols to prevent heavy goods vehicles from entering the village since PCC Rupert Matthews visit. District Councillor Lambeth who represents Ibstock requested a copy of the letter from Rupert Matthews that was circulated by the Clerk at the meeting be forwarded to him. The Clerk is to action.

109. District and County Councillors Comments

- Councillor Guy Rogers had nothing to report.
- District Councillor Lambeth reported that the District Councils budget for 24/25 is under review and that the District Council is looking to increase their element of council tax by 2.75 per cent which will take the overall increase to 2.99 per cent in total which is the maximum they can raise it by. He has said that he will provide a report on how it will impact both Ibstock and Heather.

110. Report from Allotment Holder Co-ordinator

- The Clerk has reported on behalf of Paul Taylor that the entrance is still a mess due to the work that National Grid has done there. The Chair remarked that the state of it has not been helped with allotment users taking in horse manure and that he would prefer to keep the entrance grassed. Councillor Lambeth suggested that the council could lay some plastic grid at the entrance so the grass can grow through but will stop mud from spreading. He advised that it could be a relatively low-cost solution for the council £8 to £9 per metre.

111. Village Issues

- **Play Area Inspection Dates: 13/12, 21/12 and the 03/01/2024.**
- **Belcher Close** - The Clerk reported that after taking photos of the attachment to the rope she tried to call Online playgrounds to order it on Friday, but they were closed. The Clerk is to call again to order and once delivered will contact Doug Belfield of Playsafety to arrange installation.
- **Activated Vehicle Signs** – The email that was sent by Angie Dunn was discussed by the members

at some length, there is a sense of frustration that we seem to have come full circle. The situation has been going on for 3 years and needs to be resolved. It was suggested by Councillor Clarke that we send a letter via recorded delivery to the Chief Executive of the County Council with copies of the emails that have been sent to various departments since 2021. Councillor Lambeth advised that if we contact him with the type of sign, we require he may be able to offer support in moving the issue forward to a conclusion.

- **Cemetery Progress** – The Chair reported that the meeting was interesting, and that Andrew from Cuckoo Gap had advised that levelling off the proposed site and disposing of the earth could result in a large bill for the landscaping. It was discussed that a bore hole is still required to find out where the water level is. It is still to be decided if we are to go with the present proposed location for the extension or to go with the option of the piece of land below the play area. It was requested that the Clerk call Andrew again and arrange for a bore hole to be dug.
- **Community Chest Grants** – The Clerk reported that she has now applied for the grant on behalf of the Council. She confirmed that after speaking to Zara she had applied for the grant to cover the cost of the swings in full. Communities have asked for an idea of usage of the current equipment and how we will gauge success after installation, which will be via Facebook. The Clerk is to email back to communities. She has also requested the login details from Councillor Wright to reset the Facebook page back up so we can run a survey on there.

112. Village Hall

- **The Kitchen Blind** - is to be measured & the Clerk is to source a roller blind online.
- **Meter Readings** – The Clerk has advised that the meter readings are urgently required by EDF Energy they are now our new supplier the keys to the lock on the meter cabinet have been lost the padlock needs cutting so we can gain access to the meters as soon as possible.
- **Damage to Wall in the Hall** – The Chair has agreed to repair the wall in the Hall with some filler. The Clerk is to thank the user for the offer to repair.

113. Bank Account Opening

- **Parish Council Account** – The Clerk has confirmed that the new account is now open, and it was agreed that The Clerk and Chair register for internet banking and for the Clerk to add the other signatories so that a payment round robin be set up to authorise

payments. The Clerk also advised that a current signatory on the old account needs to go to the bank to arrange transfer of the monies to the new account. It was arranged that Councillor Wright and the Clerk meet at 10am on Wednesday 17th January at Lloyds Bank Coalville.

- **Recreation Ground Account** – The Clerk has advised that she is still encountering ongoing problems with opening the new account and that it has now reached a high level within Lloyds due to the rejection of so many documents. She advised that is now with Lloyds complaints team and they have said they will reimburse the legal costs associated with the progression of the application. It was agreed that we should appoint the legal team at NWLDC to raise a letter and the bill is to be sent to Lloyds to cover the costs.
- The compensation that was awarded to the Clerk was discussed and it was decided that it should be returned to the Parish Council as it is deemed public money. The Clerk has agreed the £150.00 should be returned but did point out that she has done extra work on this at her own expense.
- The Deed of Resolution form was signed by two witnesses.

114. Finance

- **Finance Reports Parish Accounts-** The Clerk presented the reports for the Parish Council and were approved by the Chair.
- **December Parish Expenses approved**
£753.50 – Clerks Wage
£ 19.99 – Clerks Expenses
£154.00 – SLCC Membership Renewal
- **Parish Income**
No Bank Statements available
- **Village Hall Expenses**
No Bank Statements available
- **Village Hall Income**
£726.00 Hall Hire

115. Precept

- There was a discussion surrounding the amount that the precept for the financial year 24/25 should be set at there was a reluctance to raise the precept too much despite the outlay that will be required to extend the cemetery. It was decided that the Clerk should determine a budget pending a further decision on the precept.

116. Planning Applications

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

No objections were raised for Planning application number 23/01512/OUT
Councillor Petty confirmed he has raised objections with NWLDC with regards to 23/01635/OUT and 23/01635/OUT

116. Chairpersons Comments

The Chair - Nothing further to raise.

Councillor Pettitt – No comments.

Councillor Wright – Nothing further.

Councillor Clarke – Advised that due to personal circumstances he may not be able to attend all the meetings due to personal circumstances and also the need to work away this year. He feels that he may be unable do his role justice.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday the 13th of February 2024 7pm at The David Taylor Memorial Hall.

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Future Meetings

12th March 2024 All Meetings to be held at The David Taylor Memorial Hall at 7pm

Website address: www.heatherparishcouncil.org.uk