

Minutes of the Holy Island Parish Council Meeting held on December 8th 2023 at 6.00 pm in the Reading Room.

- 1034 Present. Councillors: K. Johnson. Vice Chair
K. Anderson
K. Ward
J. Hewitt
- 1035 Present. J.A. Bevan – Clerk.
- 1036 Apologies. D. Graham
- 1037 Declarations of Interest.
K. Johnson. Member of HI 2050. Coastguard Volunteer
K. Anderson. Member of HI 2050. Member of the Labour Party.
Director of Puckster Ltd, supplier to NCC.
D. Graham None
K. Ward. Employee of Holy Island School. Member of GMB Union.
J. Hewitt None
J. Bevan. Member of HI 2050. Representative on HI Development Trust. Trustee of the Reading Room.
- 1038 Public Question Time.
There were no questions from the public
- 1039 Minutes.
The minutes of the last meeting previously circulated were approved.
Proposed by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Ward.
- 1040 New Chair.
The appointment of a new Chair to the Council was discussed, the clerk pointing out that the position would be held until the Annual General Meeting in May next year. Councillor Johnson said that she was happy to continue as Vice-Chair but did not feel able to be Chair because of other commitments, Councillors Anderson and Ward also felt that at present they were unable to take on the role. Councillor Hewitt said that he was aware that he was a recent arrival on the Island and that he had been co-opted not elected but, if no-one else was putting themselves forward, then he was prepared to do so. Councillor Johnson proposed that Councillor Hewitt should be appointed Chair, Councillor Ward seconded it and the proposal was carried unanimously.
- 1041 Neighbourhood Plan.
Councillor Graham had circulated a task list to be worked on before the next meeting with Sarah Brannigan of NCC. The Clerk said that in the main it was straightforward and that he would deal with information requests to the Utility Companies and HI2050 records of Consultations. Councillor Hewitt said that some items might be deleted as possibly not Neighbourhood Plan issues. Councillor Anderson expressed concern about the possible NCNL (AONB) position on restricting residents' rights regarding planning issues and additional expense that might arise as a result. She will detail her concerns. The Clerk was asked to try to arrange a visit to the Water Tower as part of his discussions with Northumbrian Water.

- 1042 NCNL / HI2050 Survey
The Clerk reported that Iain Robson of NCNL had submitted a draft of the document to be submitted to NCC for grant money and that would form the basis of the work expected from whichever Consultant was appointed. This had been amended by the Clerk and Lynda Sale to ensure that HI2050 were consulted at the same time as NCNL at each stage and that while Iain Robson and NCNL would take the lead, Lynda would be present at all relevant meetings. Iain has not to date responded either agreeing the changes or querying them.
- 1043 Market Place Trees.
The Clerk reported that NCC had just granted the Council's Planning Application for the work on the trees and he would advise Alan Pepper that he could go ahead in February or March.
- 1044 Planning Applications.
No news on Athol Bose. Councillor Anderson reported that the Chare Ends Café had amended their application to take account of Thelma Dunn's concerns.
- 1045 Parking Survey.
The results had been published in the HIT. After discussion it was agreed that the informal Permits issued by HIPC should be re-introduced but with a better design based on those issued 20 or so years ago. Councillor Anderson and the Clerk to liaise on this.
- 1046 HI 2050 update.
The Clerk said that there was a HI2050 meeting next Monday at which an update on finance and projects would be given and he would report this to the Councillors as soon as possible.
- 1047 Natural England Meeting notes and Bye-law amendments.
The Clerk advised that the Bye-laws had been established in 1999 and he could see nothing in the suggested amendments that was a concern. Councillors Anderson and Hewitt wanted more time to consider them and would give the clerk any comments before the deadline for responses of December 23rd.
- 1048 Bridge Priority Notice
The Clerk had met NCC Councillor Hardy who was going to progress this for us, to date no further news. Concern was also expressed about the state of the Bridge Barriers. Councillor Johnson to raise with Highways and, if necessary, HM Coastguard and the RNLI for support.
- 1049 Defibrillator.
The faulty defibrillator located outside the Crossman Hall has been returned under warranty. If there is to be a significant delay in receiving it back NEAS may lend us a temporary replacement. It was also agreed that the Clerk should contact NEAS and ask for training sessions for residents and, if businesses agree, business staff.
- 1050 Finance.
The clerk reported that the bank balance on December 8th was £16688.71

The Clerk said that usually HIPC donated £100 annually to the Crossman Hall and asked for permission to do so again. Councillor Johnson said that the Hall needed funds and it was agreed that the payment should be increased to £250. Proposed by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Anderson.
The Clerk said that while he backed up the Council's laptop on a flashdrive, it had been

suggested to him that it would be better to use a back-up hard drive. This should be kept by the Chair and up-dated regularly. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate and purchase a suitable hard drive. Proposed by Councillor Anderson. Seconded by Councillor Hewitt.

1052 Banking.

The Clerk reported that he and Councillor Johnson had had correspondence and a telephone conversation with Barclays Bank regarding a business detail form that the bank had required be completed which had been done but further information had been requested. Mainly to establish that HIPC is a Parish Council and not a Community or Charity account as they had on their records. It was left that Barclays would contact Councillor Johnson by telephone to complete their enquiries. To date they have not done so.

The Clerk also said that it was important that a third Councillor should become a signatory so that the requirement for two on cheques could always be met.

1053 HIPC Files.

The Clerk reported that he had met with Linda Bankier of NCC Archives and they had looked at all the files presently kept on the Island. Usual practice is for historic ones (minutes, financial records and Planning Applications for example) to be transferred to NCC central records. Those have been identified and will be taken away in the New Year. Minutes and financial records for the last 7 years and all current correspondence will be kept either in the Clerks house or in the Reading Room.

1054 Mobility Scooter.

Tom Bell's old Mobility Scooter which would need to be examined and probably require a new battery is currently stored at the Manse but needs to be moved. It was agreed that unless a suitable place can be found for it and insurance requirements met, it should be offered to an charity for them to take it or to advise on how it can be disposed of appropriately.

1055 Clerk.

The position of Clerk needs to be filled. John Bevan will continue on a week to week basis until this done. Facebook is to be re-written and re-issued and approaches made to possible candidates.

1056 Any other business.

Pavement gritting. Councillor Johnson reminded the Council that it had been agreed in principle last year that it would investigate obtaining a hand drawn gritter that volunteers could use around the village. She will get more details and the clerk will then discuss with NCC the on-going provision of grit to the two existing bunkers and the possible provision of additional ones if our Councillors identify appropriate sites. He will also ask if NCC would help with funding.

Cycle parking.

Councillor Anderson felt there was need for secure cycle parking provision within the Village. She will identify possible sites and advise on the appropriate equipment.

1057 Date of next meeting. Friday March 11th at 6.00pm at the Crossman Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.33pm.