

Headland Parish Council
Minutes from Meeting held on Monday, 30th September 2024

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors: M. Wright (Chair), S. Lee, A. Hay, A. Smith, A. Turner, J. Wenman, A. Jackson, M. Jorgeson, A. Muller-Nicholson, S. Gaiety.

Clerk of the Council: Michelle Ellett

1. Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Moore, H. White and P. Andrews.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest received.

3. Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 29th July 2024 were accepted as a true record by members present.

4. Matters Arising:

4.1 Website update (M. Ellett) – Clerk updated members that at the previous meeting, members agreed to a budget of up to £250 for the website, however the website technical support would cost £240 and the website SSL Certificate would be £144 (£12 per month) which was a total of £384. Members present accepted the new costings.

4.2 Litter bins on children’s playground – Clerk had emailed Garry Jones (HBC) regarding the emptying of litter bins on the children’s playground and was informed that they were on a schedule. They were emptied once during the week and again at weekends. Additional bins were put around the Headland to cope with the increase in footfall. Unfortunately, the litter bins can be abused by people disposing of household waste in the street litter bins. Councillor Muller-Nicholson stated that the bins had no lids on and were overflowing. Ward Councillors and Sarah Scarr (HBC) to pursue this.

4.3 Update on postcards/memorabilia – Councillor Lee had spoken to the two local schools who were happy to accept the postcards.

5. Finance Report

An updated Finance Report for 2024-25 circulated to members prior to the meeting was accepted. As noted at the previous meeting, Councillor Lee said Clerk would receive an invoice shortly for renewal of the flagpole.

6. Clerk’s Report

6.1 Invoices for approval

Invoices from Community Heartbeat Trust (annual costs for defibrillator) and Starboard Systems (Scribe financial software) were agreed by members.

6.2 Purchase of Poppy Wreaths and Christmas Tree

Members agreed to the purchase of 2 x poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday and the annual Christmas tree (no increase in cost from previous year). Discussion ensued regarding a permanent tree being planted. Councillor Wright agreed to

explore possibilities into planting a permanent tree in the future.

6.3 Budget Preparations and Precept

Clerk to start preparing budget and precept following the update of budget codes on the financial software.

6.4 Clerk Training

Clerk attended a training session which was very useful. She will work through the documentation to ensure the Parish Council were complying with relevant legislation.

6.5 Additional Item – Conclusion of 2023-24 Audit

Clerk had received the conclusion of the 2023-24 Audit from Mazars which involved publishing documents on the Parish Council website today. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit and External Audit Report had been uploaded onto the website and will be forwarded to members.

7. Update from Sarah Scarr (HBC) on tennis courts/football pitch

Sarah was thanked for attending the meeting. Sarah said there was no specific budget for this which was part of Parks and Open Spaces. She said there was no budget to carry out full refurbishments or repairs. There was no Team Leader currently for Parks but she said they always look for funding opportunities but there was nothing in the pipeline at the moment. Sarah said that there was a community group in Seaton that was winding down and the money left was matched against a grant from Sports England so if there was match funding available then a grant from Sports England or lottery funding is something to think about.

Discussion ensued and Sarah said the Department would continue to look at funding opportunities.

Ward Councillor Nelson said the discussions from a meeting with the CEO of the Sports Section of the PFC Trust can be shared with the Parish Council at the next meeting.

The question was also put to Sarah about the timescale for the refurbishment of Headland toilets. Sarah said the Department was undertaking a revision of toilet blocks in the town but there were no funds allocated for the potential refurbishment of Headland toilets so this was something to take back to Councillor Moore.

8. Feedback from Council Meetings

7.1 Audit & Governance (M. Jorgeson)

Councillor Jorgeson attended the meeting and gave an update to members.

7.2 Parish Liaison Meeting

Councillor Jorgeson gave an update to members. The main areas raised were new street names in Greatham and the Emergency Planning/Community Resilience Briefing session on Wednesday, 23rd October at 4pm which Parish Councillors had been invited to. Members were reminded that the Parish Council had been invited to sit on a number of Committees and this was a way for the Parish Council to find out what was happening. At the last meeting, members asked for the dates and times of the Committees before identifying who could attend. Councillor Jorgeson to pursue this.

9. Paddling Pool Railings (A. Hay)

Councillor Hay was asked by a resident to raise this as they were in a general state of disrepair.

The question was raised here about the refurbishment of the paddling pool and the decision to withdraw the lifeguard provision on the Headland. Councillor Lee said it was disgusting that the decision was made to withdraw the lifeguard provision on the Headland without any communication with the Parish Council and no Parish Councillors being involved in those discussions. It was meant to be a one year saving but once the provision is removed, it is difficult to gain that back. Sarah agreed to consult with the Parish Council wherever she could moving forward.

Sarah said that it was a budget saving and risk assessments on both beaches found that Seaton was the main bathing beach and Headland's main accidents were from slips and falls.

Councillor Lee said it was up to Ward Councillors to fight for that provision back. The Ward Councillors said that budgets were still being looked at but stressed the importance of Parish Councillors attending the meetings that were offered to them.

The timetable for the Committees to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councillor Smith informed members that she was the representative for the Parish Council on the Headland Carnival Committee.

10. Promenade Lights (AH)

Councillor Jorgeson had flagged this up with Rob Daley.

Councillor Jorgeson to chase up the paddling pool railings and the main pillar that was moved in an accident on Carnival Day.

11. Planning Applications:

11.1 H/2024/0192 –Former Britmag Site – Change to the type of houses being built. No objections had been received from members.

12. Correspondence

12.1 Email re wild area on beach opposite York Place (M. Wright)

An email had been received about a man moving rocks around the area near York Place and concerns about the disruption to wildlife. An update had been received that the rocks had been moved back. Councillor Wright to draft a reply to the email received.

13. Councillors Items for future agenda

- Councillor Wenman gave an update on the old hospital site and the work by Thirteen Group.

14. Ward Councillor Update:

Ward Councillors Nelson and Dodds gave an update. Councillor Nelson was still relatively new to the role and was working with residents. Work was ongoing on the promenade near Heugh Battery Breakwater with concrete as a more sustainable long-term solution.

Work on the Town Moor was ongoing. Work was continuing with PD Ports with ongoing issues. New businesses were coming on board creating more jobs on the HS2 tunnel and expanding the work there. The Council was in the early stages of looking at the budgets.

15. Public Questions:

15.1 Moss on St. Hilda's Church Tower.

Councillor Turner said the tower was out of bounds and special equipment was needed to get up the tower to remove weeds which was usually done during the summer months. Weeds had been removed from the lower roof of the northside, but moss remained as protection.

Discussion ensued on the steps leading to St. Hilda's church and previous discussions around whether railings can be put up to assist the elderly members of the Parish getting up to the church. Options had been looked at but, as yet, no response from the Department at HBC had been received. Sarah Scarr said again, it was back to budgets and planning permission. Sarah agreed to look at this again as it is a Health and Safety issue against the conservation element. Sarah to let the Parish Council know what can and cannot be done from a conservation point of view in order for Councillor Jackson to draft a letter to the Bishop of Durham to see if there was any money from church budgets that could assist with this.

Councillor Lee asked Sarah whether the **Headland Conservation Report** could be shared with the Parish Council before the meeting in November. Sarah to ask the question.

16. Date of next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 28^h October 2024 at 6.45pm in the Croft Room.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.