

DUNHAM HILL & HAPSFORD EXTRA-ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 6th April 2021, at 7.00pm, via Zoom.

MINUTES

Present:	Cllr K Bradley - Chairperson	Cllr E Gibson
	Cllr C Green	Cllr K Holmes
	Cllr R Johnson	Cllr H Deynem (CWaC)
	Cllr S Hanson	
Clerk:	Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	Members of the public: 2

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were received from Cllr Cowap and Cllr Willett.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – No declarations of interest were reported.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

A resident of Hapsford raised that they were supposed to be receiving a planter, Cllr Hanson reported that this had been raised three years ago and was told there was not further funding to supply this. It was requested that a formal request on the Agenda for the next meeting to see if the Parish Council will fund.

A resident requested about reinstated the historic footpaths – there is a public right of ways officer in CWaC
ACTION - the clerk to provide the contact details.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Planning

Cllr Holmes reported upon the comments on the White Paper for the Planning Process – The white paper is very keen on localism but from comments from people who have responded to the white paper are saying that the result will be less local involvement. This is mainly due to the cutbacks within the planning departments over the last ten years by about 30%, the very short timescales to introduce this planning system which is envisaged to be 2024. Therefore, for a local authority which usually takes about 7 years to get a local plan done to be able to do that in the next two years is not feasible and very ambitious. There are a lot of national guidelines and national policies that will be involved in the planning which will assume that in the absence of or in the presence of a local plan the national guidelines will apply. Concern was raised as to how much involvement local people will have in regard to planning applications. Cllr Holmes felt strongly that Dunham Hill and Hapsford Parish Council needs to review its current planning policy and prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Deynem confirmed that Neighbourhood Plans may not be quite as relevant in the future and they may be superseded by design statements or something similar in the future, which local communities can steer their local region develop – seek advice from CWaC to find out what the current process is for the current process that Dunham Hill and Hapsford Parish Council. Cllr Deynem suggested that the Parish Council is proactive, takes a steer from CWaC Planning Officers to understand exactly what the landscape for the future of Neighbourhood Plans look like and make a decision on that.

The Design Statement looks at visual aspects of new buildings – what is valuable in the architectural landscape of a community, to ensure that new properties mirror the architectural style and design of properties already in the area and less about where and what you would like to see developed.

ACTION: Suggest a representative from the Planning Department of CWaC to a standalone working group meeting to discuss and explore.

Mere's Edge

Cllr Holmes reported that the Parish Council need to have some input into the suggested Mere's Edge Plan that has been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Bradley's opinion is that he personally is reluctant for any development in green space – he would prefer development on brown field sites. He would like to seek further views from residents of Hapsford as to what they would prefer for the proposed site. Cllrs Hanson and Cllr Gibson were also concerns about the identity of Hapsford being lost if development continues.

Cllr Holmes confirmed that there is a limit as to how far the development can go due to the railway line, sewerage works – there are already issues raised on the Honeywell Development regarding the proximity to the sewerage site. If you look at Helsby being a development centre – they have to expand but they are geographically constrained but the hill behind, by the greenbelt between Frodsham and Helsby, therefore there is limited sites that could potentially be developed.

Cllr Gibson suggested that a request for the improvement of the footpath and cycle path from Hapsford to the Helsby be sought. Additionally, perhaps a planter and bench and other community facilities be considered for request should this project proceed.

Cllr Deynem suggested that he supported fully the infrastructure projects. Cllr Deynem would be interested to know what the residents want to see happen within the area.

ACTION: It was agreed that a leaflet be circulated around the Hapsford area giving the residents opportunity to give feedback within 7 days.

Village Green Project

Following the recent leaflet seeking comments from residents with regards to the ways the parish council improve areas of the village for all residents.

Summary is that several residents felt the green at Dunham Hill to be good as it is. The following comments were provided: -

The Village Pump – to renovate or improve. Cllr Holmes reported that he had looked at the pump and it is a cast-iron pump with some maintenance required which could be difficult due to not being able to weld onto cast iron without it being removed from site - it was suggested that the pump be cleaned down and re-painted.

A question was raised as to if you want to re-site the planter.

It was suggested that a tree be decorate at Christmas.

It was suggested from residents that the hedging around the pump be removed.

Lengthsman – a resident asked again if it would be possible to have a Lengthsman. It was confirmed that due to the cost of a Lengthsman being over half the current precept and budget this was not feasible currently.

Planting of Trees – in Dunham Hill and Hapsford

It was agreed to start the planting of the Trees on Saturday 10th April at 10am – volunteers were sought. Concerns were raised with regards to the planting in Hapsford. It was reported that following a consultation that took place early in 2020 by CWaC locations had been approved including along the A5117 on the opposite side of the road to Haspsford Village – it was highlighted that restrictions on planting had been put in place to include that they must be planted 2 meters away from the carriageway to ensure visibility is not impaired.

Cllr Hanson raised concerns she had received from residents with regards to the planting of the trees.

Cllr Green highlighted that a mixture of trees would be planted to include:- hazel, blackthorn, crab apple, dog rose, elder, hawthorn, dogwood, wild cherry, silver birch, rowan and they would take upto 25 years to reach their full size – in the mean time the Parish Council had undertaken to monitor and thin the trees as appropriate. It was highlighted that this was a project that was being undertaken in conjunction with the Woodland Trust in order to encourage wildlife for the future.

ACTION: Proceed with planting of trees in Dunham Hill and Hapsford.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual General meeting would be held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.00pm via Video Conference.

The meeting closed at 20:05

Signed:..... Dated:.....

Mrs T Ryall-Harvey 6/04/2021