At the Meeting of the Council held at Hauxley Village Hall on at 6.30pm on Monday 10 July 2017

**Present:** Cllrs W Appleby, I Thomas, Cllr Ken Graham and R Callendar (Chair)

**Apologies:** The Parish Clerk in attendance Vicki Smith

No Members of the Public were in attendance

Actions

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| **4. Apologies for absence**  None  **5. Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**  None  **6. Duncan Hutt – Northumberland Wildlife Trust**  The Clerk to rearrange.  **7. Public Question Time (maximum of 15 minutes)**  *In accordance with Section 1(d-g) of the HPC Standing Orders members of the public present may address the council at this point on the agenda. The Council reserves the right to respond or debate the issue at a later date*.  None  **8. To approve and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th May 2017.**  The clerk to amend the minutes as John Lightfoot was not in attendance.  There remains 2 Councillor Vacancies within the parish of Hauxley. The clerk to continue to publicise this.  The clerk reported on feedback from NCC about the slipway on the beach becoming more inaccessible. The sea has removed a quantity of stone from the centre of the track, which has subsequently been partially filled with sand. The act levelling or putting more sand down will most likely not help and will be very temporary fix.  The parish, in the past, have looked at the access issue of the slipway over a number of years, several solutions have been looked at but costs have been high. NCC have agreed to pass this to the Coastal Engineering Team and see if they can offer some help or guidance on this matter.  The minutes of the meeting were approved.  **9. Matters arising there from:**  **9a – Contaminated Land**  Councillors reviewed the letter from NCC who had liaised with the Environment Agency in their findings. The letter states:  *A linkage has been proposed between the water coming in from sinkholes on Hauxley beach and standing water in the allotments at Low Hauxley and that elevated iron and manganese levels (in particular) supposedly showing that this is ground water contaminated from legacy, deep coal mining and / or open casting of the former Hauxley Colliery workings. The results of samples taken by the Coal Authority from the sink holes on the beach have been suggested as having the same chemical characteristics as those from water coming from the spoil heap at the former Shilbottle Colliery.*  *Samples have now been taken from the Low Hauxley allotment site and a pond to the west by the Environment Agency and analysed for a range of chemicals.*  *To be clear from the outset – there would appear to be no evidence of land contamination at the at the allotment site or that sample water indicates any contamination based upon the results of the water samples taken by the Environment Agency at the allotment site.*  The Parish Council agreed to contact a specialist to see if tests can be carried out on the soil to put residents minds at ease of the safety of growing vegetables in the allotments. RC to take forward and ascertain the costs involved in soil testing.  Hauxley Parish Council are not responsible for the allotments however as a gesture of goodwill agreed to investigate these issues further on behalf of concerned residents.  **9b. Sustrans Signage**  Councillor Graham to keep chasing.  **9c. Untidy Land**  There was no further update on this issue. Further assistance may be required from Environmental Health of Fire and Rescue. Councillor Graham agreed to talk to the neighbouring properties to ascertain if they would like to proceed any further.  **9d. Signage to Hauxley Nature Reserve.**  Numerous vehicles have been entering the village whilst looking for Hauxley Nature Reserve. It was agreed that a sign at the entrance would be useful to guide travellers further along, before they have made the turn into the village. Councillor Graham is to seek costs for a sign for approval.  **10. Standing item – Report by County Councillor**  Councillor Terry Clark attended the meeting and talked about how he was finding the role of County Councillor. Councillor Clarks next surgery is 29th July at 1.30pm in the village hall.  Councillor Clark highlighted an ongoing issue around quad biking and motor cross.  Councillor Clark queried whether any information had been sent around a possible planning application for a caravan park in Amble. The clerk to check.  **11. Finance**  **a) Community Account:** End balance as 30 May 2017 £5757.31  **b) Business Saver Account** End balance at 30 May 2017 £1847.03  **c) Financial Summary :** The updated financial documents were circulated  **e) Payments –** All payments were approved. £4.23 payment to E Brown was from last financial year, picked up from internal auditor 16/17.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Date** | **Cheque No:** | **Creditor** | **Reason** | **Amount** | | **10.7.17** | **626** | **V Smith** | **Wages** | **230.96** | | **10.7.17** | **627** | **P Basnett** | **Audit** | **51.00** | | **10.7.17** | **628** | **D Renton** | **Stones** | **278.40** | | **10.7.17** | **629** | **ADT** | **Newspage** | **60.00** | | **10.7.17** | **630** | **E Brown** | **Mileage** | **4.23** |   **f) receipts**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Date** | **Ref** | **Debtor** | **Reason** | **Amount** | |  |  |  |  |  |   **g) to consider the approval of the annual governance statement**  The Annual governance statement was approved.  **h) to consider the statement for accounts 2016/2017**  The accounts for 2016/2017 were approved.  **12. Planning:**  **a. To report on any planning decisions:**  None  **b. Planning matters pending:** None  **c. To consider any planning matters:**   * 17/0198/FUL – 22 Kirkwell Cottages, High Hauxley   Hauxley Parish Council have no objections provided there is no impact on light to neighbouring properties   * 17/01675/OUT – Land North West of Hauley Moor A1068 Radcliffe to Amble   For awareness   * 17/01677/OUT – Land North East of Amble Sewerage Treatment Works, Percy Drive   The Parish Council met with Cheviot Holdings on 8 May to address their concerns.   * 17/02224/FUL - 20 Kirkwell Cottages High Hauxley NE65 0JN -Retrospective planning permission for Proposed Therapy Unit   Hauxley Parish Council have no objections   * 16/02282/ful - Development of small caravan park to include 30 touring pitches, approximately 5 tent pitches, office/coffee shop and toilet/shower block - Land West Of Beacon Hill Farm High Hauxley Northumberland   Hauxley Parish Council has the following additional observations to make in relation to ecological mitigation measures and new flood recommendations. The original comments made still apply and are also included below.  Final Ecology Report  States:  'Lighting will be kept to a minimum' – this response needs far more clarification what are the applicants proposing exactly. Light pollution will be a serious issue for both wildlife and residents.  'Direct Access to the beach from the track will be limited through signage' - it is highly likely this will be ignored as it will not be 'policed' so is of no benefit.  Flood Risk Assessment  Why after receiving comments from both the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water, the professionals consulted, who stated water is to be discharged through main sewer/or packaged treatment are the applicants still proposing a septic tank.  The Parish Council are still undergoing investigations regarding water contamination and possible soil contamination in the allotments in Low Hauxley. There have been serious issues of flooding in recent years (photos sent with our initial objection) which is still being monitored. Any further possible opportunities for additional contamination would not be advisable or prudent at this stage.  Point 6 – Sustainable Development  In regard to point 6 and sustainable development, the applicants have offered no evidence of sustainability. As a minimum one might expect a robust business plan that would include;  · identifying a local need (for e.g. under capacity of existing sites)  · desire; have caravan owners identified that Hauxley is a desirable location  · how are clients going to be attracted and retained  · that adequate cash-flow projections based on full, part-time and minimal occupancy have been assessed.  We appreciate and understand that the detail of this would not be for the public domain but evidence that a satisfactory strategy is in place should be.  Below are the original objections made on behalf of Hauxley Parish Council:  1. Caravan Club turned down their application in 2015 to be listed as one of their sites due to problems with access and due to the volume and nature of neighbour objections and proposed access.  2. As the caravanning and camping club have not granted approval as one of their certificated sites then the site will not have to adhere to set standards. It also will not be  audited on an annual basis and any touring caravans using the site will not be required to be a member of the club and therefore unregulated.  2. Traffic and New Northumberland Wildlife Trust Reserve and Discovery Centre - The new Wildlife Reserve will be opening in Hauxley the Autumn of 2016. This is major new development for the Wildlife Trust and will attract an increase in Visitors already increasing traffic flows through the village, This has not been taken into account when assessing traffic flows through the village.  3. Footfall of the new Hauxley Nature Reserve site is expected to reach 20,000 visitors per year once fully opened, rising to 30,000 in 5 years. Previous figures showed that footfall was between 10,000 - 15,000, therefore essentially doubling their visitor figures. Information provided by Sheila Sharp @ Northumberland Wildlife Trust  4. Access to the site (Point 38) - Access is a major issue. The position of the entrance is wholly impracticable off a poor road surface, a tight 90 degree bend with a left hand turn in a narrow lane. There would need to be a commercial opening and the road would have to be widened which is not possible.  5. Population increase overnight (Point 22 ii) - Hauxley is a small village and the population would increase overnight by at least a third having a significant impact on this quiet Village.  6. Sustainable Development (Point 12) - The National Policy Framework favours sustainable development. There is no explanation of how the caravan site would contribute to minimising waste and pollution as this would definitely increase including littering. It would not enhance the natural environment and the impacts on the appearance of the village. The increase in traffic movements would significantly increase the carbon footprint of the village and not support a low carbon economy.  7. Bus service (Point 20) - the planning statement mentions the local bus service. There is no bus service from Hauxley to Amble which is misleading. It mentions there is a short walk, this is approximately 30 mins with no footpaths on the main road, no lights on a narrow road.  8. Flooding issues in Hauxley Lane - The PC are already discussing with NCC the major flooding issues in 2015 and how to alleviate the problems. The water table is very high and there was run off from the fields flooding the lane making this impassable. This is still an ongoing issue and under review with culvert clearing etc but there are no guarantees the same will not happen again this year.  9. Screening of caravan site (Points 22 and 23) - There appears to be no proposal for any new screening. The statement mentions that it is adequately screened by existing topography/vegetation which is incorrect. The site is elevated and will be clearly visible from Hauxley Lane with considerable impact on the visual look of the village.  10. Reuse of existing building (Point 21) - the planning statement mentions the reuse of an existing building this has not been included on the plans.  11. Use as a Turkey Farm (Point 38) - The Farm is not an active Turkey Farm  12. There are no guarantees that should this initial application be successful, further applications could be made which, based on precedence, could see the site substantially extended. We believe that is highly likely that the proposers would want to extend the site  given the amount of land that is owned adjacent to the proposed site. Once a caravan site is established, no matter how small, the precedent exists and cannot be reversed.  13. There is concern of loss of privacy for existing residents in the village.  14. Concern of layout; proximity of caravan pitches to existing residential properties 15. Concern of the lack of detail of hours of operation, arrival times of users should be restricted and the caravan park should not be for use 12 months of the year 16. There is concern of noise pollution from holiday makers. Too close to local residents.  17. The Links Road to Amble is a regular circuit for cyclists and wheelchair users who would be put at danger due to increased traffic.  Hauxley Parish Council request confirmation that all documents on the website will be taken into consideration in their deliberations, and that we are advised as soon as possible should the application go to committee so that we can prepare our objection case with the appropriate interested parties.  **Agenda Items**  **13. Allotment maintenance and walkways, planters and grass cutting.**  There are 3 planters in the village that need maintained as the previous contractor is now unable to do it. RC/VS to seek quotes ahead of next meeting.  **Allotment Walkways**  It was debated in the meeting whether or not HPC are responsible for the allotment walkways and their maintenance. It was suggested that as this was a public right of way for allotment holders that HPC are not liable.  The hedges from certain allotments have grown so much that they are blocking the walkways for other users. It is the responsibility of each allotment holder to maintain their own allotments, hedges and vegetation and to ensure that there is no obstruction to other users from their areas.  **Grass Cutting**  The clerk to liaise with Cllr Callendar around some local companies to provide quotes.  **13b) Audit completion**  The councillors were informed that the Auditor had taken a look at the accounts and that they were ready to send.  Some figures were restated due to a missing payment of £4.23 to the previous clerk for a mileage claim. The cheque for this amount had been arranged.  **13c) Use of Parish Council Land in the Woods**  Councillor Graham requested to use a small piece of land in the woods to store a container on behalf of the village hall. Councillors agreed that this would be acceptable.  **13d) Cost of Village Fireworks**  Councillor Graham requested a donation on behalf of the Village Hall Committee towards fire works for the annual Firework Night. The parish council agreed to contribute £200.  **14. Correspondence Received:**  14.1 Green Dog Walker Campaign  Councillors were made aware of the initiative  14.2 Parish Council Policy Checklist  The councillors agreed to take a look and decide which polcies HPC should adopt.  14.3 Andrew Tubb Questionnaire  Noted  14.4 Update from Environmental and Local Services  Noted  14.5 Consultation of the possible closure of Acklington C of E First School  Noted and response submitted  14.6 NALC Enews: 9/5, 23/5, 30/5, 6/6,13/6, 20/6, 4/7  Noted  14.7 Can Enews June 2017  Noted | CLERK  CLERK  CLERK  RC  KG  KG  KG  RC/VS  CLERK/RC |
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