

Minutes from Meeting held on Monday, 29th January 2024

Headland Parish Council

Members Present: Samantha Lee, Michael Jorgeson, Howard White, Patricia Andrews, Andrew Hay, Julian Wenman, Martyn White, Amanda Smith, Michelle Ellett, Ann Turner (arrived about 7.15pm)

Clerk: Michelle Ellett

1. **Apologies:** Anne Marie Waters and Shane Moore
2. **Declaration of interest:** None.
3. **Resignations and Appointment of Vice Chair:** Due to work commitments, Graham Craddy and Robin Grant had resigned from their roles on Parish Council. Both were thanked for their service to the Parish Council and we wished them well. An advert will be going out for 2 new Councillors to serve the Headland community if anyone was interested.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes from Monday, 27th November were accepted as a true record. PA recalled the agenda item being about Elephant Rock and not Joseph Rowntree Foundation funding. SL to give an update later in the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - 5.1 **Bins and Skips** – MJ said the bins were £500 each. This cost included the supply, fitting and monitoring of the bins. JW said Thirteen Group had also agreed to give 2 more free bins. It was proposed to move forward with the 2 bins which would fit in with the new budget. A suggestion was made to enquire whether any of the businesses/organisations on the Headland would sponsor the bins. MW to look into this.

In relation to **Skips**, MJ had contacted the Fire Brigade but they had not returned his calls. It was noted that the Council's Recycling Centre had dropped most of the charges so people may use it more. SL said there is a solution to bulk waste but it was addressing the least cost effective way of doing this. Ongoing. SL had contacted Jason at the Hartlepool Big Town Tidy Up and was waiting for a response from him. It was noted that the spring clean up and regular litter picks worked well last year.

A member of the public said something needed to be done about the recycling bins as they blow over resulting in rubbish being blown all over the Headland. It was noted that residents used to get fined for putting out the rubbish bins too early but a solution needed to be found without people being fined. SL to raise the issue with the Borough Council.
 - 5.2 **Update on tree planting and memorial options** – It was noted that Croft Gardens was a memorial garden back in the early 1950's. It is a sensitive subject but people were putting things on the benches where people cannot sit down and reflect. It was felt the tubs could also get misused so memorial options will not be pursued at this time.

JW noted that fruit and birch trees were being planted which was all being funded by Thirteen Group. A member of the Council objected to where the trees were being planted in fear of damage to archaeological remains so 3 trees were removed where the cloisters were and 25 trees were being planted avoiding them. 1 million wildflower seeds were being planted and there will be a Victorian garden. There will be signage around the planting and a piece of creative art commemorating the 117 people killed. By April of this year, the trees and flowers will create a nice pleasant meadow for people to visit.

The Manor House building has been made safe. There will be an official drawing of the planned garden from the Archaeologist which we may be able to display in the Council window.

5.3 Update on Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) speaker – SL said at the last meeting, Maxine Craig came to speak about a project JRF were doing on Coastal Communities and she met with Maxine after the meeting. JRF has £100m pounds to invest in Coastal Communities and they are looking for an Art Project and were considering piloting the project on the Headland. They want to improve and preserve the history of the Headland and will endeavour to push forward with the bid for that money. SL would be happy to pass names forward of people who want to be involved. JRF will be welcomed back at a future meeting to give an update on all aspects of the bid.

5.4 Update on Heritage Status – SM had sent apologies so we could not move forward with this item.

6. Parish Precept 2024/25

SL noted that previous rate was £24.15, however an additional 85p per year would keep this in line with inflation.

With the cost of inflation and no budget plans as yet, it was felt there was no need to increase this. Following a vote of members, 2 members agreed to the 85p increase, but the other 6 members did not agree to the rise, therefore, it was agreed that there would be no rise.

7. Finance Report

The report was emailed to members.

It was noted that a £1,000 donation was still being awaited to the Wintertide Festival. This email had been sent to Rob and Shane. The Wintertide Team agreed to forward the request to the Clerk for payment.

A member asked what the Starboard Company was and the Clerk confirmed that this was the company providing the finance software agreed at the previous meeting.

8. Clerk's Report:

8.1 Dates to be approved for 2024/25 meetings – Clerk had emailed the dates to members. There was no objections on the dates. Clerk had spoken to Garry Marshall about an alternative venue from May this year should work go ahead on the Borough Hall. It was noted that Headland Fire Station charged £8.25 per hour. An offer was made of using the Headland Social Club with no charge – thanks were given for this. Garry to keep Clerk informed of future works.

8.2 Approval of invoice (Community Heartbeat) – this was the annual cost charge

for the defibrillator. This was agreed by members.

9. Planning Applications: No planning applications had been received.

10. Guest Speaker – Joe Franks regarding potential events on the Headland

SL introduced Joe Franks to the meeting who was interested in events taking place on the Headland.

Joe was part of the company that brought 18,000 people to Seaton for the Open Jar Festival which was very successful. He was interested in using the spaces around the Headland (Elephant Rock/Bandstand). Possible events could be small events, food festivals or bigger events. They had approached the Borough Council about using the Borough Hall but had heard nothing. The question was asked if there were any complaints about noise from residents from the Seaton Festival. Joe said there were 2 complaints about noise but said the streets nearby were given free tickets so most people attended.

In light of previous events, the question of safety and parking of future events was raised which would need consideration.

Joe said that pop-up bars and restaurants and food festivals were beginning to be popular.

The Wintertide Festival – investment for the next 3 years to support the plan with more pop-up events throughout the year. The Wintertide Team and Joe agreed to begin talks about possible events.

11. Correspondence

11.1 Email from Matt Purdy re damage to sea wall – Ward Councillors confirmed that budget has been allocated and work on the repairs was starting in February (weather dependent). A new design had been put forward and it was hoped to have a meeting with the Chief Engineer to get some answers. Once they have a reply, will feed that information back.

11.2 Update on Festoon Lighting – SL confirmed that the light bulbs were now in stock and work would start soon on the replacing the bulbs.

MJ had asked for a review of the lights in November but had had no response. SL asked members of the public present at the meeting about the lights and the majority were in favour of the lights.

SL said she would like to see the light bulbs fixed and see how they were.

12. Councillors Items for future agenda

PA raised Standing Orders – Clerk to email these to members for reading.

13. Ward Councillor Update: Brian Cowie and Matthew Dodds were in attendance. Brian said he was not able to get any further information about St. Helen's School as yet. Matt was a Governor at St. Helen's and would make enquiries.

Matt said there was a lot of fly tipping around at the moment which was getting cleaned up.

There was also an issue about the lights on Hazelwood Rise. Members of the public said there had been issues with the lights since 11th December. They had gone off again and it was really dangerous. Matt said he had raised this again with HBC had

been informed that the issue would be resolved the next day.

14. Public Questions:

14.1 Flag pole – damaged. A cost to repair it to be sought.

14.2 Cemetery Road – there was a reduction in off road bikes thanks to Rob Grant's involvement but it was reported in the last few weeks that it was sadly getting worse again. The police were involved and trying to deal with it but if anyone witnessed the bikes, to log any incidents on the COPA app.

15. Date of next meeting: Confirmed as Monday, 26th February 2024 at 6.45pm in Croft Room, Borough Buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.