

Minutes from Meeting held on Monday, 25th March 2024
Headland Parish Council

Members Present: Samantha Lee, Shane Moore, Michael Jorgeson, Howard White, Patricia Andrews, Andrew Hay, Amanda Smith, Ann Turner, Michelle Ellett.

Clerk: Michelle Ellett

1. **Apologies:** Julien Wenman, Martyn Wright and Anne Marie Waters.
2. **Declaration of interest:** None.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes from Monday, 26th February 2024 were accepted as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - 4.1 **Sponsoring of new bins (MW)** – It was agreed to purchase 2 new bins and MW offered to contact organisations to sponsor them. Due to apologies being received from MW, item to be forwarded to next meeting. The new bins were to be placed on the Bandstand and near the lighthouse.
 - 4.2 **Dates for a Big Tidy Up (SL)** – Dates were agreed for Saturday 20th April and Sunday, 21st April. AS to contact Seascapes in Gateshead to see if they want to join in. SL to contact the Big Town Tidy Up to collect bags and equipment. SL to contact Garry Jones from HBC to see if new bins can be located for that weekend. SL to contact HBC regarding road sweepers and Enforcement Officers. SL to contact Poolie Time Exchange to see if they can help out. SM to contact Kieran Bostock from HBC to chase up the clearing of the paddling pool and to see if it can be carried out to coincide with that weekend.
 - 4.3 **Conservation Management Report (SM)** – SM said the draft consultation document was on HBC website and encouraged people to read and comment on it. HBC are insisting that only timber replacement windows will be accepted. It was noted that Montague Street was an example of where different planning applications had been accepted as the windows were different all along the street so if people were intending to make home improvements, it is important that they comment on the report. A member of the public said the draft report was 209 pages long and should be shortened or a summary of the key points. A link to the document will be put on our Facebook page.
5. **Finance Report**

Report was circulated to members.

SL said that based on the predicted spend for the current financial year, there may be an underspend of around £3,000. An election can cost around £10,000 so money needs to be allocated for that. Michelle asked for any outstanding invoices for the current financial year, ie. repair of the flagpole to be given to her as soon as possible for payment.

6. Clerk's Report

6.1 Approval of invoices:

- HBC – final additional payment for installation of festoon lighting
- HBC – annual rent of rooms at Borough Hall and buildings on Middlegate

These invoices were approved for payment.

Clerk noted that we may need to budget for an additional venue as the Croft Room being out of use and the Middlegate Room only holding 40 people. Clerk to look at costs to hire Headland Baptist Church. The question also to be asked if being charged for rooms in Borough Hall.

7. Planning Applications:

An amended application had been received today to 111 Durham Street. SM said this was changing the materials from UPVC to timber to please the planners. Clerk to email to members.

8. Co-option of Councillor Vacancies

SL noted that there was 2 vacancies and 3 applications had been received and emailed to members. Members would have 2 votes for the 3 applications.

SL noted that Alex was unable to attend due to work commitments. SL gave a brief summary of her application.

The 2 candidates present gave a brief summary to members of why they wanted to join the Parish Council. SL said all 3 were genuinely good applications.

Members of the Parish Council stepped outside of the room for a brief discussion before making their vote.

They voted as follows:

- SG received 8 votes
- TJ received 7 votes
- AMN received 1 vote.

Clerk to email AMN of the decision but members of the Parish Council wished her to know that it was such a difficult choice to make.

9. Correspondence

None had been received.

A question was asked about possible lighting on the football pitch/tennis courts. HBC to get external funding. As a Parish Council, we could act on behalf of HBC and seek external funding for this?

AT noted that the elderly were finding it difficult to get up the steps to St. Hilda's Church and whether we could move it forward getting a handrail fitted. SM said the Ward Councillors were looking at it. This is something the church should be paying for but the argument is should HBC be doing it? An email to be sent from the Parish Council to Ward Councillors and Kieran Bostock to sort this.

10. Councillors Items for future agenda

- We can continue with meetings in the run-up to the forthcoming election but need to cautious with agenda.
- Separate meeting regarding Conservation Report as soon as possible and invite

Sarah Scarr to the meeting. Gemma Ptack to be copied into the email.

- Email from Rob Grant regarding Marine Point. Rob was informed that Police are to be invited to future meetings and Rob was encouraged to set up a community action group. The public have been encouraged to log incidents on the COPA app on the Parish Council's Facebook page.

11. Ward Councillor Update:

Apologies had been received from Brian Cowie.

SM said other than a few visits to make, it had been a quiet month.

12. Public Questions:

12.1 Promenade – work to start soon, weather dependant.

12.2 SM noted that following photographs from AH regarding the concrete falling off the slopes on the piers, this had been reported to HBC.

13. Date of next meeting: Confirmed as Monday, 29th April 2024 at 6.45pm. Venue – TBC.

The meeting adjourned at 8.05 pm.