

# HELIONS BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

NAME	POSITION	PRESENT
Jane Catchesides	Chair	Yes
Sue Kehr	Vice-Chair	Yes
Neville Nicholson	Parish Councillor	Yes
Judy Howard	Parish Councillor	Yes
Sue Cunningham	Parish Councillor	Yes
Chris Brown	Parish Councillor	Yes
Diana Garrod	District Councillor	Apologies
David Finch	County Councillor	Apologies
Cathryn Carlisle	Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer	Yes
Members of the public	2 members of the public	

#### 18/1 Apologies for Absence

Were received from DC Garrod and CC Finch

#### 18/2 Members' declarations of interests

Cllr Catchesides, Cllr Kehr: Members of the VHMC

Cllr Nicholson: Three Horseshoes

#### 18/3 Public forum

A Resident had looked at the minutes of the last meeting, and noted that the Parish Council was putting up the precept this year. He questioned the need for such a large increase. The Chairman explained that BDC had cut our Localism Grant again this year. The Parish Council hadn't put their precept up for the last 3 years to counteract the loss of the Grant. The Council had taken the hit on the loss of the localism grant but it unfortunately can't do that again this year.

The Council went through all its expenditure and found that a lot of services had gone up. This includes Street Lighting and this year is the first time in a long time that we had had a street light fail and needed repair, which costs a couple of hundred pounds. The Council explained that the budget had been carefully set with no extraneous expenditure included and the precept had been set to meet the income we needed to cover those basic expenses.

The Councillors questioned why Cllr Nicholson had acted against the democratic wishes of the Council and emailed Cllr Finch at ECC without the Council's knowledge with regards to the Grant awarded in 2007/8 for £5,000 for Solar Lights in the Bus Shelters, which the then Clerk had organised. The Council at that time didn't think that Solar

Lights were needed, so the grant had never been spent. The Councillors questioned why at the last meeting Cllr Nicholson did not mention this, as he had already sent the email. He had argued for a minimal increase in the precept, knowing full well that we may have to repay the grant.

Councillors were offended by the tone of Cllr Nicholson's correspondence which appeared to cast doubt on the integrity of his fellow Councillors.

The Clerk also reminded all present that all correspondence should go from the Clerk, not individual councillors.

18/4 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th December 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

18/5 Clerk's Report

18/6 Finance Report

Payments

18/6.1	£277.68	Cathryn Carlisle	Clerk's Salary	101692
18/6.2	£41.66	E-on	Lighting	D/D
18/6.3	£18.99	BT	Telephone	D/D
18/6.4	£19.99	Cathryn Carlisle	Expenses	101693
18/6.8	£66.53	Mobile Mini	Village Hall	101694
18/6.9	£529.40	Helions BCS	Three Horseshoes	101695

Payments were approved by all members of the council present.

Invoices were checked by Cllr Cunningham and Cllr Howard

18/6.5 Month Bank Statement and Monthly Budget Form

The Clerk had circulated the monthly Budget Form, but had not received the Bank Statement at the time of the meeting, The Clerk will forward a copy of the Bank Reconciliation as soon as possible.

18/6.6 To Complete the Precept Form

The Council agreed at Finance Working party to set the precept at £14,296, which gives a Band D Tax rate of £78.91. This represents an increase of 19.07%, a rise of £12.64 per year, or £1.05 per month.

The form was completed by the Chairman and Clerk.

18/6.7 Revenue Grant

18/6.8 To confirm the transfer of £5,000 from General to Special Reserves

It was agreed that the Clerk moves the £5,000 into Special Reserves. The £5,000 may now have to be sent back to ECC after Cllr Nicholson's email to ECC. The Council feel they may lose out on grants in the near future due to this action.

18/7 District Councillor's Report

No Report

18/8 County Councillor's Report

No Report

- 18/9 Reports from Councillors with Matters affecting the village  
Nothing to report
- 18/10 Recent Flooding in Helions Bumpstead  
18/10.1 Highways Issues  
There's a large pothole near Copy Farm that needs some urgent attention; Cllr Kehr to report this.
- 18/10.2 Clearance of streams and ditches  
After the snow and heavy rain over Christmas and New Year, Water Lane became impassable; it was the highest it's been for many years. The stream was also partially blocked with branches and other debris. The Clerk to report to Highways.
- In Sages End Road, the ditch couldn't cope with the amount of snow-melt water due to the ditch being too shallow and the pipe too small.  
There are loose chippings blocking some of the drains and lots of chippings on the cross-roads; the Clerk will report all issues
- 18/11 Footpath review update  
18/11.1 Footpath Map Review  
Footpath 1 and 6 are impassable due to the farmer not reinstating the footpath since he ploughed it. Clerk to contact Highways.
- 18/12 Helions Bumpstead Village Hall matters affecting the Parish Council  
18/12.1 Update on refurbishment work.  
The Hall is due to re-open next week; painting and final electrical work to be completed. Formal re-opening ceremony to be confirmed.
- 18/13 Helions Bumpstead Recreation Ground  
18/13.1 Fields in Trust: No update
- 18.14 Playground Refurbishment  
Report on Progress: No news re CIF application.
- 18/15 Three Horseshoes Pub  
Sufficient pledges have been received for the CBS team to move to the next stage, drawing up the Prospectus for the share issue. The Chair emphasised the need for good communications with the village at this vital time, and had offered to circulate information. Cllr Nicholson to contact Richard Russell re email.
- 18/16 Emergency Plan  
Cllr Brown to send the updated copy to all Cllrs
- 18/17 Village Enhancement  
18/17.1 To discuss village repairs

The person who we had got to do some odd jobs, has decided he didn't want the work after all. We still need to look out for a handy-man. If anyone knows of anyone please let the Clerk know.

18/17.2 Village Hall Planters

Cllrs agreed to keep the original arrangements. Cllr Nicholson would like to see volunteers to take on the planters. If any local people would like to take this on please contact the Clerk.

18/18 Open Spaces Action Plan - 2018 Edition

Cllrs agreed to remove the Cycle Track, the Hedges and new woodland, but to add Sports and Play equipment, improving the village green, and land for allotments.

18/19 Items for information and inclusion on next meeting's agenda

There were none.

18/20 Date of the next meeting

12<sup>th</sup> February 2018

18/21 Meeting Closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

Clerk to the Council: Cathryn Carlisle  
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