

HECK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF HECK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Tuesday 5th Nov 2024 at 6:30 pm in Heck Parish Rooms

Chair: Cllr Laura Watkinson Teo.

Clerk/RFO: Mr J R Hunter, 4 Grove Park, Calder Grove, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF4 3BZ

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Present: L Watkinson-Teo, J Lumb, and J Harling,
Clerk/RFO – JR Hunter

Agenda items

052401. Welcome

- The Chair welcomed councillors to the meeting.

052402. Apologies

- Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Mycroft and Cllr B Coney.

052403. Public Forum:

- There being no members of the public present at the meeting the Chair closed the public forum.

052404. Minutes of last meeting:

- Cllr Harling clarified the point raised in the minutes under 042410.2 HGV Movements. She explained the reference to Red Zone tracking was that the Parish Council could approach local transport companies and request that the HGV prohibited areas in the village be included within the red zone maps for each of their transport operation vehicle tracking systems. This would facilitate the monitoring of compliance of HGV movements through the village. Subject to this amendment the Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Heck Parish Council meeting held on 3rd September 2024 as a true record and gave approval to the Vice Chair to sign as acceptance of the minutes for publishing on the Heck Parish Council website.

Action: The minutes to be amended and presented to the Vice Chair for signature.

052405. To receive reports, for information only, from:

- a) County Councillor – the County Councillor did not attend the meeting.
- b) Other representatives – there were no other representatives in attendance.

052406. Planning:

- Applications – the following planning applications recently lodged with North Yorkshire Planning were reviewed, assessing the potential impact on the Heck Parish community:

There have been no further planning applications or movements in planning matters since the last parish council meeting in September 2024.

Councillors reflected on the successful engagement with Mill Balk Quarries and Darrington Quarries during the more recent on-site meetings with members of each team. It was encouraging to note that both companies are keen to work with the community to ensure the quarry development and activity is undertaken with respect to the needs of the village to limit the extent of any disruption or inconvenience to residents. A clear timetable is yet to be determined but Mill Balk and Darrington Quarries will maintain open communications with all the community to ensure and plans are clearly set out and any reservations and comments from the public received prompt and considered responses.

Cllr Lumb raised concerns regarding the subsequent actions at the Thomas Armstrong "Sellite Blocks Plant" site following the cessation of its block-making activities. Specifically, it was noted that grey aggregate material from the plant is being deposited and stacked in mounds in the open areas of the site. Cllr Lumb questioned whether the storage of such materials in open areas requires planning permission, as he recalled that the original approved plan stipulated that production materials from the plant would be stored indoors and undercover. Attention was drawn to the existence of a substantial pile of aggregate already deposited on the pads previously used for block manufacturing.

Action: It was agreed that the Council would seek clarification on the planning requirements for the outdoor storage of aggregate materials at the site and request relevant details of the original planning consent conditions from the planning authority.

052407. Heck Ladies Group:

Cllr Harling announced that, due to limited interest from members within the village, the Heck Ladies Group will cease its activities. Moving forward, village events will be organised on an ad hoc basis, with volunteers encouraged to step forward to manage specific events as needed. These events will be coordinated by a dedicated events committee formed for each purpose.

It was confirmed that the remaining funds held by the Heck Ladies Group will be used to meet current commitments, including the provision of consumables for the village defibrillator. Any remaining balance will be equally distributed among the charities previously supported by the group.

Action: The Council recorded its gratitude to the Heck Ladies Group for its contributions to village life and endorsed the proposed approach to future event organisation.

052408. RFO's report on closing balances, receipts, and payments:

a) Current balances: The RFO presented the report on the current financial position and status of the Heck Parish Council. Accounts for the financial period up to 5th Nov 2024 were presented for review. Income receipts to date were £8,404 from the receipt of precept, rental income and parish room hire. Total expenditure is £3,401.13 including payments to be approved at the meeting, leaving a balance of funds at the bank of £11,718.63.

b) Payments to be made at this meeting:

05/11/2024	Clerks Salary Month 6 2024/25	£115.20
05/11/2024-	HMRC PAYE Month 6 2024/25	£28.80
05/11/2024	Clerk Salary Month 7 2024/25	£115.20
05/11/2024	HMRC PAYE Month 7 2024/25	£28.80
06/11/2024	Play Safety Limited – inspection report	£192.00

c) Payments made between meetings:

01/09/2024	Scottish Water	£21.30
04/09/2024	Bank charges	£8.00
19/09/2024	British Gas	£28.10
01/10/2024	Scottish Water	£21.30
04/10/2024	Bank charges	£8.00
19/10/2024	British Gas	£26.94

The retrospective payments were approved by the Council.

d) Payments received:

e) Rental Receipts:

f) Acceptance of report – the Council resolved to accept the details of the report and make the payments listed above including any received since publication of the agenda.

g) The Clerk presented a budget forecast outlining the Parish's overhead requirements for the 2025/26 financial year. The anticipated expenditure was estimated at approximately £8,000, which includes an annual charge of over £2,200 for electricity consumption associated with highway lighting through the village.

Councillors discussed the potential impact on the household council tax precept. It was noted that setting the precept at the minimum requirement of £8,000 would result in a 5% increase in council tax for Band D properties, equating to an additional £5.00 per household annually.

Action: Councillors agreed to consider the implications of the proposed budget further and consult with residents as necessary before finalising the precept.

- h) Councillors reviewed the state of repair of street lighting in the village. A map of the 31 streetlamp locations was examined alongside a summary from 2020 detailing repair and improvement options based on the condition of the fixtures at that time. The total cost to address identified defects in 2020 was estimated at £5,110. Councillors noted that a similar exercise conducted at current rates could exceed £9,000, a figure well beyond the Parish's financial resources. It was acknowledged that external funding sources would need to be identified and pursued to address these significant deficiencies.

Councillors expressed particular concern regarding the collapse and total failure of two lamp units, LP19 and LP26, leaving sections of Main Street and Long Lane in complete darkness. This poses a serious risk to pedestrian and road user safety. Although not directly linked, recent burglaries along this stretch of the village have heightened resident fears and a sense of vulnerability.

Action: It was agreed that representations for assistance would be made to North Yorkshire County Councillor John McCartney, requesting support from his locality budgets to help fund the urgent repairs to the defective lights.

052409. Correspondence received since last meeting. *For information only unless stated otherwise.*

- a) A letter from Brocklesby Building Products Ltd enquiring into the ownership of the strip of land located between Green Lane and Brocklesby Building Products off Long Lane. Subject to ownership confirmation, Brocklesby expressed interest in purchasing the land at a commercial rate.

Councillors discussed the offer from Brocklesby Building Products to purchase a parcel of land owned by the Parish Council. The merits of the sale were considered, with particular attention given to the size of the land and its current use within the community. Councillors acknowledged that there could be value in exploring the potential sale further.

Action: It was agreed that the Council would undertake initial inquiries into the implications of the sale, including a valuation of the land and consultation with the community regarding its potential impact.

- b) Councillors reviewed the playground inspection report from Play Safety Limited, which highlighted defects and recommendations for repairs to equipment in the Long Lane play area and the Trim Trail. While the identified issues were classified as low risk, they included rusting equipment and vegetation growth around ground-level footings, which pose a potential slip hazard.

Councillors acknowledged the natural wear and tear of the equipment but noted the limited use of the facilities by the community. After discussion, they recognised that the most economically effective course of action may be the complete removal of the facilities.

Action: It was agreed that further consultation with the community would be undertaken to assess the desirability of maintaining or scrapping the play equipment. Cost implications for both repair and removal will also be explored to inform a final decision

- c) An email from Reverend Canon Eleanor Robertshaw, Rector The Great Snaith Team, enquiring whether one of the Parish Councillors would be willing to lay the wreath on the Remembrance Sunday Service on Sunday 10th Nov 2024. It was agreed Cllr J Lumb would undertake this honour on behalf of the Parish Council.
- d) An email from Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, David Skaith, inviting the Parish Council to input into the regional consultation on priorities for the next four years on the York and North Yorkshire Police and Crime and Fire and Rescue Plans.

052410. To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary:

052410.1 - Environmental Health Issues and concerns in the Parish–

There were no further matters in connection with environmental health issues to discuss during the meeting.

052410.2 – HGV movements -

There were no further matters to consider in connection with HGV movements through the village.

052411. Action taken since last meeting.

- The Clerk advised of correspondence with Eskern Renewables concerning the presence of nails on the road along Long Lane dropped from lorries travelling to and from their site. A response is still awaited.

052412. Councillors' Forum:

There were no matters raised.

052413. Items for the next agenda

052414. To receive further comments from members of public. *Information only clerk to note comments – no MOPs present.*

052415. To confirm date, time and place of next meeting. – Tuesday 7th Jan 2024 starting at 6:30 pm in the Parish Rooms.

052416. Closure of meeting at 8: 00 pm

Signed: *J R Hunter.* Clerk and RFO to Heck Parish Council