

**A meeting of Heapey Parish Council was held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003 in the White Coppice Room, St Barnabas Church, Chapel Lane, Heapey.**

Present: Councillor J Geddes – Chairman  
Councillors M Agnew, S Graham, E Riding and J Ross-Mills

Also present: Borough Councillor M E Gray  
Sgt K Evans – Lancs Constabulary  
Mr G Edwards, Mr G Birch.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2003**

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Councillor D Berry

**3. Police report**

The Chairman welcomed Sgt Evans to the meeting. This was the first Heapey Parish Council meeting he had attended and he gave details of his own background and outlined the problems of policing such a large rural area. He apologised for not having attended meetings in the past but he had 5 Parish Councils in his area and it was difficult to attend all of their meetings due to operational requirements. He could not guarantee that he would be able to attend every meeting in the future but hoped that some of the Police Constables would be ready to take on this aspect of community relations within the next few months. In answer to questions about staffing levels, he said that the area was not up to strength but hoped this would be remedied over the next year. A general discussion on problems of the area followed and at the end the Chairman thanked Sgt Evans for attending.

**4. Questions from public**

Further information was requested by XX XXXX about an item appearing on the agenda – Upgrading of footpaths to bridleways. The Chairman gave details of the case leading up to the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March which was attended by five of the landowners involved.

Strong objections were raised to the proposal and the Parish Council passed on their feelings to Lancashire County Council. The time had now come to decide whether the Council would support the objections raised. This would be decided later in the meeting and XX XXXX was advised that he should inform Lancs County Council of his feelings in the matter.

**5. Matters Arising**

It was agreed that the notice boards under order should be fitted with unbreakable glass.

**6. Financial report**

There was an additional account to be approved:  
W A Geddes – Photocopying - £8.36

Financial report approved.

**7. Audit return 2002/2003**

Following discussion, it was formally proposed and seconded, and passed unanimously that the Chairman should sign the Statement of Assurance for the Annual Audit.

## **8. Planning Applications**

There were no objections to the following applications:

9/03/00495/FUL

9/03/00499/FUL

9/03/00513/FUL

9/03/00536/CTY - Concern was raised over several aspects of the proposal:

1. The visual impact of the proposed access road,
2. The loss of a number of mature trees and the possible detrimental effect that this would have on the landscape,
3. The visual impact of the kiosk and security fencing.

Providing that the width of the access road is reduced, the loss of trees is minimised and the security fencing screened by planting, the Parish Council would have no objections.

## **9. The Sand Quarry**

It was agreed, as detailed in the minutes of the meeting with Wheelton and Whittle-le-Woods Parish Councils, that Heapey should proceed, in partnership with the other two Parish Councils, to acquire the Sand Quarry for Community Sport and Leisure facilities.

## **10. Parish Plan**

It was decided that the Parish Council should advertise for volunteers to serve on the Steering Committee by posters, flyers and at the Village Fete.

## **11. Parish Amenities**

It was agreed that an application for a grant from Chorley Borough Council be made for the renewal of the safety surfacing in the Children's playground.

## **12. Heapey Web Site**

Councillors Agnew and Graham reported that it was hoped that the site would be set up by October. Information is, at present, being gathered about Parish Councils. There will be a page about "What's On" and maintenance costs could be offset by business advertising.

## **13. Quality Parish Councils**

It is hoped to distribute a booklet explaining "The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme" shortly to all Councillors. The first step towards qualifying will be the Parish Clerk obtaining the AQA Certificate in Local Council Administration. It was decided the Council should move towards qualifying as a Quality Parish Council.

## **14. Crime and Disorder Act**

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should apply to NACRO for information packs on how to reduce crime and disorder in the area.

## **15. Upgrading of Footpaths to Bridleways**

This item had been discussed in detail under "Questions from public" and it was formally proposed that the Parish Council should write to Lancashire County Council supporting the landowners objection to the proposal. The proposal was carried. For 3 – against 1 – abstentions 1.

## **16. Request for donation**

It was decided that this request be turned down as it is the Parish Council's policy that only donations to local bodies would be awarded.

## **17. Borough/Parish Council meeting**

Councillor Ross-Mills agreed to attend the meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

## **18. Police Cells in Chorley**

It was agreed to support Lindsay Hoyle MP in his campaign to have the police cells in Chorley re-opened. Clerk to write to the Chief Constable.

## **19. Items for information**

- i. Information about School Governors – noted
- ii. Periodic review of Lancashire County Council – ward boundaries – noted
- iii. Local Government Review of two-tier area in the North West – noted
- iv. Standards Board for England – The Code in Practice Video – Circulated to Parish Councillors for viewing
- v. The I&DeA Guide for new members – noted
- vi. Community Futures – Database of rural shops – Clerk to supply list
- vii. Neighbourhood Watch – New Group set up – Blackburn Road (Police Station to St Chads)

## **20. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2003