

A meeting of Heapey Parish Council was held on Tuesday 4th November 2003 in the White Coppice Rooms, St Barnabas Church, Chapel Lane, Heapey.

Present: Councillor J Geddes – Chairman
Councillors D Berry, S Graham and E Riding

1. Minutes of meeting held on 2nd September 2003

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

2. Apologies for absence

Councillor J Ross-Mills
PS K Evans – Lancs Constabulary

3. Matters Arising

The Parish Council are still waiting for confirmation of the approved position of the new notice boards from Chorley Borough Council and Lancs County Council. A reply has been received from XX XXXX, XXXXX XXXXX to our letter requesting him to have his hedges trimmed. He states that a white van is permanently parked on the footway and not only obstructs the view of vehicles leaving his property but means he has no access to his trees to trim them back. The owner of the white van will be contacted and asked to park somewhere else and XX XXXX will be asked again to trim back the overhanging trees and all hedges that obstruct the sightlines.

4. Police Report

Sgt Evans sent the following report.

Please could you pass my apologies to the council for the forthcoming meeting. I am on annual leave this week. I have very little to report, only one crime for the parish during October. This was some vandalism to a bus shelter on Blackburn Road.

However I would ask that you pass on advice to the residents of the Parish to be vigilant on frosty mornings. You may remember last year a spate of Car Thefts associated with this whereby a number of cars were stolen as they were parked on driveways and outside shops, unattended with the engines running to assist in defrosting the windows. Despite us mounting an ongoing operation on such mornings there have already been a number of cars stolen in this way a couple of weeks ago across the Southern Divisional area. Please warn people about this, and advise them they are unlikely to be able to claim on their insurance if a car is stolen in this way as it points to negligence on behalf of the owner. Additionally it is also a traffic offence to "Quit" a vehicle in such fashion. We do not intend to enforce this, but would rather move towards Community Reassurance and advice to prevent crime.

Councillor Geddes reported that at the Chorley Area meeting of the LAPTC, a report by Inspector Neill Chessall indicated that Wheelton, Rural Villages and Whittle-le-Woods have not been allocated a Community Beat Manager. This conflicts with a previous report that funding had been secured and a Community Beat Manager would be allocated to Wheelton early next year. Clerk to write to Inspector Edmondson to clarify the situation.

5. Questions from Public

A member of the Bridleways Association sought the support of the Parish Council in their attempt to have some local footpaths upgraded to bridleways. This was in direct opposition to some local landowners who did not want this to happen. The Bridleways Association member was invited to attend the next meeting to put forward their case.

6. Financial Report

The financial report was approved.

7. Budget and Precept 2004/2005

The budget for 2003/2004 and the proposed precept for 2004/2005 were discussed and then formally approved. The Clerk's salary of £2812 was approved and a precept of £6986 was set. This represents an increase of 5.8% over the previous year.

8. Planning Matters

There were no objections to the following planning applications:

No. 9/03/01020/FUL

No. 9/03/01125/FUL

No. 9/03/00495/FUL

All work to be in keeping with the local environment.

There were three additional planning applications to be considered.

No. 9/03/01163/FUL – First floor front and single storey rear extension – Sherringtons Barn, Chapel Lane, Heapey.

No objections providing the work is in keeping with the rest of the building.

No. 9/03/01165/FUL – Two storey extension to form link between house and detached garage – Rough Lee Farm, Higher House Lane, Heapey.

No objections providing the work is in keeping with the local environment.

No. 9/03/01166/COU – Conversion of redundant barn to dwelling and erection of detached garage – Black Lion Farm, Blackburn Road, Heapey.

The Parish Council assume that this application will be refused on the grounds that the proposed development would be contrary to the approved Interim Supplementary Planning Guidance on Windfall Housing Developments.

The following application has been granted:

No. 9/03/00495/FUL

9. Old Sand Quarry

The Parish Council has been informed that Mr Handscombe will submit his report on the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to the Executive Cabinet on Thursday 6th November 2003 and will inform the Council of the decision reached.

10. Parish Plan

The Parish Council have had some volunteers to serve on the Steering Group. It was decided that we should meet with Wheelton PC and set up the Group. The Green Centre, Eccleston can supply a computer programme that has a library of questions that can be customised for the questionnaire. It costs around £30 and this can be shared with Wheelton PC. A joint meeting will be arranged shortly.

11. Heapey Web Site

The launch date for the web site has now been set for 1st December 2003. Some copies of past minutes have been requested and will be supplied. The set up fees of £600 will be paid in this financial year. Maintenance fees will not be paid unless there is insufficient revenue from advertising.

12. Local Government Review of Lancashire

Noted.

13. Vacancy for Parish Councillor

A flyer will be produced and distributed throughout the Parish. A special appeal will be made to residents of the Heapey Chase estate to be represented on the Council.

14. Victim Support – Request for Donation

It was agreed that a donation would not be made at this time.

15. Items for Information

Noted.

16. Items for Consultation

Lancashire Police Authority Meeting – Skelmersdale 2nd December 2003.
There were no Councillors available to attend this meeting.

Chorley Borough Council – Local Development Framework.
The information requested will be supplied.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the Remembrance Day Service would be held at the War Memorial on Sunday 9th November 2003 at 12.30pm.

As the next meeting would not be until the New Year, the Chairman wished all Councillors a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

17. Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 6th January 2004