

# HEVERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Adjourned Parish Meeting held on Thursday 7 October 2021 in The Athenaeum, Leasgill at 7:30pm

*Held in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972*

**Present :** Councillors Peter Clarke (Chairman), Adrian Bland, Tom Grindey, Elizabeth Moffat, Iain Richards and Adele Shepherd; County Councillor Roger Bingham; District Councillor. Kevin Holmes; Malcolm Richardson (Parish Clerk) and 27 members of the public.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Brian Rendell and Mr. Tony Walker.

### 2. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Talk about the History of Heversham

County Councillor Roger Bingham gave a highly informative and entertaining precis of Heversham's history. He included parts of his History Sketch leaflet, which he had kindly and generously provided for the parishioners shortly before this meeting. Warm thanks were expressed by everyone present for the talk and the leaflet.

### 4. Presentation on the Dark Skies Initiative and on Schemes for the Promotion of Wild Flowers and Wildlife

Councillor Iain Richards gave an equally informative presentation on the Dark Skies Initiative and how it's possible to minimise wasted light and to use lighting which reduces the affect on wildlife. He then spoke about habitat change and climate change, their affect on the wildlife in our community, the loss of biodiversity and what we can do to help wildlife – such as encouraging movement, avoiding the creation of islands, allowing hedges to grow, less mowing and less use of pesticides. He also suggested that parishioners should create wildflower patches wherever possible. Parishioners referred to the wild orchids on Woodhouse Lane and plants which attracted bees.

### 5. Reports

- a. Councillor Peter Clarke expressed the Council's grateful thanks to Councillor Brian Rendell for his service as Chairman for the last three years and presented his report with regard to the activities of the Parish Council since the Annual Parish Meeting in 2019. Although the pandemic had dominated recent times, several projects had been completed including the LED street lighting, the double yellow lines near Crow Wood, playground improvements, a speed indication device at Leasgill, a new defibrillator in the old telephone box opposite Dallam School Boarding House and a Christmas tree and lights at Leasgill Green. Work would soon commence in Quarry Wood. The usual business of the Council continued on matters such as planning applications, the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan review, local government reorganisation, highway matters, B4RN and footpaths,
- b. County Councillor Roger Bingham reported on the current situation in Cumbria regarding Covid; the announcements of the review of parliamentary constituencies and of local government reorganisation; the efforts made in the area to combat county lines drug dealing; local road resurfacing and electric vehicle charging points.
- c. District Councillor Kevin Holmes reported with regard to the planned A591 road improvements.
- d. The Athenaeum: Councillor Tom Grindey reported that The Athenaeum had effectively been closed for the whole of the last year due to Covid. It had survived on government grants which more than covered the day to day running costs. The hall had now re-opened and most of the regular bookings had returned. The entrance doors are soon to be replaced to comply with the latest fire regulations; a new PA system is under consideration, together with new curtain and chair fabrics to give a more comfortable feel.

### 5. Reviews of Progress and Open Discussions

The following matters were discussed in open forum:

- a. Possible locations for local tree planting as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy Initiative: No suggestions other than Quarry Wood.

- b. What's On in Heversham: This may be continued and anyone interested in helping was asked to let the Clerk know.
- c. B4RN Broadband: 100 properties were now connected with the outstanding areas being Dugg Hill and Haverflatts. Parishioners were reminded that BT were withdrawing copper analogue service in 2026/27 and that they should consider B4RN with the use of the gigabit voucher scheme.
- d. The experience of the pandemic for the community: It was agreed that the pandemic had confirmed the strength of the community in that, although the Contact Line had been very helpful, most people had been supported by neighbours, friends and family. The contribution of Joyce Hayton to the Contact Line was warmly acknowledged.
- e. Playground: Cllr. Rendell reported on the condition of the playground and the improvements made and planned.

#### **6. Public Participation**

Matters raised included the approved planning application for Park House Drive, problems with speeding tractors on Woodhouse Lane and the Jubilee bonfire on 2 June 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

***Malcolm Richardson***  
Clerk to the Council