

HORSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17 MARCH 2014 AT 7.00PM IN THE W/VILLAGE HALL

- 0555. PRESENT:** Cllr M D Senior, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs D Lillie, C Rodgers, S Lynch and P Taylor
In attendance: Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council
- 0556. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** County Councillor Paul Kelly and Cllr A Turnbull
- 0557. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None
- 0558. MINUTES.** It was proposed by Cllr D Lillie, seconded by Cllr M D Senior and AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2014 be signed as an accurate record.
- 0559. ST ANDREWS C OF E FIRST SCHOOL, HEDDON ON THE WALL.** Gordon Stewart, Governor of St Andrews First School, attended the meeting to discuss raising the profile of the school in the village. The school is keen to become more involved in the life of Horsley and they are keen for the children to become involved and for the choir to sing at events in the village. They would also like residents of the village to feel part of the events that they do in school. Gordon is to arrange for the weekly newsletters to be sent to the Parish Council and these will be placed on the Parish Council website together with a link to School website.
- 0560. MATTERS ARISING.**
- a) **TRAVELLERS.** Minute 0547a refers. It was noted that travellers had been parked in Water Lane over the weekend. Cllr A Turnbull was unable to attend the meeting therefore no update was available re Northumbrian Water. It was suggested that notices could be erected stating 'No Overnight Camping'. A letter will be sent to Northumberland Estates and Northumbrian Water asking for signs to be erected.
 - b) **FOOTPATHS.** Minute 0549b refers. Maurice Holliday advised that Heddon on the Wall Parish Council was looking into the issue of speeding traffic on the Two Hoots Road.
- 0561. COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL KELLY'S REPORT.** Councillor Paul Kelly was unable to attend the meeting. His written report is attached to the minutes.
- 0562. RESIDENTS** present raised a number of matters and where relevant they are listed together with the actions that will be taken, if required. In due course if necessary, reports will be made back to Council.
- a) **BROADBAND.** Although leaflets had been posted through every door in Horsley, the response had been very poor. An update had been received from iNorthumberland. In 2013 NCC appointed BT to deliver this £18.9m programme and in May 2013 Arch, the Northumberland Development Company was appointed to oversee delivery on behalf of the Council. iNorthumberland is a partnership programme using funding from the European Regional Development Fund, Broadband Delivery UK, NCC, BT and Arch Digital. It is anticipated that by 2015 91% of properties in Northumberland will be able to access superfast broadband services although an upgrade to their existing package will be required.
- 0563. CORRESPONDENCE.** All correspondence received since the January meeting had been listed on the agenda and circulated.
- 0564. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL – DRAFT REVISED NORTHUMBERLAND TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL CHARTER – ENGAGEMENT.** NCC has identified a number of proposals to improve working relationships between the County Council and Town and Parish Councils. The aim of the Charter is to identify how the County Council can work effectively with the local Councils to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Northumberland. Comments are required on the draft Charter by 9th April 2014. All councillors to pass comments to the clerk by Monday 7th April.
- 0565. RESIDENTS' FESTIVAL.** It was noted that the Northumberland Residents' Festival is to take place on 29th and 30th March. This provides an opportunity for people to get out and about and explore the countryside and visitors attractions of Northumberland.
- 0566. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL – CONSULTATION ON POST 16 TRANSPORT PROVISION.** NCC has begun a consultation on a number of options it is considering in relation to the provision of Post 16 Transport from the start of the academic year 2014-15 onwards. It was noted that the consultation is open until 19th May and all responses must be received by this time. The consultation can be found at <http://northumberland.gov.uk/post16> and comments can be submitted via a web based questionnaire.

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0567. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

- a) **PLANNING DECISIONS/APPLICATIONS.** Details of planning decisions and applications as circulated were AGREED by all Councillors.

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
13/03725/FUL	1 Stonecroft, Horsley	Construction of sun room to rear	GRANTED
14/00630/FUL	Welton Town Farm Bungalow, Welton	Side extension to provide granny flat rear kitchen extension and loft conversion with dormer windows to front and rear, solar panels to south facing roof.	No objection sent

0568. FINANCE

- a) **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.** It was proposed by Cllr S Lynch, seconded by Cllr P Taylor and AGREED accounts on the list as circulated be paid.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET OF VAT	VAT	CHEQUE AMOUNT	CHEQUE NO
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	333.27		333.27	SO
HMRC	PAYE	83.40		83.40	000761
Mrs A Senior	Postages to March 2014	£36.20		£36.20	000762
C Glew	Grass cutting	£510.00		£510.00	000763
B & Q	Paint for bus shelters	£25.94	£4.32	£21.62	000764
Amazon	Removal of timetable	£9.79	£1.63	£8.16	000765

INCOME RECEIVED

NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DATE
Lloyds Bank	Interest	£0.49	11.11.13
Lloyds Bank	Interest	£0.39	09.12.13
Lloyds Bank	Interest	£0.40	09.01.14
Lloyds Bank	Interest	£0.41	10.02.14

0553. VILLAGE ISSUES

- a) **PLAY AREA.** It was noted that the wheelie bin in the play area was no longer being emptied by NCC. The clerk will contact NCC to request that this is put on the list. After discussion, it was agreed to place large notices at the entrance to the play areas banning dogs. The boundary wall in Croft Lane has collapsed in several places. Cllr S Lynch will arrange for repairs to be carried out.
- b) **LITTER PICK.** It was agreed to carry out a Spring Litter Pick of the village week commencing 7 April 2014. Equipment will be available outside of 7 Stonecroft all week. Bags of refuse are to be left outside the WI Hall for collection by NCC.
- c) **INFORMATION LEAFLET.** It was agreed to produce an updated Information Leaflet. A draft will be produced for agreement at the next meeting.
- d) **MOLE HILLS.** Problems were being experienced with moles in the play area and the grass verges at the east end of the village. The clerk will arrange for the mole catcher to visit.

- 0554. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 19 May 2014 at 7.00pm in the WI Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Signed as an accurate record

County Councillor Paul Kelly Report March 2014

NCC Budget 2014-15. I supported the proposals in the budget because they addressed two longstanding issues for which I criticised the previous Lib Dem administration. First, the misguided policy of offering free travel to the school or college of their choice for Post 16 students. Not only did the council tax payer subsidise each journey to the tune of £930 per annum but the unintended consequence was that a number of Northumberland high schools were becoming financially unviable because the £4000 each student placing earned was being exported to other local authorities. For example, 91 students who should have gone to Berwick Academy travelled by train at Northumberland tax payers' expense and benefitted Newcastle College by £364000. Second, the short sighted policy of accepting a grant to freeze council tax resulted in a £15 million reduction in NCC's council tax base, which, as it shrinks, lessens the council's ability to provide the services that its residents demand. The gap will be filled by private providers for those with the means to pay.

I did express my reservations about the introduction of free parking combined with a cut of £270000 to the Civil Enforcement Service. The parking disk system fell into disrepute when it wasn't properly enforced in Castle Morpeth. Cllr Swithenbank guaranteed that parking would be rigorously monitored so I watch with interest.

Schools. The changes to the way schools are funded by central government have started to have an impact upon smaller Middle and High schools. In order to be more financially viable, Astley High School and Whitrigg Middle School in Seaton Delaval have agreed to share premises as both had small populations for their size of campus. This follows a similar arrangement between Druridge Bay Middle and Coquet High in Amble. The recent Ofsted inspection of 17 Northumberland schools commented adversely on the three tier system but NCC is not in a position to impose two tiers nor does it have the finance to do so. The Secretary of State, Michael Gove, clearly wishes to divorce all schools from LEAs even if parents, governors and teachers are against such moves. The advice from DfE to Prudhoe High School governors was that they had to consult on converting it to an academy even though most of Ofsted's concerns have been addressed.

The Core Strategy. Northumberland's rural population is more and more skewed towards the aged and retired. An exodus of young people in search of work and affordable housing will in time result in communities that are unsustainable, lacking a workforce to maintain the economic health of the county or to look after the increasingly infirm. East Tynedale is identified in the Core Strategy as particularly prone because of the very tightly drawn Green Belt boundaries around villages.

To restore the balance the economy must grow, driven in the first instance by house building. There is a backlog of 2135 affordable homes in the county. For the first time in more than thirty years the county council is able to build council houses for rent, (175 in Blyth and 48 in Amble). Registered Social Landlords are building affordable houses with the help of loans and grants from NCC. I am not convinced that Shared Ownership housing proposed by private developers and deemed affordable by Government is really affordable for most people on the waiting lists.

Ovingham Bridge. A packed public meeting held in the Reading Room on February 24th was given details of the closure and refurbishment of the bridge from May 2014. Setting a twelve month timescale for the reopening of the bridge to road traffic, the engineer in charge, Jemma Reay, was confident that all local concerns about pedestrian safety, car parking and disruption to leisure use of the village green could be addressed. A small liaison group met to discuss details and final restoration on March 12th.

Wylam 20mph. Signage will be erected in the next week introducing the 20mph speed limit on the main routes through the village. Parents of younger children will be monitoring the effectiveness of the advisory signs and it is likely that other communities will want to follow suit if the results are positive. Gateshead Council has a rolling programme of setting compulsory 20mph in residential streets, outside schools and in shopping areas. Currently NCC highway officers need evidence of vehicle/pedestrian accident before initiating such measures.

Mistaken identity. The Foreign Secretary, William Hague, was invited to open the newly built Visitor Centre at Northumberlandia near Cramlington. Crisis in Crimea forced him to withdraw at short notice. The organisers desperately looked for a folkily challenged replacement from the Liaison Group and found me. I carried out the ceremony but deny any association with said politician.