

HORSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 27 MARCH 2017 AT 7.00PM IN THE WI/VILLAGE HALL (Subject to Parish Council approval)

- 0875. PRESENT:** Cllr M D Senior, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs A Turnbull, C Turnbull, D Lillie.
In attendance: Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council
- 0876. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr S Lynch
- 0877. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr A Turnbull declared a personal interest in matters relating to Northumbrian Water.
- 0878. RESIDENTS.**
- a) **DOG FOULING.** Concerns were expressed over the speed of traffic travelling down Mill Way. Suggestions of signs towards the bottom of the lane 'Children Playing' were noted. As there is no speed limit sign a request for an advisory speed limit of 20mph was suggested at the top of the lane.
 - b) **OVINGHAM CEMETERY.** Concerns were expressed over the grounds maintenance contract not being renewed with Adrian Jackson. Adrian has maintained the cemetery for many years and as he is a local man he is able to respond quickly to any matters needing urgent attention. The contract has been awarded for 3 years when tenders will be requested.
 - c) **INTERSERVE.** Interserve had agreed to cut back the path at South Farm and create an access to Water Lane.
 - d) **FOOTPATH REPORT.** Horses have eaten the gates at Horsley Hill and Dunslaw Hill. There is no gate at the top of Lead Lane and the footpath is overgrown at Spittal Farm. These will be reported to Rights of Way, NCC.
 - e) **BUS SHELTER.** A bus shelter was requested at the west bound bus stop near to Cherry Tree Gardens. This will be looked into.
 - f) **HORSLEY WOODS.** Letter passed to the Parish Council from a resident of Horsley Wood Cottages. Work had commenced in the wood with trees being felled to create a turning area. Logging will commence in April. Concerns had been expressed as there is no mention of a bat licence. PC to contact Edwin Thompson for update.
 - g) **MILL WAY.** Concerns had been expressed at the speed of traffic travelling down Mill Way. The PC had contacted Edwin Thompson as it appeared to be their contractors who were driving at speed. Signs requested 'Slow – Children playing' at the bottom of the lane.
- 0879. MINUTES.** It was proposed by Cllr A Turnbull, seconded by Cllr C Turnbull and AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on **16 January 2017** be signed as an accurate record.
- 0880. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.** Cllr P Kelly gave a verbal update on matters relating to Northumberland County Council. A copy is attached to this minute. As Cllr Kelly is standing down from NCC at the elections on 4th May 2017, Cllr M D Senior thanked Cllr Paul Kelly for his assistance and support over the years.
- 0881. MATTERS ARISING.**
- a) **HORSLEY WATER WORKS - SCREENING.** Minute 871 refers. A letter will be sent to Northumberland Estates requesting permission for screening of the area concerned.
- 0882. CORRESPONDENCE.** All correspondence and information items received since the January meeting had been listed on the agenda and most of this correspondence had been circulated by email.
- 0883. NAFFERTON FARM.** A light had been requested at the bus stop at Nafferton Farm as buses are not stopping for passengers when it is dark. It was agreed to contact the bus companies to ask them to take more care and also NCC for a reflective bus stop sign.
- 0884. NEWCASTLE AIRPORT.** Email received from a resident expressed concerns at the evident change in flight patterns over Horsley. The Hexham Courant advised that Newcastle Airport had agreed revised flight paths with Heddon PC however Horsley had not been consulted. Heddon PC will be contacted to ask about their level of consultation.
- 0885. PRE APPLICATION PROTOCOL.** The recommended amendment to the Pre Application Advice Protocol was approved. This is as follows:- An assessment will be made by the Principal Planning Officer when allocating minor pre-application enquiries and where appropriate Town and Parish Councils will be consulted. Unfortunately the Planning Department is unable to consult on confidential enquiries. This is because confidential enquiries are commercially sensitive. The Planning department intends to continue to provide on-going training to Town and Parish Councils.
- 0886. INFORMATION ITEMS**
- NALC eNews – weekly issues
 - Community Action Northumberland – CAN eNews – Feb 2017
 - Clerks and Councils Direct – Magazine issue no 110

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0887. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

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

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
16/04634/FUL	West End Cottage	Demolition of existing modern flat roofed single storey rear extension and replacement with widened and lengthened flat roofed single storey rear extension	GRANTED
16/03578/FELTPO	The Old Post Office	Tree preservation order application to fell one birch and plant a replacement at a more suitable distance from house (feathered whip is recommended)	Comments by 6 th April
16/00455/PREAPP	Slate House, Welton	LBC: to alter the existing building by the removal of modern linings to allow assessment of the historic fabric to allow condition 5 of appeal reference APP/P2935/Y/15/3130844	Comments by 3 rd April
17/00657/FUL	Wildwood Mount, Wylam	Proposed erection of single storey extension	Comments by 7 th April
17/00871/FUL	Harrow Cottage, 8 South East Farm	Single storey pitched roof sun room extension additional window to east elevation and 2 conservation velux windows to rear of garage	Comments by 13 th April

0888. FINANCE

a) **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.** It was proposed by Cllr M D Senior seconded by Cllr A Turnbull and AGREED accounts on the list as circulated be paid.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET OF VAT	VAT	CHEQUE AMOUNT	CHEQUE NO
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services & Play area inspections	338.20		338.20	SO
HM Revenue and Customs	PAYE	84.40		84.40	000887
Mrs A Senior	Play area inspections	75.00		75.00	000888
Horsley WI	Hall rental	15.00		15.00	000889
Mrs A Senior	Expenses	48.61		48.61	000890
Spanglefish	Website renewal	29.95		29.95	000891
The Hearth	Donation – defibrillator	600.00		600.00	000892

INCOME RECEIVED		AMOUNT	DATE
NAME	DESCRIPTION		
Lloyds Bank	Credit interest	0.37	10.02.17
Lloyds Bank	Credit interest	0.34	09.03.17

0889. VILLAGE ISSUES.

- a) **ROAD SWEEPER.** There is a lot of debris accumulating in the gutters on the north side of the road. A visit from the road sweeper will be requested.
- b) **BUS STOP – HIGH BARNES.** A bag of rubbish is lying in the bus shelter at High Barns. This will be removed.

0890. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

- a) **OVINGHAM JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE.** The new constitution had now been signed by all Parishes within the Burial Committee. Diana Carney, Clerk to Wylam Parish Council had been appointed as Clerk to the Burial Committee with Wylam Parish Council being the host PC. Ongoing maintenance needs to be carried out to the Lodge and the Chapel.
- b) **EAST TYNEDALE PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS FORUM.** The next meeting of the Forum is to take place at Albemarle Barracks on 19 April 2017 at 7.00pm.

0891. ELECTIONS. Nomination packs are now available for Parish Councillors to complete for re-election on 4th May 2017.

0892. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 15TH May 2017 at 7.00pm in the WI Hall

Signed as an accurate record

COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL KELLY'S REPORT

As we approach the purdah period before the local elections a lot of controversial business both in cabinet and in planning committees is having to be completed so that the council cannot be accused of political electioneering. It has been particularly busy for me.

Northumberland realised some years ago that unless it changed its ways of working it would find it impossible to avoid cutting services.

Using as its asset base the council housing inherited from Alwick and Wansbeck- the only councils not to devolve their housing to Registered Social Landlords before the creation of the unitary council- Arch was formed to evolve into the regeneration arm of NCC. The money loaned by NCC to this arms length company for capital acquisitions is repaid to the council at an elevated rate.

As a local authority NCC can borrow money at very low rates. The NHS can't. By lending the Northumbria NHS Hospitals £140 million, NCC has assured their future free of crippling PFI payments and assured that they can continue to provide excellent services. NCC is repaid over time at above the rate it borrowed, ensuring revenue income that compensates to some extent for the loss of government grant.

Some opposition election leaflets suggest that councils shouldn't get involved in acting as a public bank but if the revenue generated allows us to continue to provide services, why not? The alternative is to stand by and watch the public realm wither on the vine. Perhaps that's what they want.

There is a similar motive for selling council assets for development such as the County Hall site in Morpeth, fiercely opposed at last week's Strategic Planning Committee. The re-providing of the decrepit Edwardian Goose Hill primary school on County Hall land must be financed by the monies from the two other elements- 200 houses and the commercial/retail offer on the former fire station site.

On Wednesday members determined that deletion of Green Belt land on Ponteland Leisure Centre/High School land along with the development of Dissington Garden Village can be regarded as exceptional circumstances. Again it is a fine judgement about whether the overall benefits of a new Secondary and Primary building alongside a new Leisure Centre, surrounded by new higher grade sports pitches, financed by 400 houses nearby, outweigh the loss of open space. The Green Belt buffer zone between Ponteland and Newcastle remains intact, unaffected by the development within the boundaries of Ponteland.

All of the signals from the Department of Communities and Local Government about the creation of a Garden Village in Northumberland have been encouraging. The Government has recognised that its hopes for a million new homes by 2020 will not be realised via the normal channels so the Garden Village projects all over the country are intended to accelerate housing growth. The Dissington Garden Village will generate £90 million of public benefit to the Ponteland area, including a relief road, upstream flooding attenuation, enhanced public areas for walking and cycling, and high street revival.

Official consent has been given to the use of the remainder of my Small Schemes funding for footpath improvements throughout Ovingham.

I hope that the withdrawal of Government grants to NCC does not mean that this highly valued discretionary funding (£1 million) for local councillors comes to an end.

Best wishes.

Paul Kelly 16/3/17

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Councillor Paul Kelly
Bywell Ward
Leader of Independent Group
Chairman of Strategic Planning Committee

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