

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,
held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 28th June 2017

PRESENT

Cllr Gerry Price (Chair), Cllr Tracy Gilmore, Cllr Andy Gill, Cllr Yvonne Ritchie, Cllr Graham Robinson, Cllr Carol Stephenson, Cllr Eileen Burt, Cllr Duncan Couchman, Cllr Ignasious Varghese, Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Chris Cuthbert (arrived 7:30pm)

County Cllr Gordon Stewart

Sarah Morrison – Children North East

1718/025 Apologies for Absence

Cllr George McCreedy, Cllr Jennifer McGee, Cllr Carol Stephenson, Cllr Russ Greig,

County Cllr Ken Stow

Luke Bramwell (Children North East)

1718/026 Declarations of Interest None**1718/027 Children North East and Youth Link Developments and Opportunities in Prudhoe**
(Sarah Morrison in attendance)

Sarah Morrison outlined that with so many fantastic opportunities for young people and families in South-East Northumberland it was wonderful to finally be extending this to West Northumberland, an area she knew very well as having previously been a Youth Worker.

Sarah Morrison explained that a lot of volunteers to Youth Link come from Prudhoe; these are 17-25 year olds who are trained as Peer Mentors offering support and low level intervention where referrals have come in from Children's Services and School.

Sarah Morrison described that a new recruit, Vicki, is working with families directly in connection with domestic abuse, helping before crisis and from crisis to lower level support. Luke who was unfortunately not able to attend is leading in 'poverty proofing' in schools. This scheme dissects all the information available in schools with a view to identifying any links between attainment and financial issues. A report is presented to the school and Ofsted results improve as a result.

The BU Programme promotes emotional well-being, supporting young people with coping strategies. Wilderness Schooling is just that, an outdoor educational experience for those who are not fitting into to mainstream schooling.

Youth Link will soon be working with George Hepburn to decorate the front of the building, working with Amanda Bold, Arts Coordinator for The Queen's Hall. There will be workshops with the young people to produce something over the summer holidays.

Sarah Morrison described that Youth Link Mentors achieve great outcomes; they get great references, applications for University, or often go into social care or medicine. Being a Peer Mentor does not only look good on paper, it also provides training that gives like skills that would not be available anywhere else.

Cllr Price asked if Youth Link had achieved many new contacts as a result of moving into The Spetchells Centre. Sarah Morrison responded that as a result of the Prudhoe Community Partnership Annual General Meeting they have linked up with Mortal Fools and Ferndene. Sarah Morrison added that the links with schools in Prudhoe were already there but they hoped to build on this but at the moment there were lots of referrals to deal with.

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Cllr Eileen Burt asked where referrals come from. Sarah Morrison responded that they could come from a variety of sources; schools, parents or Children's Services. Cllr Eileen Burt raised concern that any intervention is then passed somewhere centrally, back to Children's Services. Sarah Morrison responded that Youth Link offers low level intervention until the package of support is available and that they will do whatever they can. Sarah Morrison elaborated that usually this involves meeting up after school, in holidays and that they also refer back into the system.

Cllr Eileen Burt asked if the service provided was being joined up. Sarah Morrison replied that Youth Link do lots of joined up working and did have a case where formal support was not being welcomed but a Peer Mentor was.

Cllr Gerry Price asked if there were any trends appearing. Sarah Morrison responded that social isolation and self-harm being shared on social media were apparent and with self-harm this was not a mental health issue, but more the trend aspect of it.

Cllr Angie Scoot asked if Youth Link would be working with The East. Sarah Morrison responded that she would be making a connection as would like to recruit some mentors, adding that she worked there many years ago. Additionally, Sarah Morrison described a good working relationship with Geoff Cant from Wentworth in respect of sports engagement for young people, and that he has moved to Prudhoe Waterworld.

Sarah Morrison concluded that Children North East was Big Lottery funded and have been for 8 years, and although they said this was the last time for applications, after 2 successful runs, they have now said they can apply.

Cllr Gerry Price thanked Sarah Morrison for attending. Leaflets describing Tynedale Youth Link, Wilderness Schooling and The BU Programme were left for information.

1718/028 DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting, held on 26th May 2017

It was AGREED to receive the minutes as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Andy Gill Seconded: Cllr Eileen Burt

1718/029 Matters Arising

Page 4 – Cllr Gerry Price advised that the handrail at the Glade was broken again, immediately after it has been installed. Cllr Gill questioned why the Town Council should pay to repair the hand rail on The Glade or anything else that was not its direct responsibility. Cllr Eileen Burt responded that it was safer when the Town Council had events and that was the reason it was installed. Cllr Gerry Price suggested that the action to fix the rail should be taken and who paid the invoice could be agreed later. **It was AGREED.**

1718/030 County Councillor Reports

a) County Councillor Gordon Stewart the following local update;

- a multi-agency meeting was held regarding youth disorder in Prudhoe, most specifically at Eastwood Park and outside the Spetchells Centre. The result was that public perception of groups of youths is an issue and that reports of incidents were very low and those received had been dealt with. A report of the meeting was promised
- The Prudhoe Business Network has taken off and that the visit Prudhoe website will be up and running soon. All businesses and community groups will be included and a better position can be achieved at a premium. This will support what is happening and should be a very positive move for the town.

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- There is presently a consultation with staff at Northumberland Citizens Advice Bureau with the potential for redundancies and reduced services. Cllr Gordon Stewart asked if Prudhoe had a higher number of referrals via face-to-face contact than others towns and whether the challenges presented were different, and the answer was 'no' to both.

In response to the above reports, Cllr Eileen Burt suggested that the Town Council should contact CAC directly as the Town Council fund their presence in Prudhoe 100%.

Cllr Yvonne Ritchie stated that the CAB service over the telephone is not always prompt.

Cllr Eileen Burt proposed that the council invite CAB to a meeting to explain the impact of proposed changes. Cllr Gerry Price agreed that this should be at the earliest opportunity. **It was AGREED** to ask CAB to attend the July meeting.

b) County Councillor Gordon Stewart reported that the first Tynedale Area Meeting had been held in The Spetchells Centre and there were two good presentations heard. New on the agenda for County Hall was a full review of the Core Strategy and post-16 transport.

1718/031 DRAFT Report of the Planning, Contracts and Works Committee, held on 14th June 2017

It was AGREED to receive the report as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Eileen Burt

Seconded: Cllr Gerry Price

1718/032 Accounts

a) **It was AGREED to RECEIVE** the monthly bank reconciliation statements 10th May – 9th June 2017

Proposed: Cllr Andy Gill

Seconded: Cllr Eileen Burt

b) **It was AGREED to RECEIVE** the Statement of Expenditure from 1st April 2017 – 22nd June 2017

Proposed: Cllr Eileen Burt

Seconded: Cllr Andy Gill

c) **It was AGREED to ENDORSE** the payment of accounts made since the last meeting and **to AUTHORISE** the payment of accounts tabled

Proposed: Cllr Eileen Burt

Seconded: Cllr Andy Gill

Cllr Andy Gill questioned why the Town Council should be paying Woodhorn for a CD-ROM of Northumberland County Council records detailing those persons buried in a cemetery that is the responsibility of Northumberland County Council. Cllr Andy Gill clarified that the information has been requested by volunteers who are clearing the cemetery on behalf of Northumberland County Council who let it get in the state it did, and in his opinion, the records should have been provided free of charge.

Cllr Eileen Burt commented that it was good to have the information locally. Cllr Yvonne Ritchie commented that previously a lot of information was missing.

As the invoice had already been paid there was no decision to be made but Cllr Andy Gill stated that he wished the point to be made.

1718/033 Annual Return 2016-17

Cllr Yvonne Ritchie stated that she was not happy agreeing a positive response to each statement as she was not a Cllr during that accounting year. Cllr Gerry Price offered that Cllr Yvonne Ritchie could

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View) was discussed. The meeting covered an offer of cash from Persimmons of £10,000 with a view to this being matched by Bellway which would allow the play equipment to be replaced.

Cllr Price advised that although the Administrator has attempted several times to get a formal offer from the developer, this has not been forthcoming and is still outstanding, adding that pressure may need to be added.

Cllr Eileen Burt agreed this should be escalated to the next level as it was the developer who tore it up in the first place and it was previously part of a section 106 agreement. It was also suggested that Mike Jeffrey may offer some support.

Cllr Chris Cuthbert stated that she had attended the meeting and felt very let down by Persimmons as they had come across as very forthright in their approach.

1718/036 Prudhoe East Youth Centre

It was AGREED to RECEIVE the running costs from Northumberland County Council for The East.

Cllr Gerry Price indicated that the costs did not include employment or repair and there remained no indication of the direction County Council were planning to go in with respect to youth service provision and The East itself.

Cllr Eileen Burt offered that she had contacted Wayne Daley (lead member of Family & Children's Services) after the meeting regarding The East, to establish any potential changes, but had not received a response.

Cllr Gerry Price advised that Mike Robbins was attending a meeting with Prudhoe Town Council and Prudhoe Community Partnership representatives about asset transfers. Cllr Gerry Price added that although six people have been identified as being able to carry out a feasibility study, he had not received any terms of reference yet so presumed that these had not yet been agreed. Cllr Eileen Burt said she would ask for quicker progress.

1718/037 Road-Ends Toilets

a) **It was AGREED to RECEIVE** the report of the meeting held on 6th June 2017

Proposed: Cllr Tracy Gilmore

Seconded: Cllr Eileen Burt

b) **It was AGREED to RECEIVE** the report of the meeting held on 19th June 2017

Proposed: Cllr Tracy Gilmore

Seconded: Cllr Andy Gill

Cllr Gerry Price summarised the offer from Essity (previously SCA) to contribute £5,000 in lieu of the Town Council's financial contribution to the refurbishment of the Road-Ends Toilets. In addition 'Essity' would provide air fresheners, soap dispensers, toilet roll holders and supply on-going toilet rolls.

Cllr Gerry Price went on to describe that in order to justify the PR aspect they have asked for the woodwork to be repainted in the 'Essity' colours of dark blue and pink as well as an opening event with the MP present. Essity have agreed to pay for the opening event, refreshments, photographer and a plaque.

c) **It was AGREED** to write to Northumberland County Council to request the transfer of the Road-Ends toilets following refurbishment

Proposed: Cllr Gerry Price

Seconded: Cllr Eileen Burt

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1718/038 Reports from outside bodies

Prudhoe Community Partnership – Cllr Eileen Burt reported a very successful Annual General Meeting with a presentation from the new tenants, Children North East and from Ferndene. Cllr Eileen Burt also advised that new trustees had been elected to the partnership.

East Tynedale Community Forum – It was AGREED to receive the report of the meeting held on 19th April. It was discussed that the council has been asked to make a contribution to the Forum, in order that it can continue to run. **It was AGREED** this should be brought to the next meeting.

Tyne Valley Rail Users Group – It was AGREED to receive the report of the meeting held on 8th June. Cllr Gerry Price advised the Council was a voting member of this group.

1718/039 Correspondence and Publications

It was AGREED to RECEIVE the following items of correspondence, all previously emailed to Cllrs:

1. Death of a Senior National Figure protocol
2. Gentoo Newsletter
3. Email from Stephen Rickett regarding Environment and Local Services Issues, 21st June
4. Invite to 53rd Prudhoe Town Show, with request for Mayor to give presentation
5. Thank you for Grant Aid from over 50's Forum
6. Invite to WISE Prudhoe West Academy lunch and celebration assembly on 30th June 2017
7. SLCC – notes from Parish Liaison Working Group Meeting, held on 15th June 2017
8. NCC Green Dog Walkers Campaign
9. Thank you from Prudhoe Scouts for Grant Aid
10. Thank you from Janet Porter and Joan Russell for support with Jo Cox event at Parish Hall
11. Letter from NCC detailing the Community Regeneration Team, who for Prudhoe will be Anne Lawson

It was AGREED to RECEIVE the following tabled items:

1. NJC Pay Claim 2018/19
2. NE43 News – Summer 2017
3. L'evolution – June 2017
4. The Wylam Globe – Summer 2017
5. Carers Northumberland Posters
6. NAMM News - May 2017

To approve a motion, that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public be excluded for consideration of the following items, in accordance with Section 68 of the Council's Standing Orders:-

1718/040 Human Resources Committee

- a) **It was AGREED to APPROVE** the recommended Employee 'Code of Conduct' and that this would become a policy of the Town Council
- b) **It was AGREED to APPROVE** the recommended 'Performance and Development Process' and that this would become a policy of the Town Council
- c) Cllr Eileen Burt updated the meeting on the Clerks sickness absence with a note to 7th July 2017. It was proposed that HR or legal support may be required, at a cost which would be at the discretion of the chair.
- d) **It was AGREED** to pay the Administrative Officer at salary point 38 for 'acting up' during the Clerk's absence and to back-date this to the 25th April.
- b) **It was AGREED** to pay the Administrative Officer at salary point 38, any additional hours accrued during the month, to be authorised by the Chair.

END OF MEETING