

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting, including Planning Matters
held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 13th December 2017

PRESENT

Cllr Gerry Price (Chair), Cllr Eileen Burt, Cllr Jennifer McGee, Cllr Glenn Simpson, Cllr Duncan Couchman, Cllr Yvonne Ritchie, Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Andy Gill, Cllr Chris Cuthbert, Cllr Tracy Gilmore, Cllr Russ Greig, (arrived 7:20 pm)

County Cllr Ken Stow, County Cllr Anne Dale, County Cllr Gordon Stewart

1718/114 Apologies for Absence

Cllr George McCreedy, Cllr Ignasious Varghese, Cllr Carol Stephenson, Cllr Graham Robinson

County Cllr Anne Dale

1718/115 Declarations of Interest None

Cllr Gerry Price asked if members would allow him to notify of the resignation of Cllr George McCreedy with immediate effect. Cllr Gerry Price read the letter he received from Cllr George McCreedy and all Cllrs wholeheartedly paid tribute to the work carried out and the enormous contribution to all aspects of the Town Council. Members agreed that Cllr George McCreedy would be a great loss to the Council.

It was AGREED that Cllr Gerry Price, as Chair, would send a letter to George McCreedy and the item would be added to the next available agenda.

1718/116 Public Participation

Cllr Gerry Price introduced Mr Michael Thirtle, a resident of Errington Place, who wished to speak about criminal damage and antisocial behaviour in the town.

Mr Thirtle described that recently he had made x3 calls to the police regarding vandalism to street lights and that only on the 4th occasion they came, by which time the young people involved were gone.

Cllr Jennifer McGee stated that when she passed the boarded up police station she recalled that they had assured the Town Council that it would be maintained in a good state of repair until sold and although they are now working from The Spetchells Centre, a boarded-up police station sends out the wrong message.

Cllr Eileen Burt responded that the old police station building was up for sale and the money is being put back into community policing.

Cllr Chris Cuthbert commented that the police had lost visibility in the town by moving into The Spetchells Centre.

Cllr Gerry Price indicated that the value of the move would be measured as time goes on. Cllr Russ Greig commented that these were safeguarding issues and he was not happy to sit back and he felt the Town Council should be more proactive in tackling this.

Cllr Jennifer McGee agreed and said she had already made comments that were in the public domain warning that the issues could escalate and more pressure needs to be put on the police as the people in Prudhoe want something done about it as it is criminal behaviour.

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Cllr Gerry Price advised that the Town Council had offered an opportunity for the local police team to talk to members about the strategic direction and Cllrs could put any questions forward then.

Cllr Chris Cuthbert commented that the issue relates back to being visible and being able to respond promptly when a call is received.

Cllr Glenn Simpson recommended comments be raised directly with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Cllr Yvonne Ritchie added that people need to report crime and this will have an impact on officers available

Cllr Gerry Price thanked Mr Thirtle for attending and advised that the Town Council was aware of an increase in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage and although the Town Council cannot take any direct action they can encourage residents to report crime immediately. Cllr Gerry Price advised that as well as reporting crime, residents should support the job the police are doing and respect that they can only respond with the resources they have available and incidents will be prioritised. Cllr Gerry Price concluded that although it was a concern at the moment, he hoped things would improve

1718/117 Planning Applications and Decisions

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Prudhoe Hall Ward 78 Redwell Road, Prudhoe, Northumberland, NE42 5AF

17/04054/FUL

Application for full planning permission to construct a 2 bedroom bungalow.

Mr Tony Webber

PTC noted that the plan had not changed in so far as access and being close to junction, so their response was to **OBJECT** for reasons of 'parking, highway safety and traffic'

Prudhoe Hall Ward 5 Fern Close, Prudhoe, Northumberland, NE42 5PL

17/04076/FUL

Proposed 2-storey extension and canopy over ground floor aspect and door opening.

Miss Alison Timlin

SUPPORT

Castledene Ward Land West of 144 Western Avenue, Prudhoe Northumberland

17/04251/OUT

Single dwelling and parking

Shenstone Properties Ltd

PTC AGREED to **SUPPORT** the applications as it was a similar construction to other properties and was in keeping. Cllrs commented that they would be concerned if neighbours objected to the application.

Mickley Ward Field at Hallyards Farm Mickley

17/04287/FUL

Proposed access road and stables (retrospective)

Alan Newton

PTC AGREED to **OBJECT** on the grounds of 'layout and density of buildings' and the 'design, appearance and materials' being used for the stables.

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Prudhoe Hall Ward 11 Moorlands, Prudhoe, Northumberland
 17/04380/FUL

Proposed conservatory to rear of property

Mr & Mrs D Routledge

SUPPORT

Prudhoe Hall Ward Ward Durham Riding Cottage, Prudhoe, Northumberland
 17/04379/FUL

Single-storey extension

SUPPORT

Castledene & Eltringham Ward 5 Lime Grove, Prudhoe, Northumberland
 17/04081/FUL

Construction of 2-storey side extension, single-storey rear extension and front porch, Prudhoe, Northumberland

Stephen Richardson

SUPPORT

PLANNING DECISIONS

Prudhoe Hall Ward Former Prudhoe Hospital – Cottier Grange

Variation of condition 2 of application 14/04160/FUL. House type and soft landscaping.

17/03254/VARYCO

David Thomas and Alan Sears

NCC SUPPORTED

Prudhoe Community High School Variation of condition 2 of application 14/03941/CCD.
 Raise levels of football pitch south of building by 1m and remove x6 trees, changes to drainage.

17/01715/VARYCO

Ms Justine Greening

NCC SUPPORTED

STILL OUTSTANDING

Castledene Ward 22 Masters Crescent, Prudhoe, NE42 6NT
 17/03720/FUL

Construction of two storey side extension and single-storey rear extension.

Jon Stanbury

Castledene Ward 32 Rowan Grove, Prudhoe, NE42 6PP
 17/03833/FUL

Two storey extension to side, single-storey extension over garage. Single-storey extensions to front and rear.

Rachel Towns

West Wylam Ward Cricket Pavilion, Eastwood Park, NE42 5DX
 17/03866/FUL

Single-storey side extension to existing sports pavilion building to provide additional home and away changing rooms, officials changing rooms and associated W/C's and showers. Alterations to existing sports pavilion to provide larger kitchen/stores, seating and viewing area and accessible WC.

Connor Phillips

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1718/118 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting, held on 29th November 2017

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

Proposed: Cllr Andy Gill

Seconded: Cllr Glenn Simpson

1718/119 Matters Arising

1718/101 Humbles Wood Play Area

Dates of 4th January (am), 5th January (early afternoon) and 9th January at 3:00 pm have been given to Chairs and Ward Cllrs to meet with David Thomas (Gentoo).

David Thomas has stated that he does not wish to move the toddler swing but that if the Town Council as the receiving authority would like to take this action then they should expect to pay for any work carried out.

An update will hopefully come to the Extraordinary Planning, Contract and Works Meeting on 10th January 2018.

1718/103 Television License Refund Scheme

The new availability times for refunds from January 1st 2018 has been publicised.

1718/106 Events Group Meeting

Thank you letters were sent to all those who helped at the Christmas Lights Switch-On.

1718/108 Grant Aid 2018/19

The Grant Aid group are meeting on Tuesday 19th December at 2:00 pm. We have applications in from 38 (39) Organisations, 6 of which are new. Grant Aid requests total over £66k (£52,257), a 27% increase on last year. (figures in brackets relate to 2017/18)

1718/109 Reports from outside bodies

Prudhoe Community Partnership – Cllrs Angie Scott, Jennifer McGee, Gerry Price and Chris Cuthbert met with Prudhoe Community Partnership Trustees on Wednesday 6th December 2017 to review the details of the feasibility study on Prudhoe East Centre, the meeting was chaired by Cllr Eileen Burt. An Extraordinary Meeting will be held on 10th January with a view to making a decision to move this item forward.

1718/113 CONFIDENTIAL Youth Service Meeting Report

A meeting was held on 13th December with Cath McEvoy (Executive Director of Children's Services), Sharron Pearson (Senior Manager Specialist Services) and Cllr Wayne Daley (Deputy Leader and Children's Services) regarding NCC Youth Service Provision in Prudhoe.

The meeting identified the following:

- The first draft of a review of the Youth Service will be available in the New Year.
- The service is expected to be targeted at those in greater need.
- NCC would work with PTC to grow a locally managed charity based youth service.
- A targeted youth service from NCC could be delivered alongside other youth provision in a variety of locations in the Town.
- An immediate Health & Safety check of the building is being carried out.
- Issues relating to users with additional needs were not known and will be looked into.
- NCC do not wish to ask for funding for specific things until after the review, but it would be helpful if money was available in the Town Council budget to draw upon if needed.
- The direction of travel in respect of the East Building and whether this will be available and requested under an 'Asset Transfer' is important to know, but from the point of view of NCC, these issues should be separate.

A full summary of the meeting will be received as part of the agenda on 10th January, for discussion and agreement as to how the Town Council should move forward.

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Cllr Glenn Simpson agreed that it did make sense to keep something 'in the pot' for Youth Service Provision but added that the offer from NCC did not sound positive.

Cllr Jennifer McGee asked how the meeting on the 10th January would proceed in respect of what element of any discussion would be 'in camera'.

Cllr Gerry Price responded that he saw no reason why the report of the meeting at County Hall with Youth Leaders should not be received in the public session but that as the feasibility report had been marked 'private and confidential' this would be discussed under section 68, and therefore the press and public would be excluded for that item.

1718/120 Report of the Planning, Contract and Works Committee, held on 8th November 2017

Cllr Jennifer McGee commented that the report would come to the January Planning, Contract and Works Committee for agreement and 'Matters Arising'.

1718/121 Accounts

a) Statement of Expenditure from 1st April 2017 – 7th December 2017

It was AGREED to receive statement

Proposed: Cllr Eileen Burt

Seconded: Cllr Andy Gill

b) Accounts paid and to be paid

It was AGREED to endorse the accounts paid since the November meeting and to authorise the accounts to be paid which were tabled

Proposed: Cllr Eileen Burt

Seconded: Cllr Jennifer McGee

1718/122 Christmas Lights on trees at Mickley

It was AGREED to endorse the cost for an additional electrical supply in Mickley to allow the function of lights professionally wrapped by Christmas Plus as part of the contract, to a tree on Riding Dene Terrace, at a cost of £1,200.

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee

Seconded: Cllr Glenn Simpson

1718/123 Cemetery Sub-Committee

It was AGREED to receive the report of the meeting held on 6th November 2017

Proposed: Cllr Eileen Burt

Seconded: Cllr Glenn Simpson

1718/124 Allotment Liaison Meeting

Cllr Andy Gill commented that attendance at the meeting, as shown in the report, was very poor and that Prudhoe Gardeners Association was struggling for active committee members, especially those willing to commit to the Prudhoe Town Show.

It was AGREED to receive the report of the meeting held on 5th December 2017.

Proposed: Cllr Glenn Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Andy Gill

1718/125 Castlefields Open Space

Cllrs received the restated offer from Persimmon Homes of £10,000 for the open space off Rolley Way to be legally transferred to the Town Council, clarifying that this was completely separate to the gated play area that was removed by Bellway and had been the original source of discussion.

Cllr Jennifer McGee stated that the Town Council is being pressured to take on this piece of land that has no value or interest to them. Cllr Jennifer McGee said that the Town Council had made its

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position clear with regards to the open space off Rolley Way when it was sneaked into the original offer and that Persimmons are now trying to separate the areas. Cllr Jennifer McGee summarised that the play area would cost £20,000 to reinstate, and then the Town Council would also have to maintain the play area and an open space of land, in perpetuity, and she maintained her position that the Town Council should say no.

Cllr Gerry Price asked if Cllrs wished to pursue the offer from Bellway of £10,000 to take on the Play Area to the west of North Wylam View, bearing in mind that their offer had been made on the understanding that Persimmons would also contribute £10,000 and this was now off the table.

Cllr Jennifer McGee responded that the Town Council has tried as much as possible to move this forward and agree a fair settlement, adding that it was not the fault of the Town Council that the play area was not maintained and then removed due to its decay. Therefore, Cllr Jennifer McGee proposed that the Town Council walk away from both areas and both offers.

Cllr Eileen Burt supported the proposal adding that she was involved in the original plans and that residents of Rolley Way had objected to play equipment being installed on the open space, therefore the Town Council would simply be paying to cut the grass. Cllr Yvonne Ritchie suggested that they could make the area a wildflower meadow and young people could be encouraged to engage with nature instead of swings and slides.

Cllr Chris Cuthbert offered that it appeared to be a take it or leave it offer. Cllr Russ Greig commented that he saw no reason why the Town Council should pay towards reinstating play equipment that Bellway had removed.

It was AGREED to contact Persimmon Homes to decline their offer as this would be an additional cost to the council and the open space is their responsibility.

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee Seconded: Cllr Eileen Burt

It was AGREED to write to Bellway Homes to withdraw from any further involvement in the play area off North Wylam View.

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee Seconded: Cllr Eileen Burt

1718/126 Flagpole for Town Centre

Cllr Gerry Price introduced the subject of a flag pole for the town which had initially been suggested by a resident and taken up as a budget item but not progressed.

The administrator passed on comments from PC Sharon Walton who had concerns about inviting vandalism; Cllr Andy Gill and Cllr Yvonne Ritchie agreed. Cllr Yvonne Ritchie then questioned why the Town Council was seven discussing flags and Cllr Andy Gill suggested that it would only survive if on the side of a building, out of reach.

Cllr Glenn Simpson stated that he had no problem with having a flagpole on the side of a building, as other municipal buildings do and that since Afghanistan there has been an appetite for it, however he was disappointed that it was thought unwise to have a flagpole in the centre of town as this was giving in to vandalism.

Cllr Yvonne Ritchie questioned who would decide what flag to fly, who would change it, raise and lower it?

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Cllr Russ Greig offered that if the Town Council agreed to fly a flag it would need to be flown every day and it would have to be the Union Jack.

It was AGREED to approach Prudhoe Community Partnership to ask if they would consider a flagpole on the north-west corner of the Spetchells Centre.

1718/127 Silent Soldier Campaign

It was AGREED to support the purchase of x4 Silent Soldiers for display at the Gateways to the Town.

It was AGREED that prior to purchasing the RFO should check that fixings would be suitably secure.

1718/128 Reports from outside bodies

Tynedale Sports Awards – Cllr Gerry Price commented on an enjoyable evening at the Tynedale Sports Awards at Wentworth Leisure Centre, sponsored by Essity. Cllr Gerry Price congratulated all those who were nominated and received awards, especially Holly Kelleher (Prudhoe parkrun, Prudhoe junior parkrun and Prudhoe Plodders) as Sports Personality, Dan Shevill (Golf) as Sportsman and Owen Richardson (Kickboxing) who received the Stan Calvert Scholarship from Red Hot Property.

1718/129 Correspondence and Publications

Correspondence

1. Thank you letter from Park Lane resident for road clearing carried out by local farmer, noted by County Cllr Gordon Stewart **RECEIVE**

Publications

1. NAMM New November 2017
2. L'evolution December 2017

It was AGREED to **RECEIVE** the tabled publications.

It was AGREED 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:-

1718/130 CONFIDENTIAL Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, held on 29th November 2017

The Administrator advised that Cllr Graham Robinson had contacted the office to ask for an amendment to the draft minutes. The amendment was discussed and agreed.

It was AGREED to receive the minutes with an amendment.

Proposed: Cllr Eileen Burt

Seconded: Cllr Chris Cuthbert

END OF MEETING