

**EAST TYNEDALE PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL FORUM**

Minutes of meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Wylam Institute, Wylam at 7.00pm

**Present:** Tom Martin (Wylam), Dr Alison Gardner-Medwin (Heddon), Mike Senior (Horsley), Maggi Hunt (Broomley & Stocksfield), David McKenzie (Riding Mill), Joanna Jackson (Ovingham), Graham Curry (Corbridge), Peter Pescod (Ovington), Chrissie Cuthbert (Mickley), Colin Percy (Wylam). Monica Anderton, Secretary, in attendance

1. **Apologies:** Marguerite Perry (Shotley Low Quarter), Louise Pringle (Heddon), James Bryan (Ovingham), Lisa Robinson (Albemarle Barracks), Neville Gray (Ovingham).
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Tom Martin re item 5 of the Agenda.
3. **Minutes** of the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017 – Agreed as a true record.
4. **Matters arising** – None
5. **River Tyne:** The matters previously discussed are in the circulated document. The Chair had corresponded with Cllr Quinn on aspects of the matter and a meeting was being organised in Hexham for 1<sup>st</sup> December next by Guy Opperman MP for interested parties. Details will be circulated at a later date. It is unclear exactly what will be on the agenda and it may be that there is only a summary of what has been done recently rather than what is of concern to the Parish and Town Councils that border the Tyne within the Forum's area. A lack of money is an obvious problem, especially noted at Corbridge. Haydon Bridge have had a lot of gravel removed and it was agreed to talk to them before the Hexham meeting and ask if they would be willing to attend. **(TM)**. There are questions arising: a) is it worth inviting the Environment Agency to a Forum meeting; b) Is it agreed to invite Haydon Bridge. It was agreed that the latter be done as previously noted and that Councils come to the Hexham meeting with relevant queries/opinions. The outcome of that meeting can then be further discussed at January's Forum meeting to decide on any further course of action the Forum could usefully take.
6. **VACTS:** This matter had been raised by Stocksfield when it was noted that there was a huge variation in types of speed signs in the parishes, variation in the costs and in maintenance costs – or in some cases, no maintenance because they were no longer made. The Chairman circulated a brief format for a questionnaire to go out to each council which would try to gather as much information as possible about the current situation. The results would be returned to the Secretary to collate to bring to a future meeting for further discussion **(TM/MA)**. **(ALL)**
7. **Prudhoe Community Forum:** There had been a request from the Prudhoe Community Forum that the removal of the Parish & Town Forum from its constitution required a specific motion and approval of our minutes to be forwarded for the Charity Commission. This had been done and the April minutes were amended accordingly. It was unanimously agreed that the Chair re-sign the amended minutes as a true record.
8. **Local Services:** This was on the agenda to get councils views on the state of grass cutting, weed killing etc. provided by the County Council. Generally there was quite a variation from council to council but overall it was felt that it was relatively good for what was paid for, whether directly to NCC or via an agreement of some sort with them.

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9. **Archiving Documents:** It was suggested that the minutes of the Forum since its inception should be archived at Woodhorn. The Secretary would check if they will accept group minutes; if so, prior minutes would be forwarded to Woodhorn. **(MA)**.
10. **Reports from Other Bodies:**
- a) Local Area Committees: It was noted the recent Town & Parish Conference had been quite good. The new LACs were working reasonably well although there were teething problems with timings of planning matters vs. meeting with officers. It is obvious the new administration is doing its best to improve communications. However, the fact that the council specific part of the NCC website is being closed down and relevant items being transferred to the NALC website should have been mentioned to the TPCs. **(MA to forward comments)**. A query on the Training portal was raised as well.
  - b) NALC – recent notes circulated
  - c) PLWG – recent notes also circulated.
11. **Finance:** a) All Councils except for Sandhoe and Matfen had paid the agreed contribution to the current account. As of 29<sup>th</sup> September, prior to current outgoings the balance was £726.08.
- b) The following payments were authorised:
- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| Tom Martin, reimbursement for Church Hall use in July | £30.00  |
| Monica Anderton, Salary                               | £105.00 |
- d) Bank Account: Changing signatories on the Bank of Scotland account was proving difficult. The Secretary had briefly talked with Barclays and it was agreed to go ahead and try to arrange a new account with the three signatories suggested at July's meeting. **(MA)**.
12. **AOB:** ~ some discussion about bus stops following the NCC proposal to manage timetables;  
~ Effect of British Open Golf was generally agreed to have been very successful with the traffic being well organised. Little effect in nearby villages but thought that the hotels and B&Bs had done well.
13. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.00pm – Albemarle Barracks: - please remember the pre security information to Lisa as per last time.