

East Tynedale Parish & Town Council Forum

Minutes of meeting held on 5th July 2018 at Newton & Bywell Community Hall

Present: Tom Martin (Chair), Mike Senior (Horsley), Graham Curry (Corbridge), Chris Cuthbert (Mickley), Joanna Jackson (Ovingham), Monica Anderton (Bywell and Secretary).

1. **Apologies:** Lisa Robinson (Albemarle), Maggi Hunt (Stocksfield), Neville Gray (Ovingham) and Marguerite Perry (SLQ).
2. **Declarations of interest:** None
3. **Minutes** from meeting of 22nd February 2018: Agreed as a true record
4. **Matters Arising:** a) the information on VACTS had been circulated. Stephen Rickitt had said he would ask if NCC provided funding other than from the County Councillors capital funds. It was decided to leave the item for a while;
b) All previous minutes and relevant papers relating to the Forum since its' inception have been archived at Woodhorn. This will be ongoing.

5. **Dogs and dog poo:** This is a huge issue not just in Wylam and Prudhoe where the matter was specifically raised. It does not seem to matter how many signs, poo bags meetings are held to raise awareness, people walking their dogs in Public Spaces ignore the problem and it is a serious Health & Safety issue especially where games are held on the same land. Limited success has been met with a special programme (NCC's Green Walking) in Prudhoe, with warning signs (in Bywell). The problem appears to be to raise the awareness with children in the first place to have a gradual effect. It may be useful to have the Environmental Health/Enforcement people from County Hall at a future meeting. Bywell has done a notice to go in their E- news to residents and MA will attach with the minutes if councils want to borrow it – it summarised the legal position.

6. **Youth Services:** This was a general subject raised by the 'Summer camps' which appear along the Tyne and leave a mess when finished with. There was a discussion on Councils which had Youth Services – Corbridge and Prudhoe in particular. There were other events on a smaller scale in some parishes but others do not have the numbers of youngsters to make it an issue. These children will go to other council areas for play parks and events – or sit on their computers.

7. **NCC Local Services:** specifically grass cutting and weed spraying: No one had anything negative to say for the time being.

8. **Community events:** potential clashes. There was a brief discussion whether such matters are under Council control or the responsibility of the organising groups. The latter was agreed as the correct way forward but they should encouraged to share information on any public newsletters etc. that the Council has to avoid clashes of similar events on the same day/time etc. which reduces interest in any event.

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9. Reports from other bodies:

- a) Tynedale LAC – when there is general discussion other than the planning matters, they are now better than before;
- b) Prudhoe Community – Forum still gets invitations to this occasionally. Chris Cuthbert sometimes attends for Mickley;
- c) NALC – latest notes circulated;
- d) PLWG/NCC – latest notes circulated

10. Finance:

- a) Balance – in the new account is £415.48 including recent payment to secretary.
- b) Secretary's payment for second quarter - £105.00 Agreed

11. Chairman's report: the Chair was concerned that it is important for other Councillors to suggest items to be discussed at future meetings, especially if he stays on as chair. MS proposed then that he so do and this was seconded by GC. TM agreed to stay as Chair. A reminder would go out from the Secretary to ask for topics. The next meeting would be the AGM – in October when the Forum's roles and achievements need to be discussed. Also at that time it will be agreed if and when to send out a further request for funding from member councils for the following year. The constitution may also be revised.

12. AOB: a) George Stephenson's cottage, Wylam: despite a lot of work with the National Trust, the cottage was open for 2 hours only this year for part of a Heritage Walk. Attempts to keep it open for longer periods is proving to be hard work but will continue for the time being;

b) Ovingham Bridge: MA reported that some of her Councillors had requested to see a copy of the Audit report done for NCC about the bridge and costs etc. This was refused and an FOI request was then formally made – also refused so Bywell appealed to the ICO who agreed it should be supplied and gave NCC 35 days to do so which is up on the day of these minutes being drafted with no response.

c) MA's term of office for representing the Forum on the NALC County Committee is coming to an end. The meeting **agreed** that she should continue in this role for a further term.

13. Date of next meeting (AGM) – 25th October 2018 at 7pm at Newton & Bywell Community Hall.