

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, CONTRACT AND WORKS COMMITTEE  
OF PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 16TH JANUARY 2019**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Christine Cuthbert (Chair), Cllr Tracy Gilmore, Cllr Andy Gill, Cllr Russell Greig, Councillor Bryan Futers, Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Duncan Couchman, Cllr Glenn Simpson, Cllr Brenda Grey, Cllr Gerry Price, Councillor Carol Stephenson

Also, in attendance: -

County Cllr Anne Dale

Officers: - Town Clerk and Administrative Officer -Prudhoe Town Council

One Member of the Public

**1819/154 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Jennifer McGee, Cllr Ignasious Varghese

(County Cllrs Stewart and Stow tendered their apologies).

**1819/155 Declarations of Interest** None received.

**1819/156 Draft Minutes of the Combined Meeting, including the Ordinary Meeting and the Planning Contract and Works Committee, held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

Subject to the following amendments that Cllr Christine Cuthbert was in attendance at the meeting (the draft minutes previously circulated erroneously recorded both her attendance and apologies) and that Cllr Angie Scott was incorrectly recorded as Cllr Angie Taylor **it was AGREED** to receive and approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

*Cllr Carol Stephenson entered the meeting at 7.05pm*

**1819/157 Planning Matters**

- a) Planning Applications Received **it was AGREED to support** the following Planning Applications:-

Planning reference 18/04457COU- Change of use at Burnside Lodge Mickley

Planning reference 18/04498/FUL- Full Application at Holmelea, Highfield Lane Prudhoe

- b) Planning Decisions recently made- **it was AGREED** to note the following Planning decisions

**Mickley Ward-18/03381/FUL** Driving Range, Eastgate Bank, Mickley, NE43 7LS

Conversion and redevelopment of existing office building and attached golf bays to provide holiday accommodation

NCC Granted permission

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**West Wylam Ward-18/03571/FUL16-17** Front Street, Prudhoe, NE42 5HN  
Proposed demolition of existing garage/store and porch; new extension and alteration of existing

rear basement unit at 16 Front Street to link and combine with existing outbuilding retail unit at rear of 17 Front Street.

NCC Granted permission

**Prudhoe West & Halfway Ward-18/03909/FUL**, Edgewell Road West, Prudhoe, NE42 6JH Single storey rear extension to existing retail premises.

NCC Granted permission

**Prudhoe Hall Ward-18/04040/FUL19** Homedale, Prudhoe, NE42 5AY Proposed single storey extension

NCC Granted permission

18/03852/FUL12 Moor Road, Prudhoe, NE42 5LH Rear single extension, side double extension, loft conversion and front extension.

NCC Granted permission

**1819/158 Resident letter received following the Town Council's decision to object to a planning application for Retail Development at Low Prudhoe**

The Council gave due consideration to the previously circulated email correspondence received from a Prudhoe resident dated 6<sup>th</sup> December and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 **it was AGREED** that the Town Clerk should respond to the resident explaining the context of the Council's decision, as set out in the press release issued by the Town Council reaffirming that the council's decision to object to the application was on a very fine majority decision; reiterating that the Town Council shared her concerns and wanted to see the sustainable development of Prudhoe's retail offer reminding Mrs Palmer that Prudhoe Town Council are not the Planning Authority so the decision on the planning application does not rest with the Town Council.

**Proposed Cllr Gerry Price Seconded Cllr Brenda Grey**

**1819/159 Funding for Detached Youth Service via Prudhoe Youth Initiative (PYI)**

Consideration was given to the tabled report of the Prudhoe Youth Initiative setting out proposals for commissioning a detached youth service for 12 months from April 2019, following discussion on this item and the benefit of the Town Council's financially supported 2018 Summer Holiday programme **it was AGREED** that the Town Council would reaffirm their funding of £8000 for this financial year 2018/19 and that the Council agreed in principle to support the project with the proviso that the Council's funding of the project from the 2019/20 budget would need to be made at the Extra Ordinary Budget Meeting that will take place on 23rd January 2019.

**Proposed Cllr Brenda Grey Seconded Cllr Angie Scott**

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### **1819/160 Television Licence Refund Scheme (TVLS)**

Members gave consideration to the previously circulated report of the Town Clerk and the related email correspondence from Karbon Homes Customer Relationship Manager and taking into account their responsibilities under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972; that further changes are required to the administration of the scheme in view that Karbon Homes are no longer able to support the council, and following matters raised by the council's external auditor; that the council should ensure that all those entitled are aware of the scheme, and should budget accordingly, currently all those entitled to the £30 grant do not claim it, based on the last published census the cost would be £32,850 although currently only £12,000 is budgeted and the fact that in June 2020 the Government will cease to fund the free TV Licence for the over 75's and the decision as to whether it continues will be taken by the BBC, (and it is as is probable that the BBC will not continue this), there is likely to be a subsequent increase in the number of claimants to the Prudhoe Town Council refund scheme, **it was AGREED** to cease the TV Licence Refund Scheme at the end of this financial year. In making their decision Councillors were mindful that if better publicised the scheme could result in a far greater expenditure than the council had ever committed to the scheme and therefore a bigger burden on the council tax payers of Prudhoe. Councillors were concerned about the impact on those in real need of discontinuing the scheme, but in view that it is not means-tested were accepting that there was no way of establishing this.

### **Proposed Cllr Gerry Price Seconded Cllr Andy Gill**

### **1819/161 Prudhoe East Centre – Community Asset Transfer**

Members gave consideration to the previously circulated reports in connection with this item namely the responses to questions previously posed by the Town Council to Northumbria County Council regarding a Community Asset Transfer of the Prudhoe East Centre and the updated Financial and Management Risk Assessment in relation to the Community Asset transfer of the East Centre.

Following a lengthy debate on this matter whereby several proposals and counter proposals were put forward although no request for a recorded vote was properly put, **it was AGREED**

- a) To receive and note the response received from Northumberland County Council Strategic Estates in relation to the questions put to them by Prudhoe Town Council in relation to the proposed community asset transfer of the East Centre.
- b) To receive and note the updated Financial and Management Risk Assessment in relation to the proposed community asset transfer of Prudhoe East centre.
- c) Not to proceed with a site meeting of the East Centre
- d) Not to proceed with instructing an independent chartered building surveyor to survey the East Centre site
- e) Not to proceed with issuing the previously agreed terms of reference for a consultant to undertake a Feasibility Study for the future use of the East Centre.

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f) To suspend any further discussion on this item at that night's meeting.

*Cllr Greig left the meeting at 9.05pm*

**1819/162 Town Council Website**

Consideration was given to the previously circulated "Expression of Interest invitation" document for the design and build of a new and improved website for Prudhoe Town Council and **it was AGREED** that the Council would agree the document and authorise its publication on the Town Council website and social media in order to invite and encourage interest from those who wish to be invited to tender for the works to design and build a new and improved website.

**Proposed Cllr Glenn Simpson    Seconded Cllr Carol Stephenson**

**1819/163 Castle Dene Allotments**

Members **AGREED** to receive and note the previously circulated letter from Northumberland Estates in relation to 100% rent increase at Castle Dene Allotments and to take on board the remarks of the Prudhoe Allotment Association Liaison meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 requesting that the Town Council respond to the notification, requesting that any future rent increases are in line with inflation.

**1819/164 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**It was AGREED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and as the public interest would not be served in disclosing the information, that the press and public be excluded for consideration of the following item in accordance with the provisions of Section1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and section 68 of the Standing Orders of Prudhoe Town Council.**

**1819/165 Public Seat**

Following consideration of this matter **it was AGREED** that the seat in question would be removed and relocated elsewhere within the village of Mickley.