

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 28th October 2015**Present**

Cllr Mrs E Burt (Chair), Cllr B Futers, Cllr G McCreedy, Cllr G Simpson, Cllr A Reid, Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert, Cllr Mrs J McGee, Cllr Mrs N McGee, Cllr A Piper, Cllr E Dobson, Cllr A Gill, Cllr G Price, Cllr Ms Rose, Cllr D Couchman

1516/076 Apologies for Absence

Cllr K Graham

1516/077 Declarations of Interest NONE**1516/078 Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership and Northern Rail**

In attendance: Mr Pete Myers from Northern Rail and Mr Malcolm Chainey from Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (TVCRP).

Mr Pete Myers (Northern Rail) addressed the meeting:

This is a very important time for rail, there is frenetic action at the end of any franchise and we are now coming to a point when the franchise is going to change and as a result the North is quite powerful; the aim is to bridge the gap between the North and the South. This region covers Newcastle to Manchester and Wigan to Hull.



Presently the franchise is run by The Department for Transport who do not often venture North, there are frequently disagreements between the operations, and Northumberland is often left out. Rail North is an amalgamation that includes the management of Northumberland.

The franchise has been dictated and three companies have bid - Abellio, Govia and Arriva. The franchise was set 10 years ago with no growth anticipated within that. Throughout the Tyne Valley there will be 2 trains an hour from Newcastle to Carlisle, 120 brand new trains (there have not been any new trains for 12 years). The existing fleet will be refurbished to look new, there was recently refurbishment carried out in Leeds-Manchester and customers were very happy.

- no steady state
- more train services
- new stations
- 120 new build trains
- extensive refurbishment of the existing fleet
- Rail North
- North Eastern Business Unit
- No more Pacers

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Mr Myers described that even more was required, stating “It’s time for the North to have a railway it can really depend on, one that is fit for the needs of a fast-changing regional economy, one that properly and dependably links people to jobs, education and training, and leisure and tourism.”

The new franchise needs to deliver a step change across the North and that needs to include:

- Better rolling stock with more new trains and increased capacity
- Faster journey times
- Earlier and later trains on a seven day railway wherever possible
- Smart ticketing and greater choice of ticket buying choices to increase access and open up new opportunities for people to travel
- Productive travel time through WiFi enabled trains
- High Speed 2-ready offering a timetable and a service that attracts people to rail and gives greater accessibility across the whole region
- A more sustainable railway

The new franchise begins on 1st April 2016 and between now and then the council needs to get what it wants out of the franchise, to get their wishes to be taken into consideration by the franchisee as potentially they could be in control for 13 years.

Mr Malcolm Chainey (Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership) addressed the meeting:

Mr Chainey described that the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (TVCRP) wished to take advantage of the up and coming franchise, to promote improvements in services and to promote and improve Newcastle – Carlisle passenger services. By way of explanation Mr Chainey noted that they were a Company limited by guarantee, incorporated in May 2004, they were governed by board of directors and accountable to stakeholder members. TVCRP employ a Partnership Officer 2 days/week.

Mr Chainey went on to describe initiatives undertaken by TVCRP:

- To promote improvements in services
 - achieved extra stops at Prudhoe, Blaydon and Dunston, with significant extra patronage
 - improved access at stations
- To promote the line
 - publicise train times
 - Jazz & Folk trains
- To promote businesses & amenities
- To promote or operate enterprises
 - Kiosk and Bar at Hexham
 - Schools project at Haltwhistle

Mr Chainey described that presently the partnership is very busy engaging with the Department for Transport and how to get the most out of bidders, acknowledging that they did meet all bidders before and after their bids went in. Mr Chainey went on to describe that Rail North provided a better opportunity to lobby as the North East depot would be located in the North, and if required they could have someone available ‘on the scene’.

Mr Chainey summarised his presentation by describing that, along with their main aim of getting more people to use trains and taking advantage of the franchise, they wished to improve awareness of what they are doing and promote engagement and involvement of groups like the town council.

Cllr Mrs Burt thanked Mr Myers and Mr Chainey for their presentations and asked if they were happy to answer Cllrs questions:

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Cllr Dobson stated that he did read the franchise document and does travel on the train, exclaiming that a reduction in the current service is a definite 'no'. Cllr Dobson asked for clarification of the new trains replacing the Pacer, describing that he understood the new trains would not be coming to the North. *Mr Myers responded that there was no guarantee that new trains will come to North, but added that the Tyne Valley will still get a newer rolling stock. Additionally Mr Myers stated that the 3 bidders must demonstrate a rolling stock strategy and there will be lots to govern this. Mr Chainey added that the TVCRP would be pushing for the best deal possible for the area, adding that County Cllrs and our MP need to be on the same wavelength.*

Cllr Reid asked how concrete the expectation of 120 new trains was. *Mr Chainey responded that this was set in stone as it is in the tender. Mr Chainey went on to state that if the Government said they could no longer afford the investment, the tender process would have to begin again.*

Cllr Reid stated that his main problems with the rail service and those issues he frequently heard of the service locally were 1) that buses do not meet trains, 2) often there is no-one collecting fairs, 3) there do not seem to be many people travelling on the trains. *Mr Myers replied that the Tyne Valley line has great potential, as towns grow the service needs to meet needs, as well as taking advantage of tourism. Mr Myers explained that there was a condition within the tender spec that stated communication was required with bus companies, but clearly as a competitor they could not control them as a business. Moving forward Mr Chainey enlightened that the NE Combined Authority would have bus powers, also through ticketing. With regard to collecting fairs, Mr Chainey acknowledged that this had been an issue in the past but that it was less of a problem now.*

Cllr Mrs Burt stated that requests have been made for changes to Prudhoe Station and they have never been met, however Stocksfield has seen improvements. *Mr Myers replied that Prudhoe will see investment as it is a high footfall station.*

Cllr Futers agreed with Cllr Reid regarding the collecting of fairs and asserted that this still happens. Cllr Futers suggested that usage figures cannot be accurate if tickets are not sold and counted, therefore some are travelling on trains uncounted. *Mr Myers responded that passenger data is collected as people board the train, not by tickets sold. Cllr Gill responded that if this is the case then why are inspectors not challenged when ticket sales do not match passenger numbers.*

Cllr McCreedy commented that he used the train for the first time in a while and the service was first class.

Cllr Mrs Burt summarised that the council would contact NCC with their suggestions for change and they would look forward to Cllr Couchman's report of the TVCRP meetings.

1516/079 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, held on 30th September 2015**It was AGREED to receive the minutes**

Proposed: Cllr G Simpson

Seconded: Cllr A Reid

1516/080 Matters Arising

Page 2 – The clerk confirmed that Active Northumberland's Prudhoe Waterworld were not aware of the 'You're Welcome' scheme proposed as part of the rationalisation of public conveniences, however they were happy to be included and have been put in touch with those responsible.

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Page 3 – Cllr Mrs Burt asked if any progress had been made to arrange a meeting with Active Northumberland and Prudhoe Youth Football Club (PYFC). A positive response was read from Duncan Graham of PYFC, but no response had been received from Active Northumberland. **It was AGREED** to follow this up and arrange a meeting as residents had contacted the council in good faith and received a response that this would be actioned.

Page 4 – Lychgate – Cllr Mrs Burt asked for an update. The clerk confirmed that he had met with Rev. Hope and the architect and once all names were confirmed with Prudhoe History Society, a report would be sent to the Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC). Cllr Dobson recommended that an actionable date be put on the report being sent off. **It was AGREED** the report should be sent off to the DAC before the end of November.

1516/081 Report of Planning, Contracts and Works Committee, held on 14th October 2015
It was AGREED to receive the report

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J McGee

Seconded: Cllr A Reid

Page 2 – Cllr Mrs J McGee introduced the Core Strategy that was discussed at the Planning, Contract and Works Committee Meeting. Cllr Mrs J McGee asserted that this was a very important document for Prudhoe. Cllr Mrs J McGee described that the open session planned at The Spetchells Centre on 4th November, as part of their consultation on the plans, was very informal and does not allow for a whole group address, i.e. the public do not learn from the questions and responses of others. Cllr Mrs J McGee proposed that the town council organise a Civic and Community Forum and that NCC Officers be invited to present. Cllr Reid responded that although he had no objection to arranging a Civic and Community Forum, the Core Strategy had been doing the rounds for 6-7 years now and County Council is being criticised for this. Cllr Reid added that from the County Council's perspective, the Core Strategy needs endorsement by February 2015, so it's back is against the wall to get this finalised.

Cllr Mrs J McGee argued that there have been significant changes to the document in its final draft, with respect to the greenbelt in Prudhoe, adding that a lot of people will not have heard of the Core Strategy, and the town council should do as much as possible to keep people informed. Cllr Mrs Burt suggested that it would have been most beneficial to have had a forum-style meeting at the end of the NCC Consultation session on 11th November, however there is not sufficient time between now and then to produce and deliver a leaflet. **It was AGREED** to contact NCC Officers to ask if they would be available to attend a Forum meeting, bearing in mind that this is a very busy time with consultations already confirmed, prior to the deadline of midnight on 25th November. **It was AGREED** that the administrator would liaise with NCC, leaflet production and delivery, as well as Prudhoe Community Church (The Gate as a venue) in the hope that a date in advance of the deadline could be agreed.

Cllr Mrs Burt advised that there was a meeting the following day at 9am with Geoff Paul (NCC) regarding the Town Centre Opportunity Site. Cllr Mrs Burt added that she had already imparted comments about the way the meeting was organised and subsequently changed, but acknowledged that all members were invited to attend.

1516/082 Accounts 2015/16

a) **It was AGREED** to receive the bank reconciliations 10th September – 9th October

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J McGee

Seconded: Cllr G Simpson

b) **It was AGREED** to receive the statement of Budget and Expenditure up to 22nd October 2015

Proposed: Cllr A Gill

Seconded: Cllr A Reid

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c) **It was AGREED** to endorse those payment in bold and approve further payments received since the September meeting (schedule of accounts was tabled)

Proposed: Cllr A Reid

Seconded: Cllr G Simpson

The clerk reported that the outstanding account for Sutcliffe Play was presented for payment following completion of restoration work at Highfield Park and Castle Dene Play Area (Castle Dene as a gesture of goodwill) and a fulsome apology.

1516/083 Grant Aid Guidelines and Application form

Cllr Mrs Burt thanked those Cllrs who attended the meeting to discuss Grant Aid, describing that it was a very productive meeting. Cllr Mrs Burt reported that the meeting looked at examples from other town councils and it was agreed that Prudhoe Town Council were far less prescriptive in their approach. **It was AGREED** to receive the report and the recommendations there-in:

- ✓ The application should clearly request information on balances (as it does now) and should stipulate that balances may be taken into account when agreeing awards.
- ✓ Groups will be asked to state the reason (if any) for balances held.
- ✓ Groups will be expected to spend grant aid in the financial year it is awarded (unless for a specific long-term project or other agreeable reason).
- ✓ Groups will be asked to verify that grant aid has been spent for the intended purpose, prior to the following grant aid cycle (approx. 7 months later).
- ✓ The application form should request information on membership numbers and % living in the town.
- ✓ The application form should request information on subscription costs received as income.
- ✓ The application form should continue to request information on other funding applied for/received.
- ✓ The application form should ask if the group has employees, as well as the number of volunteers.
- ✓ The council should agree an overall Grant Aid Budget at its budget meeting in December, prior to applications being scrutinised by 3 members in January/February. The figure suggested is £14,500 and Cllrs Gill, Price and Mrs Burt offered to go through applications.

Cllr Reid recommended that the Deputy Mayor be added to the group scrutinising Grant Aid applications in view of his experience in the community sector. Cllr Futers objected to the proposal as the meeting of the sub-group proposed three Cllrs, under the direction of the chair. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert and Cllrs Gill and Piper agreed that the number of members included in the sub-group was discussed at length at the meeting and other members present may have wished to put themselves forward. Cllr Reid formally proposed that Cllr Ernest Dobson be included alongside Cllr Mrs Burt, Cllr Gill and Cllr Price. Cllr Price seconded the proposal; the proposal was carried 8:4.

1516/084 'Visioning' Meeting

It was AGREED to receive the report of the Visioning Meeting held on 8th October. **It was also AGREED** that the clerk would write a Vision Statement using the suggestions made by Cllr Futers and Cllr Simpson.

Cllr Mrs Burt reported that some of the matters raised at the visioning meeting would be progressed by the sub-groups of the council and others would have a bearing on the budget.

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1516/085 Horses at Prudhoe—(placed on the agenda by Cllrs Mrs J McGee and D Couchman)

Cllr Mrs J McGee hoped that everyone had now heard of the terrible story of the horses being destroyed across Northumberland, including 3 horses that were in a field at West Wylam. Cllr Mrs McGee described that the horses although not appearing to be cared for by the owners, were being looked after by members of the public, who visited regularly with hay, food and water; they had become part of their lives. After 3 years of being looked after like this the horses disappeared and people believed they had been taken away to be cared for, later learning that Northumberland County Council (NCC) had in fact destroyed the horses. Cllrs Mrs J McGee expressed that there were legal powers allowing NCC to take this course of action, however this was not a statutory duty. Cllr Mrs J McGee agreed that irresponsible owners who subjected their animals to illegal grazing needed to be dealt with severely, but that the horses should not pay the price.

Cllr Mrs McGee proposed that the town council contact NCC to suggest the timeframe of 96 hours, as well as the exclusion of local people, be revisited when looking for new homes for seized horses. In 2013 the timeframe was 14 days, which may be too long in terms of the impact on the taxpayer in caring for the animals, however 4 days is not sufficient.

Cllr D Couchman seconded the proposal. Cllr E Dobson also suggested NCC should ensure it has an up-to-date list of people who can be contacted to take in horses in this situation.

It was AGREED to write to NCC to ask if the 96 hour timeframe after seizing horses could be revisited, as well as including the suggestion that a list of contacts is held for use on such an occasion.

Cllr Mrs Burt added that it was important to remember that it is the owner's fault this has happened, not the horses or the County Council's.

1516/086 Prudhoe Remembrance Parade and Service

It was AGREED to receive the notification. Cllr Mrs Burt commented that she hoped all Cllrs would be able to attend.

1516/087 SCA Prudhoe Miners Race

It was AGREED to receive the report of the meeting held 13th October 2015.

1516/088 Prudhoe Market

It was AGREED to receive the report of the meeting held 16th October 2015. Cllr McCreedy added that he did not think the new Markets Manager added anything; although active in the role and presumably with all the contacts, there was an expectation that the town council would do the work. Cllr McCreedy reported that there was nothing new on the table to support the market and although 5 stalls had been promised on 24th October, there were in fact only 3. Cllr Futers and Cllr Piper had both attended the meeting and the market that Saturday, and had the same impression.

Cllr McCreedy proposed that the council contact David Hunt or Greg Gavin about the market and any action proposed. Cllr Mrs Burt summarised that she was happy for officers to speak with David Hunt about the market and added that it might be a good idea to add this to the Neighbourhood Management Meeting agenda, to be held in November (later agreed to be held on 3rd December)

1516/089 Disabled Parking Provision in Prudhoe (placed on the agenda by Cllr Piper)

Cllr Piper proposed that the council lobby Northumberland County Council for additional disabled parking bays in Prudhoe. Cllr Piper reported that there should be 5% of parking spaces reserved for disabled badge holders and that it was good practise to review provision regularly. Cllr Piper suggested disabled bays in Oaklands car-park, at Barclays Bank and at the side of Elizabeth Evans Opticians. **It**

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was **AGREED** to write to NCC to request a review of parking provision in Prudhoe, suggesting Oaklands car-park and adjacent to Elizabeth Evans as possibilities.

1516/090 North East Devolution (*placed on the agenda by Cllr Simpson*)

Cllr Simpson proposed that the town council write to the Leader of the County Council to request that there is greater consultation on North East Devolution, stating that in Scotland and Wales there was a referendum and here in the North it needs to be clear that this is what the public want.

Cllr Mrs J McGee seconded the proposal, adding that in other areas there has been a vote and that the people vote for the Mayor, but the model proposes to give leaders control. Cllr Mrs McGee summarised that the Mayor is voted for by the people of the North East and the Leaders are placed in office.

Cllr Reid reported that he was not aware of very much from NCC, only of what he read in the press. Cllr Mrs Burt agreed adding that consultation is an issue with many. Cllr Simpson reported that Durham County Council are holding a 'people's poll' and that Northumberland County Cllrs should encourage NCC to follow Durham's lead.

It was AGREED to write to the Leader of NCC to ask for consultation on North East Devolution.

1516/091 Reports from outside bodies

NCC – Cllr Reid reported another restructuring of senior leaders, describing that if a chief officer leaves then they will not be replaced. Cllr Reid mocked that they are no longer furnished with telephone directories as officers' change so frequently they would be out of date very quickly. Cllr Mrs Burt added that it is very difficult as officers settle into a role and Cllrs get to know them, then they move.

Northumbrian Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) – **It was AGREED** to receive the report. Cllr Mrs Burt offered that it was great to get regular updates.

Prudhoe Pathforce – Cllr Ms Rose reported that the joint footpath between Prudhoe and Stocksfield was going along nicely and that she and Peter Barrett would be visiting another site in Mickley as there are queries regarding whether this is a 'right of way'.

1516/092 Tabled and Correspondence

1. Northumberland County Council: Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy: Pre-Submission Draft Consultation

Letter dated 13 October 2015 from Jo-Anne Garrick, Senior Manager – Strategic Planning and Housing. The letter announces the commencement of the statutory consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft. The consultation commenced on Wednesday 14 October and will run until midnight on Wednesday 25 November 2015.

It was AGREED to receive the letter and to ensure the consultation in Prudhoe were widely communicated via the town council's website and People of Prudhoe Facebook Page. Additionally Cllrs were encouraged to read the information available and to attend the consultation event on Wednesday 4th November, from 2pm – 7pm.

2. Spirit of Africa children's charity

Letter received by the Council in October from Carol Tree, Chair Trustee of the charity, announcing the return of the 'yarn-bombing' on the trees outside Prudhoe Waterworld over the festive period. The letter explains the work of the Prudhoe-based charity in supporting a childrens' foster care home and pre-school in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The letter reports that the 2014 yarn-bomb achieved wide and favourable public exposure and raised "around £2,000".

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This year's theme has "a special Zulu twist linking our local community to our charity's South African roots." The letter continues by asking for the Council's support for lighting in the trees where the yarn is mounted so as to heighten its impact.

The letter is accompanied by details of how to make a donation towards a square, helping to support the charity, at £5 per square.

Note: the Clerk has advised Ms Tree that the Events group of councillors had considered the possibility of mounting pea-lights in these trees in late 2014, but had concluded as follows: "Extension of displays to include pea lights in the trees at Waterworld: whilst such displays could be attractive, the location was separate from the town centre. It was therefore agreed not to recommend any investment here at this stage."

It was AGREED to receive the letter and the Clerk's holding response, no action required.

3. Northumberland County Council: Petition – Funfair at Eastwoods Park, Prudhoe

Letter dated 16 October, from Heather Bowers, Democratic Services Officer including an extract from the draft minutes "regarding the decision taken about your petition at the meeting of the Central Area Committee which took place on Thursday 17 September 2015." The letter welcomes any queries and feedback on the minutes and the petitioning procedure, and provides contact details for this to be done.

It was AGREED to receive the letter, no action required.

4. Northumberland County Council: Rural Parishes Meetings

Email dated 16 October from Ian Hedley, Locality Development Officer, attaching the schedule for the autumn meetings. All meetings commence at 7.00pm: *the most local meeting to Prudhoe will take place at the Millennium Hall, Riding Mill, on Tuesday 1 December.* The email asks for names of representatives to be submitted by 5pm on Monday 9 November. It also requests that NCC is informed by 5pm on 26 October if a one-to-one meeting with relevant officers is required at any of the parish meetings.

The email also includes a letter from Paul Jones, Head of Neighbourhood Services, dated 16 October, announcing the meetings, and stating: "Parish and town councils are invited to attend whichever meeting is most convenient or logical for their parish. Over time it is envisaged that the meeting attendance will evolve to suit all parish and town councils in a particular area.

The meetings are intended for parish councillors and each parish council is invited to send one or two representatives, who may be accompanied by the parish clerk.

These meetings will be an opportunity to talk about general issues concerning the local area and also offer an opportunity to meet and network with neighbouring parishes.

Before the main meeting commences there is an opportunity to meet council officers to raise any local issue that may be outstanding or developing. This part of the meeting is not intended for raising day to day issues that should be reported via the standard routes but to identify long standing local issues. Each parish will be offered a short appointment to discuss items with a relevant officer. In order to ensure that the relevant officer can attend the meeting, please inform the Locality Development Team by Monday 26th October of the issue to be raised, so that a time slot and relevant officer can be allocated."

It was AGREED to receive the information. Cllr Mrs Chris Cuthbert advised that she wished to attend the meeting at Riding Mill.

5. Northumberland County Council: Parking Enforcement Vehicle

Email, dated 20 October, sent on behalf of Lynne Ryan, Network Manager, Local Services. The email reads: "Since April 2012 the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers have been carrying out *enforcement of school keep clear restrictions and other parking regulations outside of schools.* [Clerk's italics] Road safety and illegal parking outside schools is a significant concern for us and in order to raise the effectiveness of school parking enforcement the Local Transport

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Plan (LTP) has funded the introduction of a parking enforcement vehicle which will enforce school keep clear parking restrictions from January 2016. Throughout the period from October to December there will be a programme of awareness raising and testing of the vehicle. Attached is a briefing note which also outlines the general timetable for implementation. Our webpage will also go live today and this will be updated throughout the publicity and awareness raising campaign taking place over the next few weeks.

If you require any further information please contact Parking Services via email parkingservices@northumberland.gov.uk or 01670 620220 or visit our web page at parking.northumberland.gov.uk

It was AGREED to receive the information.

6. Sport Tynedale: Annual Sports Awards

Email dated 20 October, from Matthew Bewick of Sport Tynedale / Active Northumberland, attaching an invitation from Edward Heslop, Chair of Sport Tynedale to make nominations for the 2015 Awards. A nomination form and details of the nomination categories are also supplied: nominations are to be returned to Mr Bewick no later than Wednesday 4 November. The email also launches the award of the Stan Calvert Scholarship, now sponsored by Red Hot Property, which awards £600 “to a young sportsperson of outstanding ability and even greater potential.”

It was AGREED to nominate Owen Richardson for the Young Sportsman Award (Kickboxing)

7. Northumberland County Council: New website

Email, dated 22 October, from Gareth Davies, Engagement Manager, announcing the launch of the new website. The email reads “As you will see there are a number of changes from the old website which we would like to highlight -

- It is mobile focused – 60% of our visitors now use phones and tablets to access our website.
- It is much easier to find what you are looking for – the new site uses a google type search box which predicts what you are searching for.
- The website will know where you are viewing it from and will feature stories on the home page from your area.
- Users can find out about local schools, planning applications, bin collection times, who their MP and local councillors are by typing their post code in.
- There are dedicated pages to promote specific projects.
- It is now much easier to find and carry out payments online e.g. Council Tax, business rates, housing rent, car parking fines, waste collection and planning application fees.
- My Place – found from the Home Page, My Place lets you input a postcode, select an address and get key data about your area – councillors, planning history of a property, bin collection days, local schools and much more.
- We would also highlight improvements we’ve made to our reporting system, so you can report issues in your area via the website.

We hope you find the new website useful – please forward any feedback or comments to website@northumberland.gov.uk “

It was AGREED to receive the information.

8. Gateshead Council: Consultation on CIL Draft Charging Schedule

Letter dated 26 October 2015 from Gateshead Council, advising of the above consultation. “Gateshead Council is preparing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to secure necessary developer contributions to pay for key strategic infrastructure. CIL is a standardised levy that is charged to types of new development for the purposes of raising funds to deliver infrastructure to support new development.” The draft document” is available at www.gateshead.gov.uk with the consultation running from 26 October to 7 December 2015. Representations are invited on the

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Draft Charging Schedule and “on a draft Regulation 123 List, which sets out the types of infrastructure that the Council may fund, entirely or in part, through CIL.”

Responses / comments etc can be made to

- Online portal – <http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/consultation>
- Letter – to Spatial Planning and the Environment, Gateshead Council, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead NE8 1HH
- Email – ldf@gateshead.gov.uk

It was AGREED to receive the information.

9. West Northumberland Youth Service: Refurbishment of East Centre – Invitation
Email dated 27 October, from Carol Quinn, Senior Youth & Community Worker. The email states: “As you know, thanks to grant aid from SITA Trust/Foyer federation and councillor Tony Reid, The East Centre has been undergoing some refurbishment. Princes Trust Team 5 have helped enormously in decorating our hall. We would like to invite you to a double celebration on Wednesday November 4th from 4.00 to 6.00pm. This is to show you the results of refurbishment at The East (although we still have plans to do more!). Princes Trust Team 5 will be performing their final presentation as part of our celebration. We do hope you all can come along....” An invitation is attached.

It was AGREED to receive the invitation and inform the office of attendance in order to fulfil the RSVP.

Tabled Items

1. Campaign to Protect Rural England: North-East Newsletter, Autumn 2015
2. Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC):
 - Annual Report 2014-15
 - Notice of Annual General Meeting. This took place on Saturday 17 October, but notice was only received following the September Ordinary Meeting. The Notice was accompanied by the agenda for the meeting, notes on the agenda, and the draft minutes of the 2014 AGM. In his letter, Dr David Francis, Secretary of NALC, noted that this was his final AGM prior to his retirement next year
3. Community Action Northumberland (CAN):
 - Annual Report 2014-15
 - Notice of Annual General Meeting, taking place at Whalton Village Hall, Morpeth NE61 3XA, on Tuesday 3 November, starting at 2pm (buffet lunch at 1pm (£5 per head))
 - Agenda for the above meeting
 - CAN News, Autumn Issue, October 2015
 - Letter of Introduction from Andy Dean, the new Chief Executive of CAN
4. Royal Horticultural Society: “Grass Roots” – The RHS Community Update, Issue 23, Autumn 2015
5. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine: November 2015, Issue 102

It was AGREED to receive the tabled items.