

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 25th November 2015**Present**

Cllr E Dobson (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 A Gill, Cllr G Price

1516/093 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs Burt, Cllr Couchman, Cllr K Graham, Cllr Ms Rose

1516/094 Declarations of Interest NONE**1516/095 Northumberland Estates**

Item deferred as Colin Barnes was unable to attend.

1516/096 West Northumberland Youth Service

Item deferred as changes to the structure of Youth Service provision in Northumberland are expected and information remains sensitive.

1516/097 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, held on 28th October 2015**It was AGREED to receive the minutes**

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J McGee

Seconded: Cllr G Simpson

1516/098 Matters Arising

Lychgate Cllr Gill asked for progress update with regard to the Lychgate submission. The Clerk advised that the report was being written and information was expected from Peter Ashworth and The History Society that would be included.

1516/085 Cllr Mrs N McGee asked if a response had been received from Northumberland County Council regarding the destroyed horses, previously grazed unlawfully at West Wylam. The Clerk advised that the letter would be sent imminently.

1516/099 Report of Planning, Contracts and Works Committee, held on 11th November 2015

The Clerk advised that due to the time commitments of the Council's response to the Core Strategy he had not been able to write the report of the meeting, however could confirm that all agreed actions were complete; Planning Responses, St. Matthews RC Primary have been notified of their success in Miners Race initiative, a response was sent to Gentoo regarding the Open Space at Humbles Wood and work at Highfield Park is on-going.

Cllr Mrs J McGee commented that she was pleased the Town Council were able to organise the Prudhoe and Civic Community Forum at such short notice as it gave the 'People of Prudhoe' the opportunity to have their say and to listen to the concerns of others. Cllr Mrs J McGee also wished to pass on thanks to John Nicholson (NCC Senior Planner) for agreeing to attend.

Cllr McCreedy offered that he believed Cllr Reid chaired the meeting as a County Councillor, giving credit to NCC for the Forum Meeting and continually defending the NCC line. Cllr McCreedy felt strongly that Cllr Reid should have introduced himself as a Town Cllr first and foremost and that the Town Council should have been credited with organising the meeting.

Cllr Futers disagreed and felt that Cllr Reid had put his case forward as a County Cllr and a Town Cllr.

Cllr Reid defended, stating that he made a comment at the outset of the meeting that the money for Forum meetings had originally come from NCC, adding that he has been a Cllr since 1979 and has always put Prudhoe first. Cllr Reid also made the point that as a County Cllr on the Planning Committee

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 25th November 2015

It was **AGREED** to respond with the following to the SHLAA: (to be inserted via RW's response)

1. Land South of Highfield Lane

Regarding all of the sites south of Highfield Lane listed in the SHLAA 2015 and coloured Green (8006, 2337, 6849b) and coloured Blue (2550 and 6849c), it was agreed to respond to NCC, noting the comments of NCC in the SHLAA 2014 with regard to *Suitability* for sites 2337, 2550, and 6849 (Prudhoe Town Council's emphasis in italics):

SHLAA Ref No	Site Name	NCC Comment on Suitability
2337	Land at Highfield Lane, Prudhoe	Attractive, peripheral greenfield site to south of settlement, close to schools. <i>Poor sight lines on highway due to bends and gradient, in location close to school entrance, prevents housing. Restricted water capacity.</i>
2550	Highfield Lane	Greenfield site located in the Green Belt. Could only be accessed from neighbouring SHLAA sites, but <i>lack of safe access prevents housing on these sites.</i>
6849	Land to the south west of Moor Road, Prudhoe	<i>Site is not suitable due to highways constraints. Site does not connect with public highway.</i> May require land acquisition. Site is visually prominent in the area due to its elevated nature. Development would change the character of the area which is located in Greenbelt.

The Council therefore considers that sites 8006, 2337, 6849b, 2550 and 6849c ought all to be discounted for housing provision on the ground that they are, as acknowledged by NCC, highly unsuitable for this purpose.

2. Other sites in Prudhoe (responses in table below)

SHLAA Ref No	Site Name	Response of Prudhoe Town Council
6839	Eltringham Works, Prudhoe	It was noted that this location is discounted on the SHLAA 2015 on a number of grounds, but that part of the site is now (November 2015) the subject of a planning application.
2645	Land at Eastwoods Middle School	Please clarify the use of this land, which is listed for housing delivery in 6-10 years. The Council supports the retention of the land for sports provision (football pitches) which is the current use, with the space for sports provision set to increase following the demolition of the former Eastwoods Middle School. The land should therefore be discounted for housing provision.
2633	North of Prudhoe Town Centre	The entirety of this site is shown on the SHLAA as allocated for <i>housing</i> development. The Council considers that the upper part of this site should be retained as a <i>commercial mixed-use opportunity site</i> , as stated in the Tynedale Local Plan.

1516/102 Play Areas

It was **AGREED** that the clerk should sign and return the 'Transfer of part of registered title(s)' for play areas at West Mickley, Orchard Hill, The Copse and Castle Dene.

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 25th November 2015

1516/103 Eastwoods Park

Cllr Mrs J McGee commented that the meeting was excellent and it was another good example of how beneficial communicating with the public is. With regard to parking, Active Northumberland agreed to take back to NCC the possibility of 'Resident Parking Permits'.

Cllr Mrs J McGee reported that both Nathan Rogerson (Active Northumberland) and Duncan Graham (Prudhoe Youth Football Club) gave a short update on plans for the site, however they were not fully formed plans yet and they will form part of a wider public consultation.

Cllr Mrs J McGee commented that Play Provision was a major concern with one resident stating that although she lived opposite the park, she took her grandchildren to Wylam instead. Cllr Mrs J McGee said at the residents meeting that she would ask for support from the Town Council to have the Play Areas improved more quickly than longer-term plans.

Cllr Mrs J McGee concluded that other issues raised included dog-fouling, lack of lighting and that gates are not locked at night.

Cllr McCreedy endorsed the comments by Cllr Mrs J McGee, adding that the meeting was very positive. Cllr Price reported that the meeting was very constructive and the comments and feelings brought forward were done so in a calm and collected way. Cllr Dobson concluded that the meeting was clearly very worthwhile and he was pleased the Town Council had continued to pursue it.

1516/104 Castle Dene Play Area

The council **AGREED IN PRINCIPLE** that if the tree causing damage at Castle Dene Play Area was to be removed, action would be taken to cost and repair the play surface.

1516/105 Recognising and celebrating local achievement and milestones

Cllr McCreedy raised the agenda item, commenting that this was something that had been brought up by Neil Bradbury whilst serving. Cllr McCreedy made a case for celebrating achievements, like those of Owen Richardson in kickboxing, SCA with their Apprenticeship Scheme, and milestones like Mrs Bell who lives in the town and celebrated her 100th birthday recently. Cllr McCreedy observed that the initiative would not be costly but would be very well received, adding that the council would need to engage with the public, to encourage them to inform the council of achievements and special events, the council could then respond with a letter, flowers or another appropriate acknowledgement.

Cllr Mrs Cuthbert agreed that there should be some sort of recognition from the town council. Cllr Simpson also agreed, but added that some thought was required as to how the initiative would be administered. Cllr Mrs J McGee offered that the council would be relying upon members of the public to give the information and therefore would need feedback from the public as to how to take this forward.

Cllr Reid supported the proposal in principle with more thought given to its execution, as well as suggesting the Annual Town Meeting would be a good time to celebrate any achievements throughout the year.

It was AGREED the item would be brought back for further discussion in January.

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 25th November 2015**1516/106 Reports from outside bodies**

Northumberland County Council – Cllr Reid reported that following the budget released by the Chancellor, NCC have expressed that the impact will be significant and there will be a further deterioration in services. Cllr Reid commented “NCC will go into reserves to fudge their way through, but these can only be used once, following years will be difficult.”

Cllr Reid confirmed that the next meeting would be in the new headquarters of NCC, on which some people have very strong views.

National Association of Local Councils – Cllr Dobson reported that the internal business of the Annual General Meeting was the main item for discussion and that the most interesting item had been street lighting. Cllr Dobson stated that although there would not be new street lights appearing in Prudhoe in the immediate future, that due to the flexible contract agreed, the town council could supplement the programme in the town. Cllr Dobson concluded that with this in mind it was worth looking at areas (not on the highway) where street lights would provide an improvement. Cllr Dobson confirmed that NCC will cover maintenance costs if the town council cover the capital expenditure.

Cllr Futers suggested that presently NCC are using this programme as an excuse not to repair street lights that are already broken. Cllr Mrs J McGee suggested that Cllrs use the office to report any lights that are out and therefore this can be tracked, as it is an important safety issue. Cllr Futers responded that he has done this and also reported himself, using the number on the lamp standard, but to no avail. Cllr Mrs J McGee added that she recalled that the Town Council used to have an allocation in the budget for street lighting, and a process whereby locations could be suggested, this should be supported again.

Cllr Reid repeated that he had made an offer to Northumbria Healthcare Trust regarding taking advantage of the scheme with street lights at the bottom of Moor Road, but so far he had received no response.

Cllr Dobson concluded that there could also be an opportunity for additional Christmas Lights power points, WiFi and other items at a discounted price.

Mickley Residents Meeting

Cllr Mrs Cuthbert reported on the meeting held by County Cllr Mrs Anne Dale in Mickley.

1. The request for an additional pedestrian crossing has been passed to the NCC West Area Committee.
2. Cllr Mrs Dale offered the idea of a Mickley Forum; there was no interest expressed at the meeting.
3. Cllr Mrs Dale offered the idea of a ‘Friends of Riding Dene Play Area’ group, or similar; there was no take-up at the meeting.
4. West Mickley Play Area – Cllr Mrs Dale confirmed that this play area would soon be transferred to Prudhoe Town Council.
5. Cllr Mrs Dale suggested an A695 working group to take forward issues regarding parking in and speeding through the village. There was no take-up at the meeting.
6. Allotments at Mickley – Cllr Mrs Dale stated that there is a site that may become available for allotments in Mickley which she will update residents on when more details are available.

NCC West Area Committee – Cllr Mrs Cuthbert attended the meeting at Hexham and reported that there was a new cycleway at Sandstone Way, Geoff Paul updated the meeting with respect to the budget and the consultation regarding the closure of Haydon Bridge Fire Station was touched upon.

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 25th November 2015

1516/107 Tabled and Correspondence Correspondence

1. Prudhoe Post Office: Consultation on proposed move from 81 Front Street to the building that was Frank's Carpets in the centre of town.

Cllr Reid proposed that the council write to say that we support the move and we hope that it will prosper. Cllr Reid acknowledged that the Co-op have been negative about competitors going into the building, additionally it could offer a 'win-win' would present a good opportunity for a business to become established at 81 Front Street.

2. Northumberland County Council: Planning Applications received to date

All councillors have been emailed with the list of planning applications received to date. The Meeting is requested to agree to engage with the NCC Pre-Application Protocol in respect of the following:

General - Mickley Ward, 15/01310/PREAPP

Proposal: Pre-application enquiry for outline planning permission for the construction of dwellings

Location: Tyne Valley Nurseries, West Road, Mickley, Stocksfield, Northumberland NE43 7BT

Applicant: Mr J Craven (address as above)

It was AGREED to respond positively to pre-planning consultation and offer that Cllr Mrs Cuthbert would like to be involved.

3. Letter from young resident regarding the Core Strategy

It was AGREED to receive and respond positively to the letter.

4. Tynedale Hospice at Home

Letter dated 30 October, enclosing newsletter and leaflets and subscription form

It was AGREED to receive

5. North of England Brass Band Championships Committee

Letter dated 4 November requesting a donation towards the running costs of the 2016 Championship

It was AGREED to receive

6. Prudhoe Methodist Church Jubilee Year 1866-2016

Letter, dated 9 November, seeking the Council's support for the Flower Festival to be held on 24-26 June 2016 (other events are also listed)

It was AGREED to receive and to reply saying the suggestion would be considered by the 'In Bloom' Working Group

7. Great North Air Ambulance

Letter dated 16 November, requesting a grant to be made to the charity

It was AGREED to receive

Tabled Items

1. Tynedale Hospice at Home: Autumn Newslink 2015
2. Society of Local Councils Clerks, The Clerk Magazine, November 2015
3. Prudhoe Community Partnership, Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2015
4. War Memorials Trust, Bulletin, November 2015
5. Mityr-Mory: L'Evolution, Novembre 2015