

Present

Cllr Mrs J McGee (Chair), Cllr A Piper, Cllr G Price, Cllr Mrs E Burt, Cllr E Dobson, Cllr A Reid, Cllr Mrs N McGee, Cllr A Gill, Cllr D Couchman, Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert

16/17/080 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ms J Rose, Cllr B Futers, Cllr G Simpson, Cllr G McCreedy, County Cllr Mrs Anne Dale

1617/081 Declarations of Interest Cllr A Reid declared an interest as a member of the Management Board for the Land of Oak and Iron.

1617/082 Land of Oak and Iron: Presentation

Kath Marshall-Ivens, Community Engagement Officer, stated that she had taken up post this year. She reported that one thousand people had been consulted as to what to what they valued, and would like to see included, with respect to the area's industrial heritage. She stated that there was a high level of support for the Land of Oak and Iron project, which was aimed at preserving and regenerating the rich natural industrial and cultural heritage. She referred to the following

- the high percentage of natural woodland
- the resources that had come from the land – minerals, iron ore, coal and lead
- the enterprises that had processed the extracted resources
- the cultural and philanthropic influences associated with the area (these included rapper dancing)

After the Heritage Lottery Fund monies had been received in December 2015, a full staff of four had been put in place (since May 2016). An Executive Board had oversight of the whole scheme, and there were a range of partner organisations which included SCA. Groundwork North-East was responsible for bringing the parties together to deliver on the projects associated with the scheme. Ms Marshall-Ivens then went on to describe the sectors into which the scheme / programme is divided, which are:

- Investing in Heritage (projects covering Community Archaeology, Built Restoration, River Restoration, Woodland Restoration, Shibdon Meadow)
- Investing in People (projects covering Oak and Iron Skills, Educational Activities, Geology & Wildlife Surveys)
- Investing in Communities (projects covering Access for All, Creative Interpretation, Go Green, Community Grants, Heritage Centres, Marketing & Promotions)

Ms Marshall-Ivens stated that it was intended that the scheme as a whole was sustainable, with plans for this including the setting-up of a Friends Group. A new heritage centre for the project located at Winlaton Mill was planned to be built in 2018: amongst other things this would serve as a base for the Friends' Group. Leaflets covering various aspects of the project were supplied, along with signing-up forms.

In response to Cllr Mrs E Burt, it was stated that a 'heritage trail' linking the River Tyne with the local woods was proposed. In response to Cllr G Price, it was stated that the Scheme was working with the local press and with the Tyne Rivers Trust. In response to Cllr E Dobson, it was stated that community grants could be available for small / new projects (for instance an interpretation panel); while the capital spend for a grant must be located entirely within the scheme boundaries, the revenue spend need not be. Cllr A Reid stated that the scheme partners were working very well together. He felt that though Prudhoe was really close to the Derwent, political boundaries got in the way. He said that there were top-class people on the board of the scheme, and that it had the potential to be really successful.

Cllr Mrs J McGee thanked Ms Marshall-Ivens for her presentation, and the latter left the meeting.

1617/083 Standing Orders of Council: Duration of Meetings

The Clerk advised that the proposed new standing order, in respect of which a briefing paper had been circulated, was required by Standing Order 80 to be received at this meeting, with a proposer and seconder sought, before being brought to the next monthly meeting for consideration for adoption. After Cllr Mrs J McGee had read the clauses of the Draft Order, Cllr A Gill asked if the proposed break of 15 minutes was compulsory. The Clerk advised that this was not the case: he said it had been proposed so as to allow those participating in the meeting to have a proper break before the meeting resumed, and to ensure that the reason for the meeting for the extension of the meeting was justifiable.

It was first AGREED to remove the sub-clause proposing the 15-minute break in proceedings.

Proposed: Cllr E Dobson Seconded: Cllr Mrs E Burt

It was next AGREED to receive and take forward to the November Ordinary Meeting the following proposed Standing Order 29 (n):

“A meeting shall not exceed a period of two hours.

The above may be subject to the following exceptions:

- (i) An additional maximum one hour may be permitted at the start of the meeting for purposes not connected with normal council business;
- (ii) The meeting may, by invoking Standing Order 79, duly proposed, seconded, and agreed, suspend this Standing Order to permit the Meeting to continue for a further maximum 30 minutes.”

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr A Gill

1617/084 Councillor K Graham: Declaration of Vacancy

It was AGREED to receive the Notice of the resignation of Cllr K Graham from the Council, and to declare the vacancy in accordance with Section 86, Local Government Act 1972.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert

1617/085 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 29 September 2016

Subject to the removal of the word “that” from the statement made by Cllr A Reid on page 4 of the draft record, **it was AGREED** to receive the Minutes as a true record.

Proposed Cllr A Gill Seconded Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert

1617/086 Matters Arising

NCC Speed Survey, West Road: the Clerk reported that he had chased up the supply of the speed survey undertaken by NCC on West Road earlier in the year. Cllr Mrs E Burt stated that she was due to meet with NCC officers regarding speed issues on West Road, and that a report on possibilities was to be prepared. Cllr A Reid noted that there had recently been an accident involving vehicles by the Tory Club, adding that he was unsure what the cause had been.

Highfield Park: Centenary Fields designation: the Chairman read the response from The Northumberland Estates (TNE) in respect of their declining to permit Highfield Park to be designated as a Centenary Field. She noted that TNE’s permission would be required, and she took exception to the statement in TNE’s letter that a more attractive location could be found. Cllr A Reid agreed with Cllr Mrs McGee, and stated that TNE was not showing commitment to the community: he said that he was sad that their response had not been more positive. It was agreed that the Council should not respond to TNE’s letter. Cllr Mrs E Burt asked how an alternative area for a memorial field should be identified.

Local Transport Plan Programme: in response to the Clerk, Cllr A Gill stated that the road surface at the junction of Redwell Road with Drawback and South Road was still damaged.

Festive Lights at Mickley: the Clerk reported that NCC had now agreed that power could be taken from a source, allowing the proposed scheme for lights in the trees at the junction of Riding Terrace with the A695 to go ahead: he was now liaising further with the Council's lights contractor.

Humbles Wood play feature: the Clerk reported that a response was awaited from the developer, Gentoo Homes, regarding the proposed play feature, incorporating the suggestions made by Cllr Mrs J McGee, and requesting the re-submission to the Council of the four options proposed for the feature.

Kimberly Park – Inspection: the Clerk report that the report of the inspection was on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

CCTV provision in Prudhoe: the Clerk reported that he had chased Northumbria Police for the response regarding the impact of the CCTV provision on crime in the town. He noted that the previous Neighbourhood Inspector had left post, and that a replacement had been appointed.

Pedestrian Access at Highfield Park: the Clerk noted that the contract for the works had been offered to Dolan Plant Hire, that it had been accepted, and that it was anticipated that the works would start week commencing 21 November.

Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18: Technical Consultation: the Clerk stated that the Council's response to the consultation had been sent to the Department of Communities & Local Government.

Highfield Lane Traffic Consultation: the Clerk stated that the Council's response to this consultation had been sent to NCC.

Play Areas: the Clerk stated that NCC had been advised of the Council's decision in respect of the play areas to be transferred from NCC to the Council. The play area at Castle Dene had been held back from the transfer, pending the completion of the works to remove the tree roots under the play surface, and associated making good of the surface.

Anglo-French Flagpole – resident request: the Clerk stated that the Council's agreed response had been passed to the resident who had made the request.

Police & Crime Commissioner for Northumbria: the Domestic & Sexual Violence & Abuse posters had been displayed at the Spetchells Centre.

BBC Children in Need: Cllr Mrs J McGee reported that the Guinness World Records Face Painting Challenge record attempt would now take place at Prudhoe West First School earlier in the day on 18 November.

1617/087 Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council incorporating the Meeting of the Planning Contract & Works Committee held on 12 October 2016

Subject to adding the name of Cllr E Dobson to the list of members presenting apologies for absence at this meeting, **it was AGREED** to receive the minutes as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr G Price Seconded: Cllr A Reid

1617/088 Matters Arising

Planning Applications: the Clerk that the Council's responses to the applications had been conveyed to the Planning Authority.

Edgewell Cemeteries: the Clerk advised that NCC had been informed that the Service Contract for the Cemeteries had been designated as a specialist contract, and therefore exempt from a full procurement process.

Public Phone Boxes - Consultation on Possible Removal: the Clerk advised that the Council's responses regarding the three boxes in the Council area had been sent to NCC.

1617/089 Accounts

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

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr E Dobson

Cllr Mrs E Burt proposed, seconded Cllr E Dobson, that re-allocations be made from the contingency budget in respect of over-spending account headings, and **this was AGREED**. She noted that advice had been received from staff in respect of budget planning, and that the Council needed to put matters right where it could. Cllr Mrs J McGee stated that meeting rooms had needed to be hired for meetings because there was a need for more space than was available in the Council office. Cllr Mrs McGee also noted that no proposals had been made in respect of Environmental Improvement Schemes in the town, and requested suggestions. Responding, Cllr Mrs Burt mentioned concerns regarding neglect on the Redwell estate, and asked if local ward councillors had any ideas. Cllr A Gill agreed that some parts of this area were neglected and said that some flower beds had disappeared. Cllr Mrs McGee added that invoices had been received from NCC regarding the youth service and the Cemeteries.

b) **It was AGREED** to approve the Statement of Expenditure from 1st April 2016 to 23rd October 2016

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr A Reid

In response to Cllr Reid's enquiry regarding spending on the allotments, the Clerk advised that spending on several allotment boundaries was anticipated. Cllr A Gill noted that no recent meeting had taken place with representatives of the Prudhoe Gardeners' Association, and Cllr Mrs J McGee stated that a meeting should be arranged.

c) **It was AGREED** to authorise the payment of the accounts received since the last meeting and to endorse those already paid (schedule tabled)

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr Mrs J McGee

1617/090 Internal Audit of Accounts

It was AGREED to receive the Internal Auditor's report and it was requested that the answers to the minor queries raised be brought to the November Ordinary Meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr Mrs J McGee

1617/091 Kimberly Park Football Ground: Inspection

Cllr Mrs J McGee stated that the inspection party had consisted of Cllr A Gill, herself, and the Clerk. They had found the site and the building in a tidy state, with the boundary fencing in good repair, and that there had been no concerns to raise with respect to the lease. Cllr Gill stated that some work had been carried out and that the appearance of the site had improved since the previous inspection. Cllr Mrs E Burt thanked the members of the inspection party for their work, and apologised that she had been unable to attend.

It was AGREED to receive the report of the inspection.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr Mrs J McGee

1617/092 Northumberland County Council: Local Services Liaison

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged with Paul Jones, Director of Local Services & Housing delivery, NCC, to take place on 3 November, and that meeting accommodation had been booked.

It was AGREED to receive the report.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J McGee Seconded: Cllr E Dobson

1617/093 Northumberland County Council: Strategic Planning Applications

Cllr Mrs J McGee stated the locations of the site visits taking place on 31 October. She advised the meeting that Cllr B Futers had advised of his wish to attend as a representative of the Council, and this was agreed. Cllr Mrs McGee also suggested that other councillors could attend if they wished. She then stated that the planning applications themselves were due to be considered by NCC on Tuesday 1 November as advised in the correspondence reported to this meeting: Cllr A Reid stated that it was standard practice for applications to be considered soon after site visits had taken place.

1617/094 Northumberland County Council: Toilets at Prudhoe Road Ends

Cllr Mrs J McGee thanked Cllr E Dobson for the correspondence and photographs with respect to this matter. Cllr Dobson stated that he had complained to NCC regarding the cleanliness, state of repair and maintenance of the toilets. He said that NCC had accepted the responsibility to repair and maintain, but that their budget covered repairs only. NCC had asked if the Council would be prepared in principle to contribute to the enhancement of the facilities. Cllr G Price asked whether the Council would not want to be aware of what was proposed and what difference the council's support would make before making any commitment. Cllr Dobson suggested an in principle agreement, with no commitment, and Cllr A Reid agreed, stating that the toilet facility was crying out for investment and that he felt the Council could make a modest contribution. Cllr Mrs J McGee report a male resident's comments to the effect that there was 'no way' they would be using the facilities, adding the photographs supplied by Cllr Dobson showed that the male toilets were 'an absolute disgrace'. Cllr Dobson stated that it should be asked if the standard of monitoring was up to scratch, but stated that he was assured that someone cleaned the toilets every day. Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert stated that she was unwilling to throw good money after bad, and that she was disappointed that those facilities that were being left open were not receiving investment. Cllr A Piper stated that the Council needed assurance that the toilets would not be closed in the foreseeable future if the Council was to agree to support their refurbishment.

It was AGREED to respond to NCC stating that the Council was prepared in principle to financially support refurbishment of the toilets, subject to the proviso stated by Cllr Piper.

Proposed: Cllr E Dobson Seconded: Cllr Mrs J McGee

1617/095 West Mickley Play Area

Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert stated that the play area required investment and recommended obtaining costed proposals for this. Cllr Mrs J McGee agreed stating that possible providers could be asked to look at the site with herself, Cllr Mrs Cuthbert and the Clerk.

It was AGREED to invite expressions of interest from play providers in respect of the refurbishment of the play area.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert Seconded: Cllr Mrs J McGee

1617/096 Castlefields Play Area

Cllr Mrs E Burt stated that the condition of this play area had been an ongoing issue over the preceding 12 months. The equipment had been designed for under 5's and the site belonged to

Bellway. They had refused requests to deal with the problems, and had been ignoring residents. Following representations from NCC, Bellway had now undertaken to bring the area up to scratch, but there was a need to ensure that this work was done. Cllr Mrs Burt asked if the Council would be prepared to consider adopting the play area if it brought up to standard, and stated that this would be a matter for the Council to decide. The report was received.

1617/097 Grievance Policy: Review

Cllr G Price said he was requesting that the Council's Grievance Policy be reviewed by the Human Resources Committee. He stated that it might not be especially fit for purpose, and that it needed to be made more workable and user-friendly. He stated that the policy had been open to interpretation in a set of circumstances, and that it had been a case of deciding whether to stick with the policy or to circumvent it. He suggested that the policy be looked at in more detail as to how it was set out.

Cllr Mrs J McGee stated that the Council had adopted the policy in 2014, and that it was an ACAS policy. She suggested that advice could be taken from the North East Regional Employers Organisation (NEREO) or from the Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC). She stated her view that the policy was straightforward, but that the Human Resources Committee might think differently. Cllr E Dobson suggested that it would be necessary to look at the Council's Disciplinary Policy in parallel with the Grievance Policy.

It was AGREED that the Council should seek advice from NALC regarding the review of its Grievance and Disciplinary policies, especially with respect to their layout and the operation of their procedures, reporting to the Human Resources Committee.

Proposed: Cllr G Price Seconded: Cllr E Dobson

1617/098 Human Resources: Law & Procedure

Cllr G Price stated that the Council needed to be updated in respect of employers' responsibility for human resources, as to the law and as to employees' awareness of human resources procedures. He suggested that appropriate training opportunities should be sought for the Council. Cllr A Reid stated that he was happy to second Cllr Price's proposal, but suggested that it might be wise to wait until the local council elections had taken place, because it might be more appropriate at that point. Cllr A Gill asked why the council's staff might need training, given that their responsibilities should be in their contract. Responding, Cllr Price stated that employee relations covered more than contract terms, and that it was a matter of workplace circumstances and what was fair and right. Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert stated that it was important to remember that the Council was a body was the employer of the staff, and said that all councillors should be trained.

It was AGREED to seek advice from NALC and / or NEREO in respect of training opportunities in the field of human resources.

Proposed: Cllr G Price Seconded: Cllr A Reid

1617/099 It's A Wonderful Life: Henry Travers

Cllr Mrs J McGee briefed the meeting regarding the correspondence she had received from a freelance TV producer pitching a documentary to the BBC which would celebrate the 70th anniversary of "It's A Wonderful Life". She proposed that the Council take the responsibility for erecting a plaque in the Glade to celebrate the birth of Henry Travers in Prudhoe. She stated that he had left the town at two years old, but had moved on to great things. She said that that it was a classic film that told a moral tale, and urged support for the plaque proposal, stating that it would be a good thing for the town. Cllr A Reid stated that Mr Travers had been more strongly connected with Berwick, but he was a well-known name and the cost of erecting a plaque would not be great. The plaque could also help to attract tourists. Cllr A Gill stated that he was against the proposal, and asked where the plaque would be sited. Cllr Mrs McGee stated that NCC's permission would be

required, but that the Chairman's allowance could be used to fund the plaque. Cllr Mrs E Burt suggested that the Council agree in principle to investigate installing the plaque, and ascertain the cost of doing so.

It was AGREED by seven votes for to two against to investigate the cost of placing a plaque in the Glade to commemorate the birth of Henry Travers in Prudhoe.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs J McGee Seconded: Cllr A Reid

1617/100 Documents of Historic Interest: Gift from Resident

It was AGREED to receive the documents offered to the Council by Mr A Tomczuk, and that a letter be written to him thanking him for his kind gesture.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr Mrs J McGee

1617/101 Reports from Outside Bodies

Prudhoe Community Partnership – Live Above the Shops Scheme: Cllr Mrs E Burt stated that it was hoped that tenants would be in place before Christmas. In response to Cllr Mrs J McGee, Cllr Mrs Burt stated that the Partnership had offered tenancies to businesses, but that she could not say more than that. Cllr Mrs McGee suggested that she was not sure that the business mentioned on social media as being one that had received an offer of a tenancy, was a business the town needed.

Northumberland County Council – former Eastwoods School site: Cllr A Reid reported that the former school building had been flattened and hopefully the site would be cleared soon. He noted that it was now possible to walk under the Ovingham bridge on the Prudhoe side. Cllr Mrs Burt reported that she had been at Prudhoe Community High School when the Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening, had visited. She reported that the building looked nice, light and airy, and that there had been a good meeting with the minister and the students. She added that the official opening of the school would take on 22 November.

East Tynedale Local Councils Forum: Cllr Mrs C Cuthbert reported that there had been a good meeting, at which Stephen Rickitt of the Northumberland Association of Local Council had made a presentation on freedom of information, and that an update had been presented on Ovingham bridge.

Citizens Advice Northumberland: the Clerk undertook to scan and despatch the latest quarterly report to councillors.

Town-Twinning: Cllr Mrs Burt reported that the French were visiting this weekend and that all councillors were invited to the reception at Waterworld on Friday evening. She noted that three Mityr-Mory councillors would be among the visiting party, including the Mayor.

NCC Local Councils' Conference: Cllr E Dobson reported that he and Cllr Mrs Cuthbert had attended the conference, and that interesting presentations had been made. The focus had been on partnership working, as there was strong NCC interest in this. He noted that the networking opportunities had been very useful and that local councillors could use the occasion to ask robust questions.

1617/102 Correspondence and Publications

Correspondence

1. Environment Agency: Ovingham Bridge

Both dated August 2016 (i) Modelling Summary and (ii) Frequently Asked Questions. The former is a briefing note providing "a summary of the finding of the Ovingham Bridge Modelling carried out by our consultants, CH2M Hill. One finding is to the effect that "we

have reviewed the consent application and have no evidence that Northumberland County Council did not comply with the conditions of the consent, to mitigate against the 1 in 100 yr event (1%AEP) – 1410m3s.”

It was agreed to send the reports to councilors, and to post the links to the reports on the Council website.

2. Barclays Bank plc – Business Banking

Letter of September 2016, advising of lowering of savings interest rates (i) Active Saver account from 0.38% to 0.19% (ii) Rate reward 0.50% to 0.25%

It was agreed to investigate if there any better interest rates to be had at Barclays.

3. Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL)

Letters dated 28 September in relation to metered sites (allotments owned / leased by the Council), advising that, pursuant to the Water Act 2014, from April 2017, “all non-household customers, including all businesses, hospitals, schools, charities, government bodies, and councils in England, will be able to choose who they buy their retail water and sewerage services from.” The letters describe the services currently provided, states what the changes mean for business customers, and suggests why NWL wishes to remain the supplier of choice. More information regarding the changes is available at www.open-water.org.uk.

It was agreed to receive the information.

4. Tynedale Hospice at Home

Letter of 4 October, enclosing the Hospice’s Autumn 2016 Newsletter and some posters advertising their Light up a Life campaign

It was agreed to display the poster on the Council’s notice board.

5. Gentoo Group

Press release of 11 October, (previously circulated) announcing the start of work at Cottier Grange, Prudhoe, with representatives from the Homes & Communities Agency and NCC present to mark the occasion.

It was agreed to receive the information.

6. Prudhoe Christmas Lights Switch-on

Letter of 13 October from Community & Environmental Health Manager, NCC, advising that the Northumberland Safety Advisory Group, stating that “the broad arrangements for public safety at the event have been considered and the group have no further comments to make at this stage.” The letter reminds the Council that “it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate permissions to use the land, and have any necessary licences, permits, authorisations and permissions in place.”

It was agreed to receive the information.

7. Northumberland County Council: Strategic Planning Committee – Site Visits

Correspondence dated 17 October, in respect of applications 16/02083/OUT, 16/02081/OUT and 16/02082/OUT, listed for consideration at this meeting at Agenda item 14.

It was agreed to receive the information.

8. Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

Letter of 18 October from Vera Baird QC, (i) encouraging the recruitment of more Rural Domestic Violence Champions and (ii) providing an update on the Commissioner’s Police & Crime Plan. Meetings are to be held (Morpeth 12 November, Berwick 1 December) to permit all interested parties to talk to the Commissioner about their policing priorities. Alternatively a survey can be completed online or in hard copy. The letter reminds readers of the Commissioner’s Police & Crime Plan priorities of 2012, and reports progress on these.

It was agreed to receive the information, and post the information on the Council’s website, as well as scanning and sending the information to members.

9. Northumberland County Council: Public Rights of Way

Letter of 19 October from the Definitive Map Officer, NCC, advising of a Definitive Map Modification Order in respect of three sections of public footpath in the vicinity of (i)

Dukeshagg Wood and (ii) the Stanley Burn. As a Legal Event under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, this Order is not required to be publicised or confirmed.

It was agreed to receive and acknowledge the information.

10. Northumberland County Council: Planning Development Management

Letter of 19 October advising of “further planning training sessions for Town and Parish Councils on the Development Management Process, focusing on: Planning system updates, material planning considerations, permitted development rights, and Highways Development Management.” Venues are Morpeth (Tuesday 22 November), Choppington (Thursday 24 November), Belford (Tuesday 29 November), and Hexham (Wednesday 30 November). The sessions will run between 6pm and 9pm.

It was agreed to receive the information.

11. Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (TVCRP): Stakeholder Day - Invitation

Email of 23 October, inviting councillors and other interested parties to the TVCRP event on Thursday 24 November. Presentations will be repeated three times during the afternoon and evening. “This is your opportunity to hear from Northern about the developments planned for the services, stations and trains between Newcastle and Carlisle.”

It was agreed to receive the information, and to advise the dates of the sessions to councillors

12. Citizens Advice Northumberland: Report

Report of October 2016, providing details the services delivered by Citizens Advice Northumberland in the second quarter of 2016/17, reported to the meeting in Agenda item 22, Reports from Outside Bodies.

It was agreed to receive the information, and forward it to councillors.

13. The Northumberland Estates: Centenary Fields – Fields in Trust

Letter dated 18 October from RC St.J Wilson, in response to the proposal by the Council to list the land at Highfield Park currently leased and occupied by the Council as a Centenary Field. The letter states “unfortunately the Estate would not be prepared to permit this land to be included within the listing of a Centenary Field. We do feel that there are other locations within Prudhoe, perhaps a river location in a more attractive spot would be far more appropriate as a commemorative memory to those who lost their lives in World War One.”

It was agreed to receive the information.

14. Great North Air Ambulance: Request for Donation

Letter of 18 October, requesting a donation, and giving an example of the work the GNAA can do.

It was agreed to receive the information and refer the applicant to the Council’s Grant Aid Scheme.

15. Northumberland County Council: Hearing of Strategic Planning Applications

Letters dated 24 October in respect of the following planning applications: 16/02081/OUT, 16/02082/OUT, and 16/02083/OUT, listed at Agenda item 14 for representation by the Council at site visits. These letters announce that the applications have each been listed for consideration by NCC’s Strategic Planning Committee on Tuesday 1 November 2016, at the Council Chamber, County Hall, Morpeth, starting at 2.00pm. The meeting details and reports can be accessed at <http://committee.northumberland.gov.uk/Meeting.aspx?MeetID=5461>.

If you wish to exercise your right to request to speak about the application, please contact Lesley Little on 01670 622614, or email democraticservices@northumberland.gov.uk by 12 noon the working day before the committee meeting. “There will be a total of five minutes for the local councilor and parish or town council to speak on each application, with the five minutes being shared.” The public speaking protocol is available on the NCC website.

It was agreed to receive the information.

Tabled Items

1. Ville de Mitry-Mory: L'Evolution magazine, Septembre 2016
2. Campaign to Protect Rural England: North east NEwsletter, Issue 31, Autumn 2016

To approve a motion, that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public be excluded for consideration of the following items, in accordance with Section 68 of the Council's Standing Orders:-

1617/085 Confidential Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28 September 2016

It was **AGREED** to receive the minutes as a true record.
Proposed: Cllr Mrs E Burt Seconded: Cllr Mrs N McGee

1617/086 Matters Arising

Christmas Lights Switch-On Event: the BBC had been advised of the Council's decision to proceed with the lights switch-on on 25 November, and that a response was anticipated in respect of the Council's offer of a £500 contribution towards the cost of hiring a marquee for the Children in Need Event to be held at Prudhoe Castle on 18 November.

Human Resources Committee: the Administrator had received a medical leave of absence from her doctor to last up 8 November.

Human Resources Committee: the Clerk reported the advice of Mr Rickitt of NALC to the effect that it was in order for the Council both from a legal and an audit standpoint to pay the Administrator in full during her period of sickness absence.

1617/087 Confidential Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 12 October 2016

It was **AGREED** to receive the minutes as a true record.
Proposed: Cllr A Reid Seconded: Cllr Mrs N McGee

1617/088 Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that clarification and advice was being sought from the National Association of Local Councils in respect of the applicable law regarding the award of service contracts. The report was received.

Regarding the tenders for the service contracts for Grass Cutting and Landscaped Gateways and Roundabouts, the Clerk reported that he had been meeting with representatives of the large number of contractors who had expressed interest in the contracts. The closing date for the submission of tenders for these contracts was Friday 28 October.

Following Cllr Piper's report that he was unavailable to participate in the meeting of the tender review group scheduled for 1 November, Cllr Gill was nominated and agreed to serve in Cllr Piper's place.

The meeting closed at 2057.

END OF MEETING