

**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,**  
**held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Gerry Price (Chair), Cllr Russ Greig, Cllr Yvonne Ritchie, Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Tracy Gilmore, Cllr Andy Gill, Cllr G Robinson, Cllr Chris Cuthbert, Cllr Yvonne Ritchie, Cllr Glenn Simpson, Cllr Duncan Couchman, Cllr George McCreedy, Cllr Eileen Burt, Cllr Jennifer McGee

County Cllr Anne Dale

**1718/078 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Carol Stephenson, County Cllr Ken Stow, County Cllr Gordon Stewart

**1718/079 Declarations of Interest**

None received.

**1718/080 Presentation by Luke Shears on Low Prudhoe Development**

(Verbatim address received from Luke Shears)

Good evening,

Being interested in local affairs, it has always been my aspiration to make my voice heard within the local community. This wish was realised upon learning about the proposals for a retail development at Low Prudhoe, which were published last November. Straight away, I saw that there were many flaws in the developers' plans to supposedly 'transform' Prudhoe. I could see that there would be too many social, economic and environmental inconveniences for our town if the developers decided to plough ahead with the out-of-town development. I then saw over the next few months that many people thought the same: that perhaps the retail development would be a very bad idea. So, as I wanted to put my case forward to the local community, The Best for Prudhoe campaign was born.

After three long months of researching the advantages and disadvantages of the proposals at Low Prudhoe, analysing previous retail developments across the country and writing a 5000-word report, I finally launched my campaign at the start of October. Three weeks, hundreds of conversations, many hours of door knocking and 278 signatures later, I had achieved what I had set out to accomplish: to get our town talking.

I understand that not all of you will agree with me and you will no doubt have contrasting views on the matter, but I would ultimately like you to consider the argument put forward not just by myself, but by the many other residents of our town and the local area who believe that the development should not go ahead due to various factors.

Whether you ultimately decide to go ahead with the development or not, I would first of all encourage you to listen to the people of our town, especially the business owners on Front Street whose livelihoods would be at stake, the thousands of people living nearby to the site who would have to cope with permanent disruption to their daily lives, as well as the local ecosystem, which would never be the same again. I hope you make the right decision by opposing the plans for a retail development at Low Prudhoe before it is too late.

Thank you very much for listening.

Luke Shears

Cllr Gerry Price thanked Luke Shears for coming along to the Town Council meeting and for expressing his feelings so well. Cllr Duncan Couchman asked if a copy of the report referred to could be provided for Cllrs. **It was AGREED** this would be sent to the office and copied to all Cllrs.

**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,**  
**held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Cllr Glenn Simpson commended Luke Shears for having the courage to speak out at the Town Council meeting, saying it took courage and that the presentation was delivered very well. Cllr Glenn Simpson went on to say that the Low Prudhoe Development had been on the agenda for some time and many were aware of the issues but that did not detract from the fact that he, as a young person had looked in detail at it, which should be applauded.

Cllr Jennifer McGee also thanked Luke Shears for asking to attend the meeting and again congratulated and commended that he had done so, adding that she wished more would come forward and take part in the democratic process.

Cllr Chris Cuthbert acknowledged that Luke Shears was a member of Northumberland Youth Cabinet and asked if his interest had stemmed from this. Luke Shears responded that his interest was mainly following the release of the plans in November and his desire to find out why so many people were opposed to the development.

Cllr George McCreedy asked if there was anyone else involved in the report and the investigations carried out. Luke Shears responded that findings were collated from hundreds of conversations with residents and interested professions but that the work was his alone. Cllr George McCreedy congratulated Luke Shears on his work.

Cllr Gerry Price concluded the item, reminding Luke Shears that when the planning application for Low Prudhoe is received by the Town Council it will be heard and decided upon at a public meeting, at which the Town Council will try to put all views forward. Cllr Gerry Price thanked Luke Shears again and stated that he would look forward to reading the full report.

**1718/081 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting, held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

County Cllr Anne Dale asked for the record of the minutes to be amended (*1718/062 Youth Service Provision in Prudhoe, page 2*) to state that she had requested the figures for Youth Service access be copied to her and that Ash Brown had agreed this would not be a problem.

As County Councillor Anne Dale is not a member of Prudhoe Town Council and cannot request amendments to minutes, the request was repeated by Cllr Eileen Burt.

With the above amendment, **it was AGREED** to receive the minutes as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee

Seconded: Cllr Eileen Burt

Cllr Jennifer McGee noted that the report of the Planning, Contract and Works Committee, held on 11<sup>th</sup> October should have been part of the agenda, to receive the report, especially as this was an extraordinary meeting. The Administrator advised that the meeting was clerked independently and the record of the meeting had not been received by the office. Cllr Jennifer McGee stated that she had received the report but did not think that it was down to her to copy to the office. **It was AGREED** that the Administrator would contact the independent clerk and pass this information on. Cllr Eileen Burt acknowledged that as chair of the Human Resources Committee she was also sent the reports of any meetings directly.

**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,**  
**held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**1718/082 Matters Arising**

*The following 'Matters to Report' were tabled by the administrator:*

**1718/062 Youth Service Provision in Prudhoe**

Ashley Brown has confirmed that the grant aid funding applied for and pledged for 2017/18 will not be reclaimed in full as a large number of sessions have not been held.

**1718/067 Northumberland Citizens Advice Bureau**

A letter has not yet been written and sent to NCAB as agreed last month. However, following a report today that was emailed to all Councillors, Rachel Turnbull (Operations Manager) has confirmed that Prudhoe has been removed from the NCAB website completely to avoid confusion. The offices listed are Hexham, Berwick, Ashington, Blyth, Amble, Cramlington, Morpeth, Alnwick. There is no mention of the appointments system available at any other office.

**1718/070 Essity Prudhoe Miners Race**

Final figures:

	<b>10k</b>	<b>3k</b>	<b>1.5k</b>
<b>2017</b>	234	41	94
<b>2016</b>	157	15	93
<b>Increase</b>	+77	+26	+1
<b>% increase on 10k</b>	49%		
<b>% increase overall</b>	39%		

**1718/074 Project Parent**

A cheque for £250 was sent from the Chair's Allowance following confirmation of bank account and community group status.

*The following 'Matters Arising' were raised by Councillors:*

*1718/062 Youth Service Provision in Prudhoe, page 1*

Cllr Angie Scott asked about a meeting that had taken place at Prudhoe East Centre regarding Youth Service Provision in Prudhoe, adding that she was very disappointed that the meeting was held unbeknown to the Town Council and without any report of the meeting to be expected.

Cllr Gerry Price responded that the meeting was arranged by County Cllr Gordon Stewart and was attended by himself, Cllr George McCreedy and County Cllr Daley and that there was nothing of any involvement with Prudhoe Town Council.

Cllr Gerry Price went onto to read the emails that had been sent to Cllr Angie Scott when the matter was raised directly with him and County Cllr Gordon Stewart.

Hi Angie, The meeting referred to was arranged by Cllr. Gordon Stewart who invited the lead Cllr. Wayne Daley for Youth Services Northumberland to view the premises and talk about his experience in running a Youth Club in Wallsend. Gordon invited Ash Brown and George McCreedy and I to attend for a general chat on his experience of clubs there was no agenda and no decisions of any nature but views on how clubs are run in general and their activities.

There is nothing of Town Council involvement in a casual informal discussion on the wider information of Youth Services in general. It is not unusual to try and obtain as much information as possible by talking about

**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,**  
**held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

a subject to informed people who may give valued information which can be applied by Town Council when and if necessary. Gordon, I am sure will confirm the meeting as stated. Regards GERRY

Good Morning.

I invite Cabinet members to Prudhoe on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues. Prior to the East Centre meeting I also took C Cllr Wayne Daley to the Fuse along with C Cllr Richard Wearmouth - cabinet member for regeneration. Later we met active Northumberland staff at Waterworld.

It was right to include Ash & Sharron from NCC youth services team when we visited the NCC run youth service in Prudhoe. The building and service had come under the spotlight a few months ago. It was also right to invite C Cllr Ken Stow & the chairman of PTC; also George who as we all know has done and continues to do so much for the east.

I did not invite employees, young people, parents, volunteers or users of the facilities. There was no need. If and when there is a need they will be involved. I do meet the above on a regular basis such as you and other group leaders, staff & young people. This may happen several times a week, I may call into the East today if I have time.

So basically it was a get together for the first time of interested parties and this included a chat about the wider youth service in Northumberland and beyond. Gerry is right no agenda and no minutes as they are not needed for a chat over a cuppa.

I will say again that I am 100% committed to the youth service in Prudhoe and want it to be the best in the County. If any decisions need to be made at NCC level they will be considered very carefully and consultation made in a structured way; if anyone thinks that the way the last administration conducted themselves will be copied by the current they are totally wrong. Hope this allays your fears.

All the best

Gordon Stewart

Cllr Gerry Price stated that as far as he was concerned that should have explained the situation.

Cllr Angie Scott responded that Prudhoe Town Council should be transparent and that there is a Code of Conduct for Cllrs and in her opinion if a Cllr attends a meeting on a matter that is live on the Council's agenda a report should come to a full council meeting, so everyone hears the same information.

Cllr George McCreedy commented that he did not attend the meeting as a Cllr, but as an individual because of his involvement in the Youth Service.

Cllr Yvonne Ritchie commented that if Cllr George McCreedy was invited as an involved individual, why Cllr Angie Scott could not have been extended the same courtesy since she has actively questioned the service and indicated that this is something she is passionate about.

Cllr Glenn Simpson stated that every member of Prudhoe Town Council has the Youth Service and the East Centre at heart and if there are going to be meetings they should be open meetings with open dialogue. Cllr Glenn Simpson observed that the County Cllr is new in post and may just want an informal chat but that he did not think it unreasonable for Cllr Angie Scott to raise this point.

Cllr Russ Greig stated that he did not feel anyone was blaming Cllr Gerry Price and the County Council can have meetings with or without the input of the Town Council, however, there has been

**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,**  
**held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

£20,000 of the Town Council budget allocated to Youth Service provision for a number of years and this should be borne in mind, as well as the fact the East falls within the West Wylam ward for which, he, Cllr Angie Scott and Cllr Jennifer McGee are ward Cllrs.

Cllr Gerry Price defended that there were no decisions taken, it was simply a general conversation and an opportunity for County Cllr Gordon Stewart to make the Youth Lead aware of the Youth Service in Prudhoe.

Cllr Yvonne Ritchie suggested that as a protocol elected representatives should be notified when things are happening in their wards, as happens elsewhere in politics.

Cllr Jennifer McGee asked if comments would be raised with County Cllr Gordon Stewart. Cllr Gerry Price stated that they would be recorded and County Cllr Gordon Stewart would be at liberty to read them.

Cllr Jennifer McGee asked if there was an update on the issues raised with Ashley Brown at the last meeting. The Administrator advised that there was nothing to date other than the information given in 'matters to report'.

It was discussed that as the unclaimed grant awarded to West Northumberland Youth Service was on the agenda, any actions should be agreed then.

*1718/064 County Cllrs Reports - Eastwood Park*

Cllr Gerry Price confirmed that Eastwood park opened but somewhat in a rush situation to enable the use of it by children and families during half-term.

Cllr Gerry Price also noted that feedback on the Feasibility for the East Centre would be presented on 6<sup>th</sup> December and all Cllrs were invited to attend, time TBC.

*1718/071 Local Transport Plan Programme 2018-19*

Cllr Chris Cuthbert questioned the inclusion of Eastgate Bank in the Local Transport Plan as the part of the road from the church upwards had recently been re-surfaced. County Cllr Anne Dale responded that it was unlikely that the scheme would be supported as others would likely be considered more of a priority, but that it was still good to ask. Cllr Chris Cuthbert commented that had this been known the Town Council could have supported another scheme.

The administrator reminded the meeting that the Town Council had agreed the 3 priorities to support and that these had been submitted as requested.

Cllr Chris Cuthbert asked if there was a timescale for the pedestrian crossing in Mickley. County Cllr Anne Dale was not able to provide any dates yet.

*1718/067 Northumberland Citizens Advice (NCAB)*

Cllr Yvonne Ritchie expressed that whilst in the library a member of the public had to disclose to the library that they were looking for CAB, they were then told that CAB was no longer in the building to which they replied they had an appointment. Cllr Yvonne Ritchie expressed that this was not satisfactory.

Cllr Gerry Price confirmed that the council were writing to someone senior for answers.



**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,**  
**held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

1718/068 *West Mickley Play Area*

Following a question from Cllr Chris Cuthbert the Administrator confirmed that the remedial work was complete and the contractors had promptly collected the cheque.

**1718/082 County Councillor Reports**  
***County Cllr Anne Dale gave the following reports:***

That it would be right to bring the concerns relating to the CAB service to County Cllrs but it is Central Government are cutting the funding.

County Cllr Anne Dale formally thanked Prudhoe Town Council for their hard work on the Eastwood Park project which had been going for 2 – 3 years now and had finally resulted in a better play area for the area.

With respect to speed signs and safety bollards at Mickley, County Cllr Anne Dale reported a 5-6 week lead time for speed signs and the present week or week after for safety bollards.

With respect to Youth Service provision, County Cllr Anne Dale commented that she was not invited to meet with Cllr Davey at the East Centre, nor any other County Cllrs in surrounding villages. Cllr Dale went on to state that the East Centre as a base should provide for surrounding villages and this would have been a good opportunity to discuss the fact that it isn't working in the outlying areas.

County Cllr Anne Dale commented that she was very impressed with Luke Shears presentation and the work carried out and that it would be advantageous if Northumberland Estates and the Arch Team came in to explain the planning application, as opposed to simply presenting a planning application.

Cllr Jennifer McGee agreed that as these are major developments in the town the parties involved should present more detailed information. Cllr Jennifer McGee added that a development company had been set up to take both developments forward made up of the two parties involved, she believed it was 'The Prudhoe Development Company'. Cllr Jennifer McGee stated that the Town Council should find out more about this.

County Cllr Anne Dale stated that it was usual for large-scale developments to be involved in a Pre-Planning Process and that the Town Council could request this.

Cllr Chris Cuthbert remarked that it was not the place of the County Cllr to advise the Town Council on Planning Matters, especially as a member of the Planning Committee. County Cllr Anne Dale stated that she was referring to process not a particular planning application.

***In their absence, the Administrator tabled the following live issues reported since the last meeting by County Cllrs Ken Stow and Gordon Stewart:***

- Street Lights – to ascertain whether there is still an opportunity for the Town Council to purchase additional lights and also the placement of 1 or 2 lights outside the side entrance to The Spetchells Centre.
- Police Parking in Co-op spaces when they move into the building.
- Parking of caravans on streets.
- Shrubbery on South Road that encroaches onto the pavement forcing pedestrians onto the road (at the entrance to Highfield Lane).
- Use of Moor Road by construction traffic during Cottier Grange development.
- Eastwood Park opening.

**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,**  
**held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

- Builders on Front Street – rubbish and parking issues.
- Stanley Crescent temporary pavement repairs.
- Sign advertising apartments removed on South Road.
- Moor Road lighting petition from residents.
- Traffic issues/Parking on West Wylam Drive, Bradley Road, Adderlane Road and Moor Road.
- Experimental Parking should be installed on Highfield Lane this week.
- Errington Place parking and traffic issues. There will be 20mph signs installed and the suggestion is that PTC writes to the church to remind users about parking, County Cllr Ken Stow will also and then they will look at installing double yellow lines around the junctions to enable enforcement to take place.

Cllr Jennifer McGee appreciated that the Administrator had pulled together the information to provide an update, but expressed there was not a lot of detail and it was the responsibility of the County Cllrs to provide this.

Cllr Jennifer McGee went on to say that although all members were aware of her feelings regarding the Eastwood Park opening, following an email response, she remained very annoyed. Cllr Jennifer McGee stated that she instigated the work to be carried out and she asked the Town Council for the £30k to be put into the budget. “Members have done a lot of work over the last 2 years to achieve the play area and I as well as others have attended meetings with County Officers, we moved this forward and Cllr Reid (at the time) put his money into it. Those officers at the time worked hard and pushed along with the Town Council for the new play equipment at the park. I am pleased the equipment is there and youngsters are being able to use it but what I want to say is that I was dismayed to find out 2 days before the opening that this opening would be held. As a partner in the scheme, there should have been a meeting to discuss an official opening. That does not mean the park can't be opened beforehand to the young people, but that an official opening would be later. To find out 2 days before there would be an official opening and that Town Councillors can come along if they want is poor. I would have loved to have been there to see the youngsters playing on the equipment but that was denied. Like with the Youth Service there seems to be a theme that the County Cllr thinks this Town Council is not involved.”

Cllr Glenn Simpson exclaimed that it should have been a celebratory event of partnership working and the end result achieved, considering that it would not have happened without pressure from the Town Council. Cllr Glenn Simpson went on to say that he was struggling to understand why it had to be organised at such short notice and the criticism was fair, he was all for cooperative working but this type of behaviour, he stated, creates a divide.

Cllr Tracy Gilmore commented that in view of both County Cllrs being new was it not more helpful to simply make clear how much the Town Council would appreciate being involved.

Cllr Angie Scott stated that the event was rushed and that she and Cllr Russ Greig went along after their litter picking session, however, she feels that an opening event should be arranged with regard to what the people of Prudhoe want, stating, it could have been on a Saturday so more people could attend. Cllr Angie Scott concluded that there was still much to do in Eastwood Park so potentially there could be a more celebratory event when the site is finished. Cllr Eileen Burt agreed.

Cllr Chris Cuthbert stated that the mantra of Northumberland County Council is that they want to work with Town Councils, but on this occasion, they have failed. Cllr Chris Cuthbert concluded that the Town Council were very hands-on at the outset but that this has tailed off.

**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,**  
**held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Cllr Jennifer McGee asked if the feelings of the Council could be made clear. Cllr Gerry Price concluded that it would be in the minutes of the meeting.

Cllr George McCreedy suggested that the Town Council should reinforce that it is important that our County Cllr's attend meetings in order to answer questions. Cllr George McCreedy stated that he had questions he wanted to ask of them.

Cllr Tracy Gilmore recommended that questions could be brought to the next meeting when hopefully County Cllr's would be in attendance as they had been at all others, or alternatively, they could be emailed/contacted directly.

### **1718/082 Annual Return**

a) **It was AGREED** to receive the 'Annual Return 2016/17' and 'Notice of Conclusion of External Audit' and to ensure these were displayed as required.

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee

Seconded: Cllr Glenn Simpson

Speaking with respect to the Annual Return 2016/17 being 'qualified' by the External Auditor, Cllr Eileen Burt expressed that she was very disappointed and that previously this had never been known until 2015/16.

Cllr Jennifer McGee said she would echo the comments of Cllr Eileen Burt.

The Administrator reminded Cllrs that the reason for the qualification was not with respect to the financial work carried out by her as Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) but in the failure of the Council as the smaller authority to appoint her as RFO in time to carry out the work and to allow elector's rights to be exercised.

Cllr Eileen Burt stated that it was not necessary to go into the reasons for the qualification. The Administrator explained that the minutes of the meeting would represent the Council's response and understanding of the qualification and what action would be taken to ensure this did not happen again, adding that on most occasions the external auditor asks for the minute that reflects the notice being received.

b) The Administrator, as RFO, presented 'Actions Recommended' but did not include the qualification as it was understood that the Council had accepted this could not happen again.

#### **The actions AGREED are:**

That the RFO will re-state the Asset Register figures in line with advice from the External Auditor. These were previously and incorrectly noted at the value of replacement.

That the Chair/Vice Chair will meet with the RFO to establish the missing information from the Asset Register and report back to the Council, prior to the Annual Return 2017/18 being submitted.

c) **Cllr Eileen Burt proposed** that as well as the recommendations presented by the RFO that a further action is recorded; that the RFO must alert the chair of the Council if there is anything that would prompt any qualification, i.e. elector's rights not being exercised, not appointing the RFO. **This was AGREED.**



**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,**  
**held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**1718/082 Accounts**

a) Monthly Bank Reconciliations

**It was AGREED** to receive statements from 10<sup>th</sup> September – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017b) Statement of Expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017**It was AGREED** to receive statement and half-year report from the RFO

Cllr Glenn Simpson agreed that the money set aside for the Flagpole should be progressed. Cllr Eileen Burt proposed that this should come to a meeting of the Planning, Contract and Works Committee to agree a location and seek costs. **This was AGREED.**

**It was AGREED** to defer moving any money from the Allotments budget until after the Allotment Liaison Meeting.

**It was AGREED** that a small group of Cllrs should meet with Ashley Brown to ask questions regarding the service and why sessions that are budgeted for have not happened. Cllr George McCreedy, Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Jennifer McGee, Cllr Russ Greig, Cllr Chris Cuthbert and Cllr Gerry Price were agreed.

**It was AGREED** to leave the surplus funds in the Lychgate Budget Heading as a contingency.

**It was AGREED** that the surplus in Town Council Development would remain and if not spent would be absorbed into balances at the year end.

Proposed: Cllr Eileen Burt

Seconded: Cllr Glenn Simpson

d) **It was AGREED** to endorse the accounts paid since the September meeting and to authorise the accounts to be paid which have been tabled

Proposed: Cllr Eileen Burt

Seconded: Cllr Glenn Simpson

**1718/083 Town Council Objectives and Financial Planning*****Items a) and b) on the agenda were considered as one item.***

**It was AGREED** that Cllrs Yvonne Ritchie, Glenn Simpson, Angie Scott, Russ Greig, Tracy Gilmore and Jennifer McGee would form a working group to look at short, medium and long term council objectives and how to measure achievement against these.

**It was AGREED** that the budget process would continue as usual; beginning in November with Cllrs priorities identified at the Ordinary Meeting, following which the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council and the Planning, Contract and Works Committee will meet to agree a draft budget to be presented to the January Budget Meeting.

**It was AGREED** that the working group set up to look at objective setting would also consider how financial planning and budget setting could be incorporated in the future.

Cllr Yvonne Ritchie put forward the case for an open public forum that would allow the public to put forward what they feel should be the objectives of Prudhoe Town Council.

Cllr Jennifer McGee commented that at this time of year the council should be concentrating on the budget process which usually begins at the November meeting of the Council, a public meeting. Cllr

**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,**  
**held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Jennifer McGee described that usually Cllrs put forward what they would like to be included in the budget and although she supported the principle of having more input from members of the public, it was late in the day to consider this for the 2018/19 budget, especially in view of the of the staffing issue. Cllr Jennifer McGee concluded that the Council has to get the Precept demand to Northumberland County Council in January and time was not on their side to consider a new budget process. Cllr Jennifer McGee described the process that followed the November meeting whereby the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council and the Planning, Contract and Works Committee get together to propose a draft budget that is brought to the December or January meeting. Cllr Jennifer McGee suggested that it would be advantageous to wait until the council was fully staffed before taking on a new financial planning process; that the exercise should be carried out properly with proper consultation for which there would be costs attached.

Cllr Yvonne Ritchie responded that it was not too late to start considering the council's objectives and it's accountability for them, other Council's like Kent and Rochdale were doing it and with severe cuts, it was even more important to help members of the public understand why budgets were set as they were and agree on the priorities.

Cllr Tracy Gilmore stated that these were important future objectives, the next 3, 5 and 10 years for which most organisations would plan for and with that came the budget considerations for those future plans.

Cllr Glenn Simpson commented that although he hated being an 'old hand' that the Council has discussed this before, looking at corporate plans and what other councils are doing. Cllr Glenn Simpson added that the Council used to have budget priorities and key priorities and work has been carried out previously.

Cllr Eileen Burt supported the comments made and emphasised that the Town Council has limited 'responsibilities', although 'spending powers' have been used to enhance the environment, hold events and take over the Christmas Lights, as well as other things. Cllr Eileen Burt suggested that Prudhoe Town Council should not be compared with Rochdale Borough Council or Kent County Council as these were Unitary Authorities.

Cllr Yvonne Ritchie responded that she was not comparing Prudhoe Town Council with them but that precedents had been set.

***It was AGREED to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to go on beyond 9:00 pm***

**1718/084 Proposal for a Partnership between Northumberland County Council (NCC) and Parish and Town Councils to improve the provision of up to date, accurate information regarding bus times at a local level**

**It was AGREED** to respond to NCC and to invite them to come along to the Town Council to talk about how this can be achieved.

Cllr Glenn Simpson commented that this had been broached previously and there was a logic to it but it was mainly about passing work on and there would be a cost implication to the Town Council if the work was taken.

**1718/085 Prudhoe Hospital Development**

a) **It was AGREED** to receive the update from Gentoo regarding the development of Cottier Grange, with reference to the use of Moor Road for construction traffic.

**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,**  
**held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Cllr Jennifer McGee outlined that South Road affects the whole of Prudhoe due to the number of schools on the route. Cllrs Jennifer McGee questioned what the setbacks were that have caused such major delays to Prudhoe Hospital Drive being reopened, adding that she was certain that Gentoo was correct, that the delays would not be welcomed by residents.

Cllr Jennifer McGee stressed the importance of a date for the reopening of Prudhoe Hospital Drive and the cessation of construction traffic using South Road/Moor Road, especially in view of the approaching winter road issues.

b) **It was AGREED** to write to Gentoo, copied to NCC Planning to request a guarantee that following the damage caused by construction traffic using Moor Road, the road will be fully repaired and reinstated as soon as access by construction traffic is no longer necessary.

Cllr Graham, Robinson stated that as a frequent user of the road he was aware of a lot of damage from Prudhoe Community High School continuing down South Road, adding that the bottom end of Moor Road is not fit for purpose. Cllr Graham Robinson asserted that traffic calming and lighting was necessary, noting that it was predominately staff from Ferndene speeding and that the Council should push Gentoo to install this. Additionally, Cllr Graham Robinson stated that public transport was required at this outlying side of Prudhoe. Finally, Cllr Graham Robinson noted that there were often coaches parked outside Prudhoe Community High School, adding to the traffic congestion, and it was ridiculous that there was not a coach drop off as part of the plans.

Cllr Jennifer McGee stated that conditions were put in place regarding the use of construction traffic during peak times and it was clear this was being ignored on occasion. Cllr Glenn Simpson stated that he believed these were not 'planning conditions'. The Administrator confirmed that there were timescales and a route proposed that Gentoo had voluntarily agreed to do their best to ensure adherence to.

Cllr George McCreedy stated that people are rightly sick of the situation now and it is likely to go on well into next year. Cllr George McCreedy stated that he believed that Gentoo simply wished to keep the entrance to Cottier Grange clear until they have sold some houses.

**1718/086 Castlefields Re-provision of Toddler Play Area**

**It was AGREED** to defer this item as no update was available.

**1718/087 Reports from outside bodies**

**It was AGREED** to defer discussion from outside bodies due to the time.

Cllr Gerry Price confirmed that a report of the Community Transport Meeting would be received in due course.

Cllrs were reminded of the Town Twinning Reception at the Spetchells Centre on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October from 5:30pm.

**1718/088 Correspondence and Publications**

One item of correspondence relating to the NCC Street Lighting scheme was copied for all Councillors; this was received but not discussed.

**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting,**  
**held in The Spetchells Centre at 7:00pm, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The following publications were available:

1. The Wylam Globe
2. Great North Air Ambulance
3. Public Path in Northumberland
4. Northumberland Archives
5. The Good Councillors Guide to Neighbourhood Planning

***It was AGREED 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:-***

**1718/089 DRAFT CONFIDENTIAL Minutes of Ordinary Meeting, held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**It was AGREED** to receive the minutes as a true record

Proposed: Cllr Eileen Burt

Seconded: Cllr Russ Greig

**1718/090 CONFIDENTIAL Minutes of the Human Resources Committee Meeting, held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**It was AGREED** to receive the minutes as a true record

Proposed: Cllr Eileen Burt

Seconded: Cllr Yvonne Ritchie

**1718/091 Recommendations of the Human Resources Committee Meeting, held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Cllr Eileen Burt confirmed that there was nothing to report that required endorsement.