

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 26th September 2018 in meeting room 1, The Spetchells Centre

PRESENT

Cllr Tracy Gilmore (Chair), Cllr Gerry Price, Cllr Chris Cuthbert, Cllr Andy Gill, Cllr Russ Greig, Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Bryan Futers, Cllr Ignasious Varghese, Cllr Glenn Simpson, Cllr Cassie Taylor, Cllr Brenda Grey, Cllr Duncan Couchman, Cllr Jennifer McGee, Cllr Holly Kelleher

1819/083 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Carol Stephenson, County Cllr Ken Stow, County Cllr Anne Dale

1819/084 Declarations of Interest None

Cllr Tracy Gilmore officially welcomed Sarah Eden as the new Clerk, following her appointment at the beginning of August.

1819/085 Presentation from Team K of National Citizen Service 'Tackling Anti Social behaviour'

The Town Council received information about 'The People's Fair' that was arranged by young people who took part in the National Citizen Service 4-week project and was based around anti-social behaviour.

County Cllr Gordon Stewart was asked to look into whether the information video on the lasting effect of anti-social behaviour on young people could be shared county-wide.

Members congratulated the young people in attendance and thanked them for their positive contribution.

1819/086 Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 25th July 2018

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

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee Seconded: Cllr Chris Cuthbert

1819/087 Matters Arising**1819/047 Road Ends Toilets**

New locks have been fitted and are in use.

1819/050 Prudhoe in Bloom

Cllr Chris Cuthbert thanked that clerk for her work and described that the event was very enjoyable.

1819/072 Prudhoe East Centre

The clerk advised that Anne Lawson (Town Regeneration) has advised that she could attend a meeting in October to discuss the Town Council's application for the community asset transfer of Prudhoe East Centre. Members of the Prudhoe East Advisory Committee were invited.

1819/076 Television Licence Scheme Refund

The clerk advised that she had taken a couple of phone calls in relation to the scheme having been suspended.

1819/080 Town Seats

The clerk advised that all the town seats were now fully refurbished. It was agreed that the work was carried out to a very high standard.

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1819/088 DRAFT Report of the Planning, Contract and Works (PCW) Committee (including Extraordinary Item), held on 12th September 2018

The report was received.

1819/089 County Cllr Reports

County Cllr Gordon Stewart highlighted the following:

- Speeding in West Wylam, Castlefields and Moor Road.
- Really good results from Prudhoe Community High School.
- Completed a walkabout in West Wylam with particular attention given to the shopping centre; the Oakland's Estate would be next.
- Prudhoe Co-op would be undergoing some refurbishment and improvements following customer feedback.
- A scheduled meeting with sports providers was not held but there is interest in new sports provision in the tow, including boxing.
- Moor Road lighting is in place.
- Prudhoe Riverside Café was signed over to new operators and would be opening with a café and visitor centre with funding from Land of Oak and Iron.
- The Bowls Pavilion in Eastwood Park will be leased for community use.
- Eastwood Park play area has suffered some vandalism, young people are congregating and the police have been asked to visit.

In response to a question about those unsuccessful in the bid for the Riverside Café, it was confirmed that logging into the online system where tenders were placed would have automatically made that known but whether a verbal response is given is not known.

In response to a question about the long-awaited 'Youth Service Review', County Cllr Gordon Stewart expressed his disappointment also and that as far as he was aware they hold-up was due to human resource matters.

In response to a question about the next meeting of the Community Alcohol Partnership, County Cllr Gordon Stewart advised that he was not aware that a meeting was scheduled.

In response to comments about the Council Tax Support Consultation, County Cllr Gordon Stewart agreed that the information presented on-line was not user-friendly and that he would request a simplified version. Additionally, although County Cllr Gordon Stewart encouraged engagement in the on-line survey, he acknowledged that not everyone is on-line and that he would seek other ways to give a response.

1819/090 Accounts

a) Monthly Bank Reconciliations

It was AGREED to receive the statements 10th July – 9th August 2018 and 10th August – 7th September 2018

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee Seconded: Cllr Glenn Simpson

b) Statement of Expenditure

It was AGREED to receive the statement 1st April 2018 – 19th September 2018

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee Seconded: Cllr Glenn Simpson

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In response to a question about balances showing in budget headings, the clerk advised that prior to the budget she would expect to present a more accurate forecast of balances available to off-set the budget for 2019/20 as all commitments to the end of the year would likely be made.

In response to questions of overspending, the clerk advised that money had already been moved from contingency to budget headings to cover additional spending at Highfield Park, due to wear and tear and at the Road Ends toilets on repairs and business rates; other movement was noted as it was made.

c) Accounts Payable

It was AGREED to endorse those accounts paid since the July meeting and authorise the accounts tabled

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee Seconded: Cllr Chris Cuthbert

In response to a question about the summer funding spending, the clerk advised that feedback was scheduled to be brought to the October Ordinary Meeting.

1819/091 By-Election – Castle & Eltringham Ward

The chair welcomed new councillor, Cassie Taylor, who was elected unopposed in the Castle and Eltringham seat.

1819/092 Prudhoe Community Partnership (PCP) - Chair, Mr George Hepburn in attendance

a) It was AGREED to receive the report of the joint meeting between Prudhoe Community Partnership and Prudhoe Town Council, held on 25th June 2018

b) Chair of PCP, Mr George Hepburn gave a report to the council of current PCP initiatives and invited the council to nominate a representative to sit on the PCP Board of Trustees.

c) Cllr Brenda Grey was nominated to take up the position of Town Council representative on the PCP Board of Trustees.

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee Seconded: Cllr Duncan Couchman

1819/093 Committee Structure

Following discussion of the need to streamline the council's committee structure and decision-making, **it was AGREED** to schedule a single-item Extraordinary Meeting to fully debate the matter.

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee Seconded: Cllr Andy Gill

1819/094 Priorities for Local Transport Plan

Following discussion **it was AGREED** to respond to the priorities for the Local Transport Plan with the following:

- 1) Pelican/Pedestrian Crossing on South Road due to the fact that there are four schools on this route and an increase in the traffic using Moor Road/South Road. During busy times there is never a safe time to cross which results in cars stopping to allow pedestrians to cross, not always reciprocated in the other direction.
- 2) Re-surfacing of Front Street as put forward last year.
- 3) Removal of the chicanes on Castlefields Drive as they force vehicles onto the other side of the road and into on-coming traffic, usually on corners. This would need to be done in conjunction with a safer and more effective speed reduction system; preferably enforceable 20mph signs or vehicle activated signage to slow traffic, and not speed humps.

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1819/095 Revised Speed Reduction Scheme

It was AGREED to support the revised speed reduction scheme on West Road which extended the advisory 20mph zone from the Prudhoe & Mickley Unionist Club (Tory Club) further east to Louise Hunter Dentists. Members discussed that the Town Council response to the original scheme was that it should be enforceable not advisory but were pleased that the scheme had been extended and hoped that an enforceable scheme could be considered in the future if this did not achieve a slowing in traffic.

Proposed: Cllr Glenn Simpson Seconded: Cllr Chris Cuthbert

1819/096 Local Democracy Week, 17th October at Ovingham Middle School, 1:30 – 3:00pm

It was AGREED that Cllr Jennifer McGee (commit stand in, Cllr Holly Kelleher) and Cllr Angie Scott (commit to stand in Cllr Chris Cuthbert) would be part of the panel.

1819/097 Report from Outside Bodies

Prudhoe Pathforce – The chair offered condolences on the death of Mavis Harris, who was a dedicated member of Prudhoe Pathforce for many years and very active in respect of rights of way until very recently. Cllr Jennifer McGee added that Mavis Harris was a very well respected person who looked after the environment and paths in Prudhoe.

Cllr Duncan Couchman advised that suggestions for the Kepwell would be forthcoming as soon as the results of the survey closed. **A report of the meeting held in July was received.**

East Tynedale Parish & Town Council Forum – Cllr Chris Cuthbert advised that Tom Martin was stepping down as chair. **A report of the July meeting was received.**

National Association of Local Councils (NALC) County Committee – Cllr Gerry Price advised that since the report of the meeting presented, another had been held which noted a 2% increase in subscriptions, representing a cost to Prudhoe Town Council of £1,544. **The report of the June meeting was received.**

*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 item**, in accordance with Section 68 of the Council's Standing Orders:-*

1819/098 Standing Orders

The item was discussed.