

HEDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th January 2014 at 7.30pm in the 'Feathers Inn'

118. **Present:** Councillors R J Penny, F A Speak, J S Douglas, DRM Rodgeron and Mrs D M Watkins
Mrs M Senior (Clerk)
119. **Apologies for Absence** – None.
120. **Declarations of Interest** – None
121. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 11th November 2013, having been circulated, were approved and signed as a true record,
122. **Matters Arising**
- a) **Memorial** – The memorial will be erected in due course.
 - b) **Water Leaks** – The water leaks were under control and the drains were now flowing although it was noted that water and effluent was still flowing down the road from the farm. Cllr Mrs F Speak to make enquiries.
 - c) **Tree survey** – Mrs D M Watkins to complete in due course although it was noted that any new trees would need to be planted by March.
 - d) **Public Footpath Diversion No 12** – It was noted that the problem had been resolved as the horses had been moved to a different area and were no longer accessing the gate. It was agreed to contact NCC to advise of the problem and to advise them that the original gate had been a kissing gate which restricted access to horses.
 - e) **Dog Fouling** – Problems were still being experienced with dog fouling from a particular resident. A further letter will be sent advising that residents have witnessed his dogs fouling the pavement and if this continues the Parish Council will have no option than to report it.
123. **Correspondence**
All correspondence had been listed on the agenda and was noted. All relevant items had been distributed to all councillors.
- a) **Public Footpath Diversion No 9** – It was noted that the public footpath diversion was now in place.
 - b) **Northumberland County Council – Working with Town and Parish Councils.**
NCC is committed to strengthening the relationship between the County Council and Town and Parish Councils. A Parish Liaison Working Group has been established and the outcome of these meetings is as follows:
 - The establishment of arrangements to strengthen communication and engagement between NCC and PC/TCs.
 - A review of the Local Council Charter.
 - An update on the Asset Transfer process..
 - c) **Hexham Courant – Tynedale Visitor 2014.** The Hexham Courant is offering Parish Councils the opportunity to publicise their area in the 2014 Tynedale Visitor. Any information needs to be submitted by 7 February 2014.
124. **County Councillor's Report**
Cllr Colin Horncastle gave an update on NCC matters.
Budget – NCC need to make savings of more than £130m between 2014-2018, of which £32.5m will come in the next financial year. Some of these savings have already been made by the loss of the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and one Corporate Director. Highways has obtained 2 jet patchers, 1 in the north and 1 in the west which will give a quick 3 year repair to potholes. They are currently catching up on the backlog of repairs. NCC now has a rotary ditcher however this is not yet operational. This will provide a great improvement when operational. Legally, NCC only have to clear the highway in times of flooding however they are clamping down on landowners who allow excess water to run from their land. Haltwhistle Town Council is inviting NCC officers to a meeting to discuss the budget proposals. Other Parish Councils are invited to attend.
Post 16 Transport – NCC is proposing to charge for post 16s transport which would mean a cost of £450 per year. This would have an impact on the rural areas. NCC is also looking to cut £800,000 in youth funding and removing the cap on adult care.
125. **Finance**
- a) **Invoices for Payment.**
Mrs A Senior – Salary up to 30/11/13 – £100.00
Mr R Snaith – Grass cutting - £650.00
Mrs A Senior – Salary up to 31/12/13 - £100.00
HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE - £75.00
 - b) **Bank Balance.** The bank balance of £6684.83 as at 2nd January 2014 was noted (Statement 25).

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126. **Planning Applications**
- a) **13/00518/FUL** – Land North West of Hedley North Farm – Proposed installation of Endurance wind turbine on 24 metre mast. It was noted that this application had been refused.
 - b) **14/0001/FUL** – the Old School House, Hedley – Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and construction of a single storey extension. It was agreed to send no objection to this application.
127. **Grass Cutting** – Mr R Snaith had carried out the grass cutting in the village and had done a very good job. It was agreed that the grass cutting contract needed to cover all aspects including cutting, strimming and edging. This will be discussed at the next meeting. The previous contractor had threatened to take the Parish Council to court over non-payment of invoices. It was agreed that Cllrs R J Penny and F A Speak would deal with any issues that arise.
It was noted that grass cuttings were being thrown over the wall onto the grass verge. Cllr R J Penny to speak to the resident involved. If the situation is not resolved by the next meeting a letter will be sent.
128. **Dry Stone Walling** – Cllr D R M Rogerson to pursue.
129. **State of the Roads**
- a) **Gliding Club** – It was noted that the junction to the gliding club appeared to have been repaired and the pot holes filled however further potholes had appeared. These will be reported to NCC.
 - b) **Logging** – It was noted that large logging wagons were travelling down the West Hill which would only add to the problems of this road. The West Hill already has signs advising it is unsuitable for use by HGVs. Concerns were expressed as the West Hill is used by horses and farm traffic. It was agreed to contact NCC requesting that the wagons could use the alternative route which was used by the quarry traffic.
 - c) **West Hill** – A sweep of the West Hill will be requested.
 - d) **Road Markings** – It was noted that there are still no white lines on the road to Prudhoe. There had already been one accident on this road. NCC will be contacted. NCC had cleared the gulleys on the road to Prudhoe using a metal detector to locate them and then dig them out.
130. **East Tynedale Parish Councils Forum** – A meeting of the forum was held on 8 January 2014 and the minutes will be circulated when available.
131. **Minerals Workings** –. Councillor Horncastle advised that the Hoodsclouse Application would be decided at a special meeting in February although this was to be confirmed. Mark Ketley is now the planning officer dealing with the application and he is preparing his report for the Planning Committee. NCC needs to ensure that if they recommend the application for refusal they can defend the decision appeal.
132. **Mickley Moor Farm** – Nil.
133. **Village Green** – Cllr D R M Rodgerson advised that several stiles were in poor condition. It was agreed for the Councillors to walk the public footpaths and prepare a footpath report. This will be carried out in February half term school holidays.
134. **Information Items**
All relevant items had been distributed to councillors by email.
- War Memorials Trust Bulletin – November 2013
 - Campaign to Protect Rural England – Countryside Voice
 - Northumberland County Council – Winter Services
 - Community Action Northumberland News – December 2013
135. **Broadband.** BT Openreach is to hold a public meeting in the village on 27 January 2014 to discuss the provision of broadband in the area and any improvements to be made. It was noted that broadband speed had increased recently. It was stressed that the need was for adequate broadband speed and not high speed. The residents will hold a preliminary meeting on 20 January 2014 to gauge the feeling of residents.
136. **Date and time of next meeting.** The next meeting is to be held on Monday 10th February 2014 at 7.30pm in The Feathers Inn.

Chairman _____

Date _____