

Rochester and Byrness Parish

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 31st January 2013 in Byrness Village Hall

1 Present: Councillors: J. Taylor (Chair), M. West (Vice Chair), P Scott, I. Scott, R. Hunter, S. Chapman, J. Jarvis, S. Moorhouse (clerk)
Members of the public: Lieutenant Colonel N. McGregor –Smith, Mr and Mrs Falcus, Mr and Mrs Thompson, Mr A Lane, Mr and Mrs (Richard and Sarah), Elaine Hunter

2 Apologies: Councillors D. Storey, John Riddle

3 Declaration of Interest:

3.2 Councillor I Scott in respect of Item 10: Grass Cutting at Byrness

4 Opportunity for the public to raise matters.

4.1 Lieutenant Colonel N. McGregor –Smith informed the meeting that he was still in post and gave a brief review of the effect of the camp in Redesdale regarding employment, noise and disturbance. He offered information and help when needed. He was thanked by Councillor West on behalf of the Parish Council and public present.

4.2 *Dog fouling and litter in Byrness.* The need for information regarding dog fouling and litter and the law **was discussed.**

4.3 *Speeding in Byrness.* Ways of reducing the speed of traffic through the village **was discussed.** Signs are already in the process of being purchased(item ?)

4.4 *Bottle Bank.* The need for the replacement of a bottle bank in Byrness **was discussed.**

4.5 *Grass cutting in Byrness.* The offer of help with grass cutting **was discussed.** Further discussion is to go ahead with volunteers and the Byrness Village Grass Cutting Committee and they will report back at the next Council meeting.

4.6 *Hanging baskets and garden competition.* Ways to improve the look of the village **were briefly discussed.**

5 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 29th November 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

6 Matters arising

6.1 *A request for Dark Sky information:* Councillor Taylor informed us that new lights will be installed in the villages after they have been tried and tested in Gateshead and Newcastle. Also the hope that the school site could be used as an observation site is unlikely. Instead there may be a viewpoint marker.

6.2 *Byrness garages* **It was agreed** to defer this item to a further meeting, pending consideration of tenants views and clarification of present tenancies.

6.3 *Employers and public liability Insurance.* **It has been confirmed** by Came and Co. that the P. C. is covered by employers and public liability insurance.

6.4 *PSMA and iNorthumberland:* We now have a spreadsheet containing addresses within the **Rochester** Parish which are not currently registered in the iNorthumberland database. **It was agreed** by councillors in both wards to encourage residents to register. It was agreed that Councillor Taylor would telephone John Cooper for an update on the situation regarding Broad Band in this parish..

7 Planning

7.1 *12/02669/REM, Border Forest Caravan Park to provide new buildings for leisure facilities:* It has been that confirmed Northumberland County Council decided to GRANTED permission.

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8 Correspondence

8.1 *Free car parking at Kielder for local residents.* An email has been received from Elisabeth Rowark, Director, Kielder Water and Forest Park Development Trust. Regarding free parking in Kielder for local people. Information has been put on the notice boards in Rochester and Byrness

8.2 *Northumberland local development Plan – preferred options discussion –Hexham 7th March* Councillors were informed of preferred options discussion in Hexham on 7th March.

8.3 *Tynedale Visitor 2013: deadline -Feb 15th* **It was agreed** that the clerk would advise the Hexham Courant to include the article with the updated dates for the Redefest

9 County Council Matters:

9.1 *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - review of public rights of way.* **It was confirmed** that the rights of way are correctly marked on the map. The clerk will inform the organization accordingly

9.2 *Area Committee West Meeting.* **It was agreed** that attendance was only necessary if it is of local concern.

9.3 *Neighbourhood Area Application – Tarsset and Greystead.* **It was agreed** that the council had no objection to make and no comments regarding the application. The clerk will reply accordingly.

10 Byrness Village Grass Cutting

10.1 See item 4.5

10.2 It was suggested that the Grass Cutting Committee send a letter of request to move cars off the road and onto the parking areas when heavy snowfall is imminent in order to allow the passage of the snow plough and gritter.

11 Highways Issues:

11.1 *30 sign /Jim Long:* **It was agreed** that the clerk should continue to pursue the request.

11.2 *Road markings for bus stop.* **It was agreed** that the clerk should continue to pursue the request particularly as the requirements of the Highways Dept (*it is likely that the works at this location would require installation of some additional hard standing at both bus stops; County Standard Bus Stop Poles with Bus Stop Clearway Plates and Bus Stop Clearway Road Markings.*) are not deemed necessary.

11.3 *Water run off/Barriers* **It was agreed** that the clerk should continue to pursue the request especially since the last meeting there has been another accident and the chevron warning sign on the northbound carriage way south of Horsley church has been damaged.

11.4 *Brigantium signage* **It was agreed** that the clerk should request the removal of the unnecessary signage.

12 Finance:

12.1 *Calculation of revised taxbase & Precept and request for dispensation.* The rates on band D, for the parish of Rochester and Byrness, have increased by £2.16. The clerk has received information regarding compensation for the Localisation of Council Tax Benefits informing her of the importance to discount the precept. The clerk telephoned Vicky Rugman-Jones (Accountancy assistant) to arrange the adjustment.

It is confirmed that the precept for Rochester Parish Council will be £5,000 as it was for the previous two years.

12.2 *Change of Bank details.* **It is confirmed** that the bank details regarding contact address and signatories has been brought up to date.

12.3 *Parish Clerk's expenses.* The clerks claim for expenses **was agreed**.

12.4 *Cheque to Byrness Village Hall.* The cheque for the hire of the hall was authorised and delivered to the appropriate person by the clerk.

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13 Information Items

The following item was received by councillors for information.

13.1 Northumberland Funding News

14 Any Other Business

14.1 Road signs for Rochester and Byrness. **It was agreed** for Councillor S. Chapman to purchase 4 crossing signs. 2 for the bus stop crossing in Rochester and 2 for the entrance of Byrness Village. Councillor Chapman is to purchase and arrange for the clerk to be invoiced.

14.2 Replacement of chevron warning sign. (see item 11.3)

14.3 New signage for Border Forest Park. A request to ascertain if planning has been approved which the clerk will pursue with the appropriate authorities.

14.4 Damage to grass kerbs in Byrness. **It was agreed** that the clerk should write a letter to Snaiths bus company asking for care to be taken when going through the village.

14.5 Right of way between houses in Rochester. It was reported that there was a broken wall on part of this and it was **It was agreed** that the clerk should ascertain to whom land belongs to and to whom is responsible for the broken wall.(Clerks Note: the Wall belongs to Carol Findler and I believe the wall has been made secure)

14.6 Felling of Trees on Toft Hill. **It has been confirmed** by telephone that the NNPA are in the process of ascertaining the extent of tree felling, including possible preservation order trees, before any enforcement can be made. The clerk will contact the NNPA again to get an update.

14.7 Complaint by member of the public against Councillor Dr West: It was reported to fellow councillors by Councillor Dr West in respect of a complaint by a Mr R Forster in 2010, that following NCC investigation, **she had not been found to have failed to comply with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.**

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 27th March 2013 in Rochester Village Hall