

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25th March 2014 in Rochester Village Hall

1 Present: Councillors: S.Chapman (Chair), C.Thompson, M. Kelly, E.Kellie, P. Scott, PC Heath, S.Moorhouse (Clerk), David Hunt of NCC Highways Dept, Cllr John Riddle, 3 members of the public.

2 Apologies: Councillor R. Caton, I. Scott (Vice Chair), D. Storey,

3 Declaration of Interest:Non

4 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2014 were agreed and signed by the Vice Chair.

5 Opportunity for members of the public to raise matters.

5.1 *A request from Mr Henderson, 31 South Greens to store his Hobby caravan at the side of his house.* The councillors felt it was not a suitable site and suggested that he contacted Border Forest Caravan Park regarding storage. **It was agreed** the clerk should write to Mr Henderson.

6 Matters arising:

6.1 *Repair of road from St Francis Church to the Raw.* **It was agreed** the clerk should write to James Lee (FC) to see if there had been a response from the other parties and to suggest that as contractors use the road it could be reinstated after the next clearing operation.

6.2 *Request for pruning of ash tree.* The Council's Tree and Woodland Officer has visited Byrness and at the present time is reluctant to place a TPO on any of the trees unless they appear to be in danger of removal

6.3 *Neighbourhood Watch* So far 13 People have signed up to join the scheme. **It was agreed** to distribute application forms to the Rochester Ward with added information regarding the Rural Crime Conference to be held at Hexham Mart on May 19 at 7pm. Cllr Emma Kellie **agreed** to include it in the Rede Valley News publication.

6.4 *Drainage problems of the east end of playing field Byrness.* Drainage pipes are ready to collect. Work will begin once the field has dried out a little.

6.5 *Bottle bank /Byrness/ screening hedge.* The Parish Councillors are going to look at the initial request for the bottle bank to see what was originally agreed. **It was felt** that enough of Adam Keen's time and patience had been spent on Byrness Bottle bank and that the end result might be that the service was withdrawn completely. **It was decided** that the planting of a hedge would probably encourage such issues as using the area as a toilet and also make theft from parked vehicles a possibility.

6.6 *Bottle bank /Rochester .* **It was decided** to postpone the request until item 6.5 was dealt with.

7 Planning:

7.1 *NNPA 13NP0080* Proposed conversion and change of use of redundant farm buildings into 7 no. residential units for holiday letting with car parking and landscaped areas and including retrospective application for creation of new drainage pond. Barns adjacent to Catcleugh Farm, Byrness, Otterburn, Northumberland, NE19 1TX. Granted Conditionally **Noted**

7.2 *NNPA 14NP0023* .56 ground mounted photovoltaic solar panels to generate electricity (1 array of 40 panels and one array of 16 panels) .Whitelee Farm, Byrness Village, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE19 1TJ
No Objection

Cllr J Riddle wished it to be noted that he had taken no part in the discussion of Item 7.2.

8 Highways David Hunt from the NCC Highways Dept. attended the meeting to clarify all points.

8.1 *LTP /Barrier on A68 near Horsley Church.* PC heath informed the Parish Council that there had been 5 accidents in the area since December. Mr Hunt **informed** the PC that there would be a full survey

made in due course.

8.2 *Traffic Sign in Rochester* There has been an unusual delay in resolving the matter due to long term illness. Mark Kane, street lighting officer is now aware of the situation.

8.3 Provision of kerb on Otterburn Green from the seat to the corner. Mr Hunt **requested** that a map or photos be sent to him in order to assess the problem. **The Clerk agreed** to do this.

8.4 *Lack of white lines on the A68 south of Carter Bar where resurfacing had been carried out.* Mr Hunt **assured** the PC that this is being actioned this week

8.5 *Wind damaged signs at Elishaw* The sign has been ordered however Cllr Kelly informed Mr Hunt that the position of the sign could cause motorist to over shoot the junction. Mr Hunt **agreed** to feed this information back to the road safety team. *Incorrect information signs for Redesdale Valley at the Otterburn Crossroads and Carter Bar.* Mr Hunt **agreed** to inform the relevant dept.

8.6 *County Councils highway drainage policy* .There was acknowledgement and thanks that there had been recent drainage work and verge side maintenance in the area however it was discussed that there should be vigilant maintenance in order to minimise further road damage. Cllr Thompson provided Mr Hunt with photos of poor drainage issues along the A68 during January 2014

8.7 *Bus stop markings in Rochester.* Mr Hunt **assured** the PC that the item was on the register of requests.

9 County Council Matters:Non

10 Communications

10.1 *Campaign to protect Rural England. NE newsletter.*

10.2 *Residents Festival information.*

11 Grass cutting/Village greens

11.1 *Byrness* . It was agreed that the Grass Cutting Committee books and balance sheets be handed to the clerk in time for the audit. It was agreed that the councillors should meet on 13th May at 7pm in Byrness Village Hall to discuss grass cutting in Byrness.

11.2 *Rochester.* No Issues.

12 Finance/accounts for payment

12.1 *VAT repayment* £278.89

12.2 *Npower grid way leave payment* £150

12.3 *Play park donation from Forest View* . Promised

12.4 *Hall hire Rochester (CH No.642)Byrness (CH No 643)*

12.5 *Parish Clerk's expenses(CH No £21.19)*

12.6 *Robson & Cowan - fence posts for signs (CH No 640)*

13 Any Other Business:

13.1 *Byrness Play Park/funding/NNPA.* Cllr Kellie **informed** the PC that the applications to NNPA and A4A for funding for the Play Park are underway. **It was agreed** that the clerk should find out if the area is a designated recreation area. Concern regarding dogs using the area was mooted and **it was suggested** that dog tie posts be erected.

13.2 *Speeding on Bremenium Way.* PC Heath informed the Parish Council that speed limit signs should be erected in order to make speeding restriction enforceable.

13.3 *The fence around the well in Rochester needs replacing*

13.4 *Safety of the roof on the roundhouse at Brigantium*

13.5 *Clerks resignation*

Date of Next Meeting which is the AGM

Tuesday May 20th 2014