

Minutes of the annual meeting of Dinnington Parish Council held on Wednesday 21 May 2025 at 6.30 pm.

Members Present: Cllrs D. Brown, R. Bulpitt, J. Douglass, P. Hitchenes, G. McKenna, S. Phelps, J. Porter, R. Thompson, J. Toward-Wright, M. Wood

Minute No.	Agenda Item	Action required
1.	Election of Chairman Resolved that Councillor M. Wood be elected Chairman for the ensuing year. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	Election of Vice Chairman Resolved that Councillor P. Hitchenes be elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.	
3.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllr Avaei (NCC).	
4.	Declarations of Interest The Chair reminded members to declare any interests as they arose.	
5.	Appointments to Outside Bodies (a) Village Hall Management Committee (up to 4) (JP, MW, GM, JD) (b) Airport Consultative Committee (1) (SP, GM sub) (c) Allotments (1) (MW) (d) NALC (1) (PH, SP sub) (e) Appointments Sub Committee (RT, MW, PH, JP)	
6.	Minutes of previous meeting RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 April 2025 be agreed as a true record.	
7.	Matters Arising Cllr Wood reported as follows: Quad bikes in Recreation Ground - the signs had been measured up and ordered Permissive footpath in the field from Gardners Houses entrance to connect with the wooded section - A further meeting had been arranged for 30 May to discuss the fence type and exact positioning. Bramble clearance between suds pond and Cochrane Terrace - the work had been carried out around the suds ponds, but they had had to spray the remaining straggly brambles trapped between the 2 fences with weedkiller, hopefully this would solve the issue.	

	<p>School parking issues – Cllr Wood's contact had resulted in a response from the school via email, with a copy of their latest newsletter, where they had appealed to parents to park sensibly.</p> <p>Planting arrangements for the corner planter - a yearly budget for the stone troughs and circular planter would be in the order of – watering & weeding 1.5 hrs per week £30 for summer months. June - Sept £480, more or less depending on rain. Winter bedding £150-£200 as perennials all die back more spaces to fill. Watering will be a lot less during winter. Members agreed this plan.</p> <p>Newcastle Airport 90th Anniversary Grant of £250 to PC – It was agreed to give this to the Dinnington Royal British Legion branch.</p> <p>Cllr Toward Wright had reported the conifer cuttings at Greencroft. They hadn't been picked up so she would chase this again.</p> <p>Improvements to Footpath down to Big Waters - Cllr Wood had spoken to Allison McLeod about the design details for the bridge, gate etc. The new kissing gate would be large enough for prams, wheelchairs, etc.</p> <p>Dead tree on the left coming into the village – he had contacted NCC tree manager, who confirmed the tree was dead and would be replaced later in the year.</p> <p>Cllr Douglass's report from a resident regarding a tree touching the roof of her house – he had contacted NCC tree manager, who had added the tree to the internal list to prune in the next couple of months.</p> <p>Old furniture piled up next to the flats adjacent to Poplar Avenue – Cllr Avaei had organised for it to be removed.</p> <p>Letter from a resident requesting a zebra crossing – he had visited the resident and emailed NCC Highways to see if anything could be done. NCC Highways had confirmed that a crossing was not necessary due to it not meeting minimum requirements. Email had been circulated to PC members.</p>	<p>Cllr Phelps</p> <p>Cllr Toward Wright</p>
8.	<p>Member Photographs</p> <p>Members agreed this was a good idea as there were a number of new councillors on the PC. Members would send pics to Cllr Hitchenes for uploading, should they wish to.</p>	
9.	<p>Updates</p> <p>Village Hall – use of the room had been provided free to the British Legion for the VE Day event. A package of work was being put together for the MI refurbishment. The Main Hall entrance was going to be cleaned up and the white lines at the road entrance would be refreshed.</p> <p>Newsletter – these had been delivered.</p> <p>Library - The email from the resident suggesting improvements to the library services had been forwarded to the Library Volunteers.</p>	

	<p>Development of field adjacent to the allotments known as the Pleasure Grounds to facilitate additional Allotments - NCC were progressing with preparing the tender drawings.</p> <p>Allotments - Nothing to report</p> <p>Website - Nothing to report</p> <p>Dinnington Surgery - awaiting update from Emma Foody.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan - the Referendum would be taking place tomorrow.</p>																
10.	<p>Village Projects A new village map - deferred until the GP surgery has been built and then a more detailed map sourced.</p> <p>Possible additional grass cuts - If the need arises</p> <p>Turn the area of the Old School Field remaining after construction of the Doctors into a small simple park - Although agreed in principle by NCC, this cannot proceed until the Doctors land purchase had been finalised</p> <p>Consider reducing the speed limit to 20mph on Main Road - NCC had confirmed the scheme had been scheduled in and should be completed by the end of June.</p> <p>Re-Decorating the changing rooms at the Rec Pavilion – A further joint meeting was being arranged by NCC to look around the pavilion again to finalise the refurbishment work requirements.</p> <p>Chicane Barriers at Sycamore Entrance to Rec - These were now substantially complete and the old barriers removed.</p> <p>Improvements to Footpath down to Big Waters - NCC were progressing with preparing the tender drawings.</p>																
11.	<p>Highways Repairs/Maintenance Cllr Toward Wright had no updates for the list but she had a Teams meeting arranged with Pamela Holmes for 5 June to discuss connecting the three sections of cycleways to other local routes.</p>																
12.	<p>Financial Matters The following payments were approved:-</p> <table><tr><td>K. Hadfield</td><td>Apr salary and newsletter postage costs</td><td>21.05.25</td><td>£241.50</td><td>BACS</td></tr><tr><td>L&S Printers</td><td>Printing</td><td>21.05.25</td><td>£455.00</td><td>BACS</td></tr><tr><td>L. Edwards</td><td>Internal audit fee</td><td>21.05.25</td><td>£100.00</td><td>BACS</td></tr></table>	K. Hadfield	Apr salary and newsletter postage costs	21.05.25	£241.50	BACS	L&S Printers	Printing	21.05.25	£455.00	BACS	L. Edwards	Internal audit fee	21.05.25	£100.00	BACS	
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12.1	Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024-25 Resolved that:- (i) The report of the internal auditor be noted. (ii) The Annual Governance Statement be approved. (iii) The draft annual accounts for 2024-25 be approved. (iv) The Accounting Statement and explanation of variances be approved. (v) The Certificate of Exemption be confirmed and approved.																					
13.	Members Items of Concern Cllr Toward Wright – there had been a number of complaints on Facebook recently about the amount of dog fouling. She had also received complaints about plans for the Half Marathon event coming up. A resident had again asked about a further litterbin at the end of Prestwick Carr Road. As NCC had made it clear on more than one occasion that no further litterbins would be provided, members agreed that no further requests would be made at this time. Cllr Brown – asked if there was any further news on the bus service to the Airport. Cllr Phelps advised that transport had been discussed at the last Airport meeting. The new Mayor and Head of Nexus were both pushing for better public transport so it was hoped there would be more funding. Members considered whether to lobby the Mayor on this issue and agreed it would be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Phelps would seek support for this at the next Airport meeting. Cllr Phelps – suggested that a request be made for a crash barrier on the Prestwick Carr Road. However, members did not feel this would be met with a positive response, given previous requests. He also reported road subsidence and cracking between Brunton Lane and Coach Lane. Cllr Toward Wright would report this. Cllr Porter – the fence posts needed replacing adjacent to the public footpath between Sycamore Ave and the Recreation ground. This had been reported to the City Council.	Cllr Toward Wright.																				
14.	Planning Applications (1) 2025/0599/01/DET Pch Dinnington Chemist and Post Office, Pch Dinnington Chemist and Post Office North View, Dinnington Proposal: Use of premises as Coffee Shop (Class E(b)) with alterations to front elevations to include relocation of entrance door and insert new windows – No comments. (2) 2025/0630/01/TPO: Bridleway 8 Dinnington, Newcastle Upon Tyne																					

	<p>Proposal: T.P.O. Application – No comments</p> <p>(3) 2025/0645/01/HOU 16 Clinton Place, Brunton Park, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE3 5NX Proposal: Erection of single storey wrap around extension to side/rear, porch to front and pitch roof to existing side extension – not in the Parish area.</p> <p>(4) 2025/0670/01/HOU Marsfen Horton Grange Road, Dinnington, Newcastle Upon Tyne Proposal: Erection of a two storey extension and single Pech extension to rear -No comments.</p>	
15.	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response from Dinnington First School re parking • Email from resident re availability of Speedwatch training • Response from Emma Foody MP re GP services in Dinnington. It was agreed that a copy of the PC's newsletter would be sent to her and to the Mayor, Kim McGuinness. 	Clerk
16.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 18 June 2025 at 6.30pm. Agenda items –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus service to Kingston Park <p>Members confirmed that Parish Council meetings would take place on the third Wednesday of the month, apart from August when no meetings take place.</p>	

CHAIR.....

DATE.....