Minutes of a meeting of Dinnington Parish Council held on Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 7.00 pm in Dinnington Memorial Institute

Members Present: Cllrs R. Thompson (Chairman in the Chair), A. Dellow, P. Hitchens, S. Hood, K. Oliver, S. Phelps, J. Porter, M. Wood.

In Attendance: Cllr I. Graham (Newcastle City Council)

One member of the public was present.

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<tr>
<th>Minute No.</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Action required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75.</td>
<td><strong>Apologies for Absence</strong></td>
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<td>Apologies were received from Cllr Lower (NCC).</td>
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<td>76.</td>
<td><strong>Declarations of Interest</strong></td>
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<td>Members were reminded of the need to declare interests at relevant items.</td>
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<td>77.</td>
<td><strong>Newcastle City Council</strong></td>
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<td>Steve Charlton from Newcastle City Council was present at the meeting.</td>
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<td>The main concerns of the Parish Council were set out as follows:-</td>
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<td>• Grass cutting generally was an issue. Members understood that the team had to work within existing budget constraints but asked if the schedule could begin earlier and start later. The first cut had been done in May of this year when the grass was already long which meant the gullies became blocked.</td>
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<td>• Grass was often left lying on the path because the sweeper came round before the cutting was done. Co-ordination between services needed to be improved and better integrated.</td>
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<td>• There was no strimming being done around road signs and trees which left an unsightly finish.</td>
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<td>• Grass was not being cut along the road edges (particularly from the village towards Horton Grange) which was dangerous as road safety signs were being obscured. Particular mention was made of the length of footpath from North Mason Lodge to the Old Vicarage on Horton Grange Road, which was badly overgrown with weeds.</td>
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<td>• Leaves were not being swept up around the village, particularly on footpaths.</td>
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<td>• There were hedges overhanging footpaths or projecting onto them because they were not being cut, particularly in front of the Keepmoat development and at the end of the footpath towards the White Swan.</td>
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<td>• Mrs Jean Paisley present at the meeting raised the issue of a broken tree branch at the top of Milford Way on Dinnington Green which was dangerous. She also asked why the grasscutters often left a job part way through mid afternoon, then returned the next day to finish it.</td>
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<td>• The location of new larger litter bins throughout the village and the removal of previous ones from important and necessary locations was of</td>
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major concern. This was resulting in a much greater volume of litter and new bins were not being located in the best places. Litter generally, was not being swept up/picked up around the village on a regular basis.

- Dog fouling around the village, but at the recreation field in particular, was on the increase and had become much more of a problem since the litter bins had been removed. Signs and enforcement were needed to help with the problem at the recreation field. Enclosing the football field and small play area to prevent dog access would be the favoured solution.
- Grass cutting of Old School field (adjacent the Doctors surgery), was not being done and should be put back on the schedule for cutting.

In response to some of these points, Mr Charlton commented that:

- It was sometimes difficult to co-ordinate services because of constraints within the operating systems.
- There was not the facility on grass cutting machines to carry strimming equipment.
- Dinnington was on the last part of the grass cutting route, but he would investigate whether it was possible to start the route at Dinnington instead.
- He would raise potential safety issues with the street cleaning team.
- Two new tree inspectors were to be recruited and there was a three hour response time for dangerous tree calls from the public.
- Grasscutting teams had to return to Newburn by the time their shift finished which could explain leaving mid afternoon.
- The team could collect cuttings from round trees and flower beds done by volunteers if they contacted for pick up.

The Parish Council asked that these issues be raised with e service head, Christine Herriott, and that a written response be provided to the Chair or Clerk.

Councillors thanked Mr Charlton for attending.

78. Newcastle Independent Tenants Voice

Gail Forbes from Independent Tenants Voice was present at the meeting. Her aim was to raise awareness of her organisation with local YHN tenants in the area as this had not been successful in the past. A recent leafleting exercise had not resulted in a single contact.

Members suggested:

- a flyer in the forthcoming parish newsletter
- leaflets in the library and other places where coffee mornings took place
- information/leaflets in the local social club

Members asked that the content of any information be shared with them first.

79. Police Issues

There were no Police representatives present but a brief written report had been shared with members. There had been two reported crimes for Dinnington Parish in the last month.

Over the last month there had been 23 reported incidents. Mainly vermin shoots, bat surveys, a couple of neighbour disputes and a verbal only domestic.

Information had been received from residents in East Acres regarding suspicious vehicles in the street on consecutive days. In response to increasing youth ASB
in and around the village, patrols had been directed to cover the area when resources were free.

**80. Consultations**

(a) **Council Tax Reduction Scheme**  
*Agreed* that the consultation be noted.

(b) **Draft Development and Allocations Plan Public Consultation**  
Cllr Wood informed members that there was nothing in the Draft Plan to particularly affect Dinnington.  
*Agreed* that the consultation be noted.

**81. Minutes of previous meeting**  
**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 September be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.  
K. Hadfield

**82. Matters Arising**  
Cllr Graham advised that Cllr Lower would respond to her actions from last meeting by email.  
Cllr Lower

**83. Members' Items of Concern**

| 83.1 | Cllr Hood - grass was growing out of the roadsides along the Kingston Park road and blocking the gullies and drains. | Cllr Lower |
| 83.2 | Cllr Dellow – a front door was lying by the side of the road near to Brown Brothers. | Cllr Lower |
| 83.3 | Cllr Phelps – the public footpath at Moory Spot farm was impassable. | Cllr Graham |
| 83.4 | Cllr Hitchenes – the old school building windows were broken and the building did not appear to be secure. A progress report was needed from the City Council on the building’s future. | K. Hadfield |
| 83.5 | Cllr Thompson –  
  - the location map in the village needed attention. Members agreed that, in the first instance, it should be cleaned and the issue considered again next month.  
  - The no parking signs issue outside the village and memorial halls remained outstanding. It was *agreed* that advice was needed from NCC before any action was taken. | Cllr Wood  
  K. Hadfield |

**84. Correspondence**  
The Clerk read a letter of resignation from Cllr Tom Laidler. It was *agreed* that a letter of appreciation be sent to Tom for his service and commitment to the work of the Parish Council. Members were reminded about the planning training to be held on 4 December 2017.  
K. Hadfield

**85. Planning Applications**  
**2017/1478/01/DET** Dinnington First School and land to the south of 42 Cochrane Terrace, Dinnington, NE13 7JY  
Cllr Hitchenes updated members – the school had recently found out that work
would not commence until February 2018 due to funding arrangements. An update would be provided at the governing body meeting on 20 November and he would update the PC after that.

Members discussed a number of concerns regarding the application, and agreed that the following comments be made as the PC’s response:

86. **Neighbourhood Plan**
Cllr Wood reported that the Group had delayed holding a further consultation event and issuing the updated questionnaire until Newcastle City Council published their draft “Development and Allocations Plan” document, whose publication was also delayed by the general election. This document had now been released for consultation, but would not appear to further affect Dinnington, so the Group would be proceeding with the updated questionnaire and event in the near future.

87. **Updates**

**87.1 Keepmoat Homes** – Cllr Wood reported that a total of 54 plots were either sold, reserved or exchanged.

The new access at the south west corner of the site should become operational within the next couple of weeks. Appropriate new signage would be provided.

Construction of the SUDS system at the eastern end of the site was well underway. The basins had been formed and the headwalls installed.

Footpath link to school: The link was substantially complete. All that was outstanding was making good the levels between the existing track and the new footpath. Keepmoat intended to feather in stone either side of the new footpath to overcome the current difference in levels, by the end of the week.

Dropping off layby along northern boundary: this had been completed

The new off-site inspection MH chamber had been completed, the fencing, mortar buckets and old mortar removed and the area tidied up.

**87.2 Persimmon Homes** – Cllr Wood reported that a large advertising sign had been erected, but they were still finalising land deals and were not quite ready to start on site yet.

**87.3 Bellway Development** – Cllr Wood reported that 23 houses had now been roofed and 25 houses sold.

Bellway were getting rid of excess soil from the site this week and had a road sweeper on full time whilst this was being carried out.

Cutting the hedge and replacement of public seat from footpath outside the site - the site manager had been requested by his Head Office for the PC to put in a formal letter for the attention of Martin Nichols to progress these items.

Mitford Way inspection - this was still delayed. Energetics (Bellway’s Electricity supply subcontractor) had appointed a new site manager and coupled with the fact that Derek Robinson had been moved at NCC, they had not set a date for the
walk around on Mitford Way. They were to come back to Cllr Wood when a firm date had been arranged.

87.4 Village Hall
Cllr Porter reported that works were just about complete in the WI room and the blinds would be fitted on Monday.

87.5 Newsletter
Cllr Wood reported that the newsletter was almost complete. Printing would be delayed to ensure the information within it was as up to date as possible.

87.6 Library
No issues to report.

87.7 Northumbria in Bloom/Adopt a Planter
A certificate presentation / thank you evening had been held for the volunteers in the MI on Monday night and plans for taking things forward and hopefully improving next year had been discussed.

87.8 Allotments
Nothing to report.

87.9 Website
This was up to date.

87.10 Dinnington Surgery
Cllr Wood advised that Andre Yeung had a questionnaire to circulate about pharmacy services which would feed into a national survey. This would be shared with members.

88. Reports
The Chairman reported back on a recent NALC meeting. There would be a 2% increase in subscriptions.

89. Financial Matters
89.1 Members approved and authorised the signing of cheques in payment of invoices received and presented at the meeting:-

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>K. Hadfield Clerk’s salary September 2017</td>
<td>191.50</td>
<td>101056</td>
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<tr>
<td>T.P.Jones &amp; Co Payroll provider services Jul-Sept 2017</td>
<td>57.60</td>
<td>101057</td>
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<tr>
<td>BDO External audit fee for year ended 31 March 2017</td>
<td>120.00</td>
<td>101058</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northumberland CC Printing Charges April –July 2017</td>
<td>10.68</td>
<td>101059</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinnington Village Social Club Buffet</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>101060</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. Hagan - Plants</td>
<td>25.98</td>
<td>101061</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Graham – Plants</td>
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89.2 Conclusion of Audit
The Clerk reported the successful conclusion of the 2016-17 audit ended 31 March 2017. The relevant documents had been shared with members and had been published on the Council’s website. **Agreed** that the 2016-17 accounts be formally adopted.

90. Items for next agenda
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| 91. | **Date of Next Meeting**  
Wednesday 15 November 2017 at 7.00 pm. |
| 92. | **Conclusion of Meeting**  
The meeting closed at 9.00 pm |

**CHAIR........................................................................**

**DATE........................................................................**