

Minutes of a meeting of Dinnington Parish Council held on Wednesday 18 October 2023 at 6.30 pm.

**Members Present:** Cllrs P. Hitchenes, G. McKenna, S. Phelps, J. Porter, R. Thompson, J. Toward Wright, M. Wood

Cllr A. Avaei and T. Campion (Newcastle City Council)

Minute No.	Agenda Item	Action required
72.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were received from City Cllr Laverick.	
73.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> The Chair reminded members to declare any interests as they arose.	
74.	<b>Police Report</b> No Police report had been received.	
75.	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> Regarding Minute No. 65, Cllr Toward Wright pointed out that Cllr Thompson's issues had been about pothole and flooding on the Horton Grange Road and resurfacing on Prestwick Road. <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 September 2023 be agreed as a true record, subject to this amendment.	
76.	<b>Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Avaei advised that the school did have an overall maintenance plan for the trees (Minute No. 57). It was noted that a response had been made by the school to the resident following the last meeting.</li> <li>• Cllr Hitchenes reported that the tidy up of the circular flower bed would cost £45, which was acceptable.</li> <li>• Allotments hedge - Allison had emailed Planning Enforcement and had chased and passed on the details.</li> <li>• No further details about the planned bus shelter.</li> <li>• The East Acres hedges had been reported.</li> <li>• Cllr Wood had repaired the hinge on the noticeboard so the door was now operational again. However, he proposed that members consider getting a new noticeboard, which could be paid for from CIL funding. Cllr Campion reported that the City Council were about to embark on a survey of noticeboards across the City area. He could find out when this might take place as there could be some funding available for it. Members were supportive of replacing the noticeboard.</li> <li>• Cabling works – Cllr Wood had contacted the area manager from Avonline. He had sent someone round and jetted the tarmac, which had improved things, however an application of</li> </ul>	Cllr Campion

	brick acid may now be required to remove the rest of the stains. Avonline were pursuing this.	
77.	<p><b>Christmas Trees and Lights Competition</b> The trees and lights would be erected on 16 December 2023 by Cllrs Wood and Hitchenes.</p>	
78.	<p><b>Village Projects</b></p> <p><b>Tree replacement and maintenance programme</b> – the updated plan was brought to the meeting by Cllr McKenna and members agreed the location of the additional trees to be planted in the village for forwarding to NCC by the end of Oct.</p> <p><b>A new village map</b> - Deferred until the GP surgery has been built and then a more detailed map sourced.</p> <p><b>Possible additional grass cuts</b> - If the need arises.</p> <p><b>Turn the area of the Old School Field remaining after construction of the Doctors into a small simple park</b> - Although agreed in principle by NCC, this could not proceed until the Doctors land purchase and site requirements had been finalised.</p> <p><b>Consider reducing the speed limit to 20mph on Main Road</b> - The Consultation pack had just been emailed to the Clerk and forwarded to members before the meeting. It would also be posted around the village by NCC. Comments were requested by 10 November and it was <b>agreed</b> that members would submit their comments to the Clerk for formal submission. Members could also comment direct as an individual.</p> <p><b>Money towards New play park equipment in recreation ground</b> - As expected there was a delay to the delivery of the equipment, however the Play equipment was being installed this week, with the soft pour rubber safety surfacing to follow w/c 23rd Oct with view to completion ready for half term, weather permitting.</p> <p><b>Improvements to Footpath down to Big Waters</b> - Following NCC's issuing their report with a survey, proposals and costings, Allison was organising a review and workshop for stakeholders to agree the package of works. It would be held in the MI room.</p> <p><b>Electronic Traffic Speed signs in the Village</b> - The one facing the centre of the village had a fault on commissioning, so it had been temporarily left switched on as an illuminated 20 mph sign, until a replacement radar unit had been sourced and installed. The replacement radar unit was arriving into NCC depot hopefully that day. It should be changed by NCC before the end of the month.</p>	
79.	<p><b>Updates</b></p> <p><b>Village Hall</b> – Cllr Porter had met with Alan Proudlock to discuss materials for the centenary event. There were sufficient items for a display. Both Halls would be open all day and she asked that all members attend the event at some point. The £50 damage deposit for bookings had been abolished and the radiators in the WI room would be replaced soon.</p>	

<p><b>Newsletter</b> – various ideas for content were identified for the Xmas edition, including feedback on recent celebration events and acknowledgement of the good work being done by local people on litter picking etc. Christmas lights competition would be judged w/c 18 December.</p> <p><b>Library</b> - Their Tenth Anniversary celebration evening was very successful and well attended.</p> <p><b>Development of field adjacent to the allotments known as the Pleasure Grounds to facilitate additional Allotments</b> - the Planning application had been submitted and a decision was expected after 7 Nov 23</p> <p><b>Allotments</b> – Cllr Wood reported that the Allotments Association held their AGM on 9 Oct. There were currently no vacant plots and they had 47 on the waiting list, around 20 from Dinnington Village residents.</p> <p>They were going to carry out twice yearly inspections of the plots now to make sure they were being well maintained and would take action against any that were not. There were currently 30 people on site. They had agreed to cut the hedges again this year, same split as normal.</p> <p>They now had more active participation with their committee. The main officers remained as Steven Henderson - Chairman, Ben Santer - Secretary and Colin Phelps - Treasurer. A new member, Helen Brunston, was being trained up to take over the Treasurer role in due course and one or two others were helping with collecting the rents.</p> <p>Membership fees were agreed at £70 for full plot, £40 per half plot, with a surcharge of £3 per extra member to cover insurance. It was noted that NCC charged £120 rent for an allotment</p> <p>The accounts showed that they had made a loss of £567 on the year. However, this was due to the inclusion of 3 PC rent payments in the figures, instead of the usual 2. This was due to timing. The PC rent was approx £600 / year, and due to it being index linked to the RPI, the rent had increased by about 18% in the last 2 years. Their balance at 30 Sept 23 was £452.</p> <p>Members <b>agreed</b> that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the PC write to the Association to welcome their stricter approach to maintenance of the plots;</li> <li>(b) the PC provide financial support to improve the state of the access road which could be done as part of the planning application when the new road was put in; and</li> <li>(c) there be no rent increase for the additional plots.</li> </ul> <p><b>Website</b> - Nothing to report</p> <p><b>Dinnington Surgery</b> - Argon Health and NCC discussions were progressing well on the Pre App. The new site area had been almost resolved with only the position of the site access road to be finalised; this was now back at the north end of the site. NCC had requested a Road Safety Audit be carried out and it was hoped that Argon Health would</p>	<p>Cllr Wood</p>
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	<p>produce this in the next month, which would allow the site area to be finalised. This would then allow the PC to revise the NP and get it moving again with NCC.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b> - As Argon Health required a slightly bigger plot to accommodate their building now that a detailed discussion was being held with NCC as part of their Pre App, the NP would have to be revised slightly to allow for this. The plan was temporarily on hold.</p>																										
<b>80.</b>	<p><b>Financial Matters</b> The following payments were approved:-</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>NCC</td> <td>Temporary TRO for 20 mph Speed restriction</td> <td>09.10.23</td> <td>£2,500.00</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K. Hadfield</td> <td>Sept Salary</td> <td>18.10.23</td> <td>£191.58</td> <td>200271</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TP Jones</td> <td>Payroll</td> <td>18.10.23</td> <td>£63.40</td> <td>200272</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mazars</td> <td>Audit Fees</td> <td>18.10.23</td> <td>£378.00</td> <td>200273</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J. Paisley</td> <td>Plants</td> <td>18.10.23</td> <td>£12.00</td> <td>200274</td> </tr> </table>	NCC	Temporary TRO for 20 mph Speed restriction	09.10.23	£2,500.00	BACS	K. Hadfield	Sept Salary	18.10.23	£191.58	200271	TP Jones	Payroll	18.10.23	£63.40	200272	Mazars	Audit Fees	18.10.23	£378.00	200273	J. Paisley	Plants	18.10.23	£12.00	200274	
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<b>80.1</b>	<p><b>Conclusion of Audit 2022-23</b> <b>Resolved</b> that the Conclusion of Audit documents as received from Mazars, namely Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance &amp; Accountability Return, be endorsed.</p>																										
<b>81.</b>	<p><b>Members Items of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cllr Porter reported that things were going well at the new pharmacy. She had been contacted by a resident of West Acres regarding a cherry tree at his gate. The City Cllrs would pursue this to establish the latest position and get back to the resident.</li> <li>▪ She also commented about the general poor state of the village, the footpaths in particular were very uneven. Cllr Toward Wright would raise with her contact at the City Council because of the amount of cabling work done recently.</li> <li>▪ Cllr Toward Wright updated as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 30 MPH sign at the vicarage obscured by hedges NCC reported that the 30mph sign was awaiting vegetation cut back.</li> <li>○ Date for Chicane Signs to be replaced: NCC advised Chicane signs had been ordered but no date as yet. She would chase it up.</li> <li>○ Faulty kerbs which had been reported online in the tree's estate. Orders were in place but outstanding for the kerbs. She would reissue and chase up.</li> <li>○ Sinkhole on/near Sheraton (query over responsibility). NCC: advised it was not NCC Highways responsibility as the site had not been adopted, therefore the responsibility of the developer.</li> <li>○ When she had the exact location she would go back to them.</li> <li>○ - resurfacing the road to Prestwick. NCC: Due to commence 18th October.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Cllrs Avaei/Campion</p>																									

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ -Resurfacing with the estate containing Horton/Havannah/Brenkley after a mixture of poor quality and "out of scope" maintenance. An update on this was pending.</li> <li>○ 62712916 pothole near Dinnington social club. Response from NCC was that a patch to repair the pothole outside the Social club was ordered on the 11th. They had confirmed nothing had come through to them regarding the East/West Acres complaint.</li> <li>▪ Cllr Thompson asked when the resurfacing of the road from Front Street to Prestwick would be complete. Cllr Campion would follow this up. He also raised the hedges at the corner at Fenwick Cottage which needed cutting. Cllr Hitchenes would raise this with the owners. He also asked when a road sweeper would come through the village again as it had not been done for ages. Cllr Campion would raise this.</li> <li>▪ Cllr Hitchenes commented on the poor grass reseeding following the cabling works.</li> <li>▪ Cllr Wood had received a request from a resident that a photograph be taken of a parish council meeting. This would be done next time.</li> <li>▪ Cllr Thompson would make a visit to Archives with signed minutes, which would be brought to the next meeting.</li> <li>▪ Cllr Phelps asked if the PC would support a remembrance wreath for Sheraton Park. This was <b>agreed</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Campion</p> <p>Cllr Hitchenes</p> <p>Cllr Campion</p> <p>Cllr Thompson/Clerk</p>
82.	<p><b>Newcastle City Councillors' Items</b></p> <p>Members would send in a report via email.</p>	
83.	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p><b>(1) 2023/1540/01/HOU</b> Site Location: Curlew Cottage Prestwick Carr Road, Dinnington, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 7AD Proposal: Erection of a single storey extension to side - <b>No comments</b></p>	
84.	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <p>Cllr Phelps reported back on a recent airport committee meeting. The airport had recently won "Airport of the Year" in the under 5 million passenger category at the World Routes Conference 2023. Newcastle had been the only UK airport to be nominated.</p>	
85.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>An email had been received from Sustrans regarding a route assessment for a stretch of the National Cycle Network Route 10, between Ponteland and Dinnington. The project had been completed and a copy provided to the PC. The main aim of this project was to design an improvement to a 1.5km section of NCN10 between Ponteland and Dinnington, from the road junction adjacent to Prestwick Mill Farm and Stables. The report was noted for the time being.</p>	
86.	<p><b>Items for November Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas newsletter</li> <li>• Christmas Trees and Lights Competition</li> <li>• Ponteland Surgery</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p>

87.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 6.30 pm	
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**CHAIR**.....

**DATE**.....

The meeting finished at 8.20 pm.