

Minutes of a meeting of Dinnington Parish Council held on Wednesday 21 June 2023 at 6.30 pm.

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

Cllrs A. Avaei and H. Laverick (Newcastle City Council)

Ten members of the public were present

Minute No.	Agenda Item	Action required
19.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Porter and City Cllr Campion.</p>	
20.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b> The Chair reminded members to declare any interests as they arose. Cllr Phelps declared an interest in Minute No. 22 (Request for PC Support from RBL).</p>	
21.	<p><b>Police Report</b> A report had been received by email which had been circulated.</p>	
22.	<p><b>Public Forum</b> A member of the public spoke for the Royal British Legion Dinnington and Ponteland Branch and sought support from the PC in fundraising. It was noted that the organisation would need to apply to the City Council for the appropriate licenses for any fundraising events and all information could be got from them. There could also be funding available from the Castle Ward budget if the organisation had a constitution. Members agreed to provide moral support for the organisation.</p> <p>A member of the public complained about the lack of grass cutting on the football field and the village generally. The football field would be taken up with NCC by Cllr Wood, regarding the other areas, NCC had been lobbied on a number of occasions about this but the grass cutting policy was their decision. Budgetary issues meant they did 8 cuts a year and that was the policy. The point was made that when the grass was cut, things were left very messy. It was <b>agreed</b> that NCC be contacted to make this point.</p> <p>A member of the public asked about the overgrown hedge on the Horton Grange road footpath. The path was becoming smaller and forcing pedestrians out into the road. It was reported that there had been a change in tenant recently and the matter had been raised with the land agent. This would be taken up by the City Councillors as some strimming along the bottom might be possible and the resident was encouraged to maintain the pressure on the City Council.</p> <p>A member of the public raised issues she was having with the Police. This was not a matter over which the Parish Council or City Council had any jurisdiction and the resident was encouraged to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner and to maintain communication with her MP.</p>	<p>Cllr Wood</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllrs Laverick/Avaei</p>

23.	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>  <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 May 2023 be agreed as a true record, subject to the inclusion of Cllr Thompson as a substitute member for the Allotments Committee.</p>	
24.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bin at East Acres had now been provided.</li> <li>• Nick Howell was the new footpaths officer at NCC.</li> <li>• The grass in the old school field needed cutting badly. This would be picked up by the City Cllrs.</li> <li>• Cllr Phelps had identified how to request a new postbox and would pass this on to the resident.</li> <li>• Airport Committee – only the minutes which were published to the website could be shared.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllrs Laverick/Avaei</p> <p>Cllr Phelps</p>
25.	<p><b>Planters/Village Maintenance</b>  The Chair reported that the stone planters had been tidied up and replanted by Les Bass. Peter Bass would water them. There had been no progress on the circular bed on the village green. This could either be grassed over or someone would have to be paid to maintain it. It was <b>agreed</b> that Cllr Thompson would obtain a price for maintaining this area for consideration by the PC.</p>	<p>Cllr Thompson</p>
26.	<p><b>Parish Councillor Service</b>  It was <b>agreed</b> that a nice shrub/plant for Mrs Dellow’s garden would be an appropriate gift.</p>	<p>Cllr Wood</p>
27.	<p><b>Protocol for Co-Options</b>  Members agreed with the suggested protocol, subject to the inclusion of the PC’s process for selection by the interview Panel. The protocol would be redrafted to incorporate this and brought back to the next meeting for adoption.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
28.	<p><b>Village Projects</b></p> <p><b>Tree replacement and maintenance programme</b>  NCC were providing an updated plan of the existing trees in the village, so the PC could mark up any new trees it may want in the future. A map had been emailed in pdf format, larger size in post.</p> <p>Cllr Hitchenes asked whether it would be possible to obtain a plan of services. The Chair advised that this would be difficult, but he could ask the question.</p> <p><b>A new village map</b>  Deferred until the GP surgery had been built and then a more detailed map sourced.</p> <p><b>Additional litterbins</b>  The East Acres bin had been installed</p> <p><b>Possible additional grass cuts</b>  If the need arises.</p>	<p>Cllr Wood</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 had been finalised.</p> <p><b>Reduction in speed limit to 20mph on Main Road.</b> No progress at the moment, due to current workload at NCC</p> <p><b>Money towards New play park equipment in recreation ground</b> Erection of new play equipment - NCC were having to re-price the scheme and were still awaiting new pricing information from some manufacturers, before updating the start on site date. The delay with the scheme was very frustrating and this had been expressed to NCC. It was hoped to get a date soon.</p> <p>Allison had updated the Rec layout with the suggested / indicative hay meadow relocation. The exact area needed to be calculated by the ecologist but the proposal was a strip to the east boundary adjacent to the fence, a small area adjacent to the drop off zone by Sheraton Park and a large area where the existing small football area was just to the left of the main entrance at the west end.</p> <p><b>Improvements to Footpath down to Big Waters</b> No progress, due to lack of NCC resources.</p> <p><b>Electronic Traffic Speed signs in the Village</b> New signs on Front Street on the North side of the road - additional light column installed, signs should be installed w/c 26 June, probably Wed 28<sup>th</sup>.</p>	
29.	<p><b>Updates</b></p> <p><b>Village Hall</b> – this was going well at the moment.</p> <p><b>Development of field adjacent to the allotments known as the Pleasure Grounds to facilitate additional Allotments</b> – following the last PC meeting the current NCC standards for allotments use had been put into the planning application.</p> <p>It was possible that the PC may have to provide a side letter to its own Tenant Agreement to confirm that it would be happy to use this for the newer larger area in due course. This was <b>agreed</b>.</p> <p>The existing hay meadow was to be retained at the north end of the allotments to fall in line with new planning biodiversity constraints. It would require cutting annually. It was <b>agreed</b> that Cllr Thompson would get a price from the current contractor as well as Allison getting a price from NCC.</p> <p>The Planning Application was now with the ecologist to revise the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal which was required for planning application. The Ecologist had advised this would be completed week</p>	<p>Cllr Wood</p> <p>Cllr Thompson</p>

	<p>commencing 10th July which will allow submission of planning application by the end of July.</p> <p>Cllr Thompson asked about the cutting of the boundary hedge between the Bellway estate and the allotments. It was noted that Kingston Properties had taken over responsibility from the agent so Cllr Thompson would raise this with them.</p> <p><b>Newsletter</b> - Nothing to report</p> <p><b>Library</b> - Nothing to report</p> <p><b>Website</b> - 2023/24 meeting dates added, 6.30 start time noted</p> <p><b>Dinnington Surgery</b> - Argon Health were submitting their planning pre-application later in the week. They were carrying out a level survey of the site on Thurs/Fri.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b> - Argon Health's Pre App would define the area they required and would enable the PC to make the decision on whether to withdraw the plan or not. The plan was temporarily on hold.</p>	Cllr Thompson																																													
30.	<p><b>Financial Matter</b> The following payments were approved:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 936 1209 1541"> <tr> <td>K. Hadfield</td> <td>Salary (May 2023)</td> <td>21.06.23</td> <td>£191.58</td> <td>200257</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE</td> <td>21.06.23</td> <td>£322.40</td> <td>200258</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T. Taylor</td> <td>Plants</td> <td>21.06.23</td> <td>£36.00</td> <td>200259</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S. Hanson (Planning Advice Plus)</td> <td>Neighbourhood Plan</td> <td>21.06.23</td> <td>£500.00</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F. Renton</td> <td>Plants</td> <td>21.06.23</td> <td>£74.00</td> <td>200260</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T. Laidler</td> <td>Plants</td> <td>21.06.23</td> <td>£28.56</td> <td>200261</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L. Edwards</td> <td>Audit Fee</td> <td>21.06.23</td> <td>£100.00</td> <td>200262</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NCC</td> <td>Litterbin, housing and annual servicing East Acres</td> <td>21.06.23</td> <td>£1137.28</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I. Cant</td> <td>Plants</td> <td>21.06.23</td> <td>23.97</td> <td>200263</td> </tr> </table>	K. Hadfield	Salary (May 2023)	21.06.23	£191.58	200257	HMRC	PAYE	21.06.23	£322.40	200258	T. Taylor	Plants	21.06.23	£36.00	200259	S. Hanson (Planning Advice Plus)	Neighbourhood Plan	21.06.23	£500.00	BACS	F. Renton	Plants	21.06.23	£74.00	200260	T. Laidler	Plants	21.06.23	£28.56	200261	L. Edwards	Audit Fee	21.06.23	£100.00	200262	NCC	Litterbin, housing and annual servicing East Acres	21.06.23	£1137.28	BACS	I. Cant	Plants	21.06.23	23.97	200263	
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30.1	<p><b>Budget Monitoring</b> The Clerk reported on the latest budgetary position. The rent for Quarry Cottages was due for both this year and last. It was <b>agreed</b> that this be pursued.</p>	Clerk/Cllr Hitchenes																																													
30.2	<p><b>Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-23</b> <b>Resolved that:</b> (i) The report of the Internal Auditor be noted; (ii) the Annual Governance Statement be approved; (iii) the draft annual accounts for 2022-23 be approved; and</p>																																														

	(iv) the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances be approved.	
31.	<p><b>Members Items of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On behalf of Cllr Porter, the Chair reported that the garden was very untidy at 11 Pine Ave and there had been complaints from residents. Cllr Avaei reported that he had contacted YHN but would follow it up. The wild area at the bottom of Beech / Pine, needed attending to. Cllr Avaei would set up a meeting with YHN.</li> <li>Cllr McKenna had spoken to the Rights of Way Officer. The kissing gate was the responsibility of the landowner but the boardwalk would be repaired. The HGV monitoring equipment had now been removed and a reply was awaited from Catherine McKinnell on the data which had been collected. Regarding the data from the VAS sign, he asked whether reliable information was now available as there had been an issue with the dates. Cllr Wood would follow this up.</li> <li>Cllr Thompson raised the bridleway from East Acres to Seaton Burn. Sustrans were applying for funding to have it tarmacked, but this was being opposed by local bridleway groups. It was <b>agreed</b> that Cllr McKenna would speak to Nick Howell about this to establish the latest position.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Avaei</p> <p>Cllr Avaei</p> <p>Cllr Wood</p> <p>Cllr McKenna</p>
32.	<p><b>Newcastle City Councillors' Items</b></p> <p>Cllr Avaei reported that the pharmacy should be open in the next month. He had a new contact for reporting dog fouling which he shared with members. There were three wardens covering the City.</p> <p>Mick Murphy had agreed to attend a Parish Council meeting. He would be invited once Cllr Avaei shared his contact details with the Clerk.</p> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that a response be made to the City Council supporting the proposal for School Keep Clear Scheme Restrictions outside Dinnington First School.</p>	<p>Cllr Avaei/Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
33.	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p><b>(1) 2023/0624/01/HOU</b> Location: 74 Augusta Park Way, Dinnington, Newcastle/ Erection of a single storey extension to rear – <b>No comments</b></p> <p><b>(2)</b> Appeal decision in respect of APP/TPO/M4510/8309 St Matthews Church, 6 Church Close, Dinnington - <b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>(3)</b> Decision in respect of 2023/0360/01/HOU: Erection of two storey extension with terrace to rear. / 2, Moorey Spot Cottages Prestwick Road, Dinnington - <b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>(4)</b> Decision of the City Council in respect of Land at Marsfen/Little Marsfen, Horton Grange Road, Dinnington, and Little Marsfen Horton - <b>Noted</b></p>	
34.	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <p>Cllr Phelps had circulated an email from Newcastle Airport about a woodland creation project for Prestwick Whins Farm, Prestwick, within Ponteland Parish. The proposal was to create a broadleaf native woodland on existing farmland as part of the North East Community Forest. It was noted that this was not in Dinnington Parish but the Clerk was asked to contact the Airport to determine whether vehicle access was being considered in the event of a major incident, similar to the recent fire in the area.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

35.	<b>Items for July Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite to Mike Murphy</li> </ul>	Clerk
36.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Wednesday 19 July 2023 at <b>6.30 pm</b>	

**CHAIR**.....

**DATE**.....

The meeting finished at 8.40 pm.