

Minutes of a meeting of Dinnington Parish Council held on Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 6.30 pm.

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

Minute No.	Agenda Item	Action required
88.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> None were received before the meeting. The Clerk would ask all members to text with any late apologies.</p>	Clerk
89.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b> The Chair reminded members to declare any interests as they arose.</p>	
90.	<p><b>Change to GP Services – Ponteland Medical Group</b> Cara Charlton, Head of Communications Northumbria Healthcare, Nigel Twelves, GP at Ponteland Medical Group and NPC medical directory and David Pierce, senior group manager for Northumbria Primary Care were present for this item.</p> <p>The Chair reported on the concerns members had received and which had been reported on social media about the reducing availability of GP services, appointments being cancelled at short notice and having to go to an alternative surgery where there were no direct public transport links. Reassurances were sought that things would improve when the new surgery was established.</p> <p>Dr Twelves acknowledged that the situation was not ideal and that service delivery was not where he would want it to be. They did want to provide more services, but long-term sickness and recruitment problems had made this difficult to achieve. Branch services were now harder to deliver, and delivery from Ponteland was easier because that was where the main facility was.</p> <p>He reported that it should be possible to reinstate a nursing service on a Tuesday and the aim was to return five-day access in Dinnington, though this would not be full GP access. The new build should allow capacity for more services and recruitment would be made locally to build up the patient level. Around 3,000 patients were needed to keep a surgery open full time, with the current level of patients at around 1,900. The Trust would want to fully utilise the space available in the new build and this was likely to be achieved through various clinics.</p> <p>Regarding communications, it was agreed that an update on services would be included in the PC Newsletter to be distributed soon, to be provided by the Trust.</p>	

	<p>Members raised points about the attitude of reception staff when calls were made to the surgery and about pro-active communications with residents, which the Trust agreed to take on board.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the representatives for attending.</p>	
91.	<p><b>Police Report</b> A Police report had been received and circulated.</p>	
92.	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 October 2023 be agreed as a true record.</p>	
93.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noticeboard – the Chair had circulated a suggested replacement model. This would cost £360, was of aluminium construction and had 2 locks. Members <b>agreed</b> that this should be ordered in black.</li> <li>• Hedge at Fenwick Corner – Cllr Hitchenes to chase.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Wood</p> <p>Cllr Hitchenes</p>
94.	<p><b>Christmas Trees and Lights Competition</b> Judging would take place week commencing 18 December 2023.</p>	
95.	<p><b>Parish Council Website</b> It was <b>agreed</b> that a refresh of the website was needed which Cllr Hitchenes would undertake. Draft minutes would be included under the News section and a longer-term look would be taken at a more structured revision.</p>	<p>Cllr Hitchenes</p>
96.	<p><b>Village Projects</b></p> <p><b>Tree replacement and maintenance programme</b> - The marked up plan of where the PC wanted to see new trees in the village had been forwarded to NCC for their consideration.</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>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> - a Consultation letter and drawing had been delivered to all residents of the village by NCC for their information and comments. Comments could be returned up to Fri 17 Nov.</p> <p><b>Money towards New play park equipment in recreation ground</b> - the Rubber Safety surfacing had been completed around all the equipment, so it was now mostly open, however due to recent weather conditions a lot of it was still flooded.</p>	

Draft Minutes

	<p>The slide and toddler unit required grass mat surfacing and the area needed to dry off before this could be completed, so it was temporarily fenced off. The activity trail was installed, but the grass matting had not yet established, again due to being waterlogged. They were fenced off for a couple more weeks to allow the ground to recover. The access road had been repaired where damaged by lorries during construction.</p> <p><b>Improvements to Footpath down to Big Waters</b> - the Stakeholder meeting had been arranged for 11.30 on 21<sup>st</sup> November at the Memorial Hall to review the report and agree the package of works.</p> <p>2 x new Kissing Gates had already been ordered to replace the ones in disrepair on the main track down to the Big Waters. One had been installed, the other one would be fitted on Friday.</p> <p><b>Electronic Traffic Speed signs in the Village</b> - the one facing the centre of the village which had a fault on commissioning had been replaced and was now operating correctly.</p>	
97.	<p><b>Updates</b></p> <p><b>Village Hall</b> – the centenary event had gone well and Cllr Porter thanked those members who had attended. There had been a good attendance from the public and a lot of interest. The yoga class had secured new clients and the library gained five new members. The new radiators would be installed 28/29 December. Attempts were being made to get someone to take over the Pilates class.</p> <p>Cllr Hitchenes proposed that the village hall receive their usual financial support of £4,000 from the PC, which was seconded by Cllr Toward Wright. <b>Agreed</b> that this contribution be made.</p> <p><b>Newsletter</b> - The draft Xmas edition content was well advanced in readiness to be forwarded to the printers. It was agreed that some short wording be included about the use of Facebook by the PC and about the change in Chairmanship.</p> <p><b>Library</b> - Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Development of field adjacent to the allotments known as the Pleasure Grounds to facilitate additional Allotments</b> - There had been some issues raised during the planning consultation period. Highways required more internal areas of hard standing to allow lorries to turn on site, adjust car parking, improve / amend the visibility splay at the entrance, tarmac the entrance to avoid mud being tracked onto the highway and provide cycle parking. NCC were also asking for Track Plots of the grass cutting equipment, lorries and cars. These matters would realistically take until mid-Jan to resolve.</p> <p><b>Allotments</b> - The hedges had been cut. Members discussed the rents again and it was <b>agreed</b> that the position would be kept under review.</p> <p><b>Website</b> – nothing further to report.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Wood</p>

	<p><b>Dinnington Surgery-</b> the new slightly larger site area had been resolved, subject to the Road Safety Audit being concluded and approved by NCC planning. Hopefully this would be successful and this would then allow the PC to revise the NP and get it moving again with NCC.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Plan –</b> nothing to add to that minuted above.</p>											
98.	<p><b>Financial Matters</b> The following payments were approved:-</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>K. Hadfield</td> <td>Oct Salary</td> <td>15.11.23</td> <td>£191.58</td> <td>200275</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RW Lynn Fencing</td> <td>Allotment Hedge</td> <td>15.11.23</td> <td>£88.20</td> <td>200276</td> </tr> </table>	K. Hadfield	Oct Salary	15.11.23	£191.58	200275	RW Lynn Fencing	Allotment Hedge	15.11.23	£88.20	200276	
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98.1	<p><b>Budget Monitoring</b> The Clerk had circulated the latest budget position. The PC would need to consider its precept requirement at the December meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Hitchenes suggested that the PC needed to consider how its CIL funding could be used to improve the village halls as both were very valuable assets to the community. The Chair reported that the roof on the village hall was likely to need replacing in the not too distant future.</p> <p>The Clerk was reminded to keep track of CIL spending and she confirmed this was being done.</p>											
99.	<p><b>Members Items of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Porter commented on the difficulty in communicating with the city cllrs and she referred to a resident who had been trying for some time to make contact regarding a tree at East Acres as he was concerned about it falling onto his property.</li> <li>• Cllr Porter also reported that she had received further complaints about the Post Office opening hours. It was <b>agreed</b> that Adrian Ng be invited to attend the next meeting.</li> <li>• Cllr Toward Wright would circulate her update on roads via email.</li> <li>• Cllr McKenna reported that there had still been no response from Catherine McKinnell MP regarding the HGV survey. He would contact NCC direct about this if nothing was received.</li> <li>• It was noted that it was too late for the planned bulb planting for ex Cllr Audrey Dellow so this would have to take place next Autumn.</li> </ul>	Clerk										
100.	<p><b>Newcastle City Councillors' Items</b> No City Cllrs were present.</p>											
101.	<p><b>Items for December Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precept</li> <li>• Invite to Post Office</li> </ul>	Clerk										
102.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Wednesday 20 December 2023 at 6.30 pm</p>											

CHAIR.....

DATE.....

The meeting finished at 8.35 pm.

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