

Minutes of a meeting of Dinnington Parish Council held on Wednesday 20 September 2023 at 6.30 pm.

**Members Present:** Cllrs P. Hitchenes, G. McKenna, J. Porter, R. Thompson, J. Toward Wright, M. Wood  
 Cllr A. Avaei (Newcastle City Council)

Minute No.	Agenda Item	Action required
54.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Phelps and City Cllrs Campion and Laverick.	
55.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> The Chair reminded members to declare any interests as they arose.	
56.	<b>Police Report</b> Three incidents had been reported recently.	
57.	<b>Open Forum</b> A member of the public raised an issue with overhanging trees in the school grounds which were obscuring a lot of daylight and affecting her satellite signal. She had contacted the school without result and sought help from the Parish Council to get some action taken. She had contacted the headteacher again that day. City Cllr Avaei would take this up with the school if there was no further response from the school.	Cllr Avaei
58.	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 July 2023 be agreed as a true record.	
59.	<b>Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hedge on the Horton Grange Road had been trimmed and the footpath cleared.</li> <li>• Circular flowerbed – <b>agreed</b> that Cllr Hitchenes be authorised to secure a price for a tidy up of the area, and if under £100, action the work to be done.</li> <li>• There was some discussion about grass cutting at the new allotments and who would be responsible for payment. However, it was noted that this was a decision for a later stage. Cllr Wood reported that Allison McLeod had confirmed the price of 95p/sq.m, which equated to £1,271.</li> <li>• The two dead trees at the entrance to the village had been reported to NCC, who had been out and checked the trees and watered them. It was assumed they were being monitored and would be replaced in due course, if required.</li> <li>• 30 mph speed limit signs at the Vicarage - NCC had it in hand, but were having difficulty with the land owner. One side had</li> </ul>	

	<p>been cut. Keepmoat had confirmed they would replant the missing section with larger hawthorn trees in the next few weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCC had ordered a replacement Footpath sign for Toft Hill.</li> <li>• Cllr Toward Wright reported that the pothole and pavement inspection had been done. Assessment was being made of which potholes were in scope for repair, but this had been deferred to allow Avonline works to take place. The chicane and blocked 30 mph sign would be sorted.</li> </ul>	
<b>60.</b>	<p><b>Planters/Village Maintenance and Garden Competition</b></p> <p>The winners of the garden competition were:-</p> <p>1st - Billy Stephenson, 33 Cochrane Terrace</p> <p>2nd - Sandy McQueen, 38 Horton Crescent</p> <p>3rd - Alan Stalker, 2 Castleway</p>	
<b>61.</b>	<p><b>Cycle Route Towards Seaton Burn</b></p> <p>Cllr McKenna reported that no progress could be expected on this soon, though it was not completely off the agenda. Cllr Thompson reported that local bridleway users had made it clear that a tarmac surface was not appropriate for horses. The issue would be discussed again when there was something further to report.</p>	
<b>62.</b>	<p><b>Village Projects</b></p> <p><b>Tree replacement and maintenance programme</b> NCC had been successful in a city wide bid to NECF for 2023/24 tree planting. If the PC's suggested locations could be provided prior to end of October, NCC could check their feasibility and work them into their programme. A marked up drawing would be provided to them for them to assess the suitability of the preferred locations. It was noted that there was a need for a lot of tree maintenance work around the village but staffing was an issue.</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 scheme had now been produced (a draft had been circulated around the PC for info). It would need a full village wide consultation, before it could be progressed. The budget should allow for £2,500 for the initial</p>	

	<p>design, the actual work £28,000 and consultation &amp; legal fees £7,500. Members <b>agreed</b> this budget for the scheme.</p> <p><b>Money towards New play park equipment in recreation ground</b> All of the groundworks had been completed for the new equipment. This was due to be delivered 22 Sept, installation would commence w/c 25 Sept. The new safety surfacing will then be installed w/c 16 Oct and the estimated opening should be w/c 23 Oct.</p> <p>NCC were hoping to organise a Community Tree Planting event for Autumn/Winter with the communities team, Scouts/Cubs/Beavers and school.</p> <p><b>Improvements to Footpath down to Big Waters</b> NCC had issued their report with a survey, proposals and costings. They were hoping to hold a review and workshop for stakeholders mid-October to agree the package of works.</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 was sourced and installed. The replacement radar unit had not arrived yet from the manufacturers, but was expected shortly and would be changed by NCC as soon as it did arrive, hopefully in the next couple of weeks</p>	
63.	<p><b>Updates</b> <b>Village Hall</b> – the centenary event would take place on 11 November 2023 10.30 am to 3.00 pm. Historic photos were still needed and Cllr Thompson advised he could probably source some. Clubercise had been held during the school holidays but there was no space for it to continue during term time unfortunately. Another Yoga class would be taking place.</p> <p><b>Newsletter</b> – Content was needed for the Christmas edition, This would be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Library</b> - their Tenth Anniversary celebration evening was taking place this Saturday, 23rd September in the MI.</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 on 7 Nov 2023. Cllr Thompson asked if Allison could be chased about the allotments hedge. Cllr Wood would chase this up.</p> <p><b>Website</b> - References to Audrey Dellow had been removed from the website.</p> <p><b>Dinnington Surgery</b> - Argon Health had almost completed their planning pre-application discussions with NCC with just a few issues remaining to satisfactorily resolve. They now needed a slightly larger plot to accommodate the development.</p>	<p>Cllr Thompson</p> <p>Cllr Wood</p>

	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b> - detailed discussions were being held with NCC as part of Argon Health's Pre App. The NP would have to be revised slightly to allow for this and the plan was temporarily on hold.																															
<b>64.</b>	<p><b>Financial Matters</b> The following payments were approved:-</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>K. Hadfield</td> <td>July Salary</td> <td>02.08.23</td> <td>£191.58</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M. Wood</td> <td>Plants and garden competition prizes refund</td> <td>02.08.23</td> <td>£199.00</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A. Dunn</td> <td>Footpath strimming</td> <td>09.08.23</td> <td>£250.00</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K. Hadfield</td> <td>Salary and expenses (August 2023)</td> <td>20.09.23</td> <td>£247.48</td> <td>200268</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spanglefish</td> <td>Website fee</td> <td>20.09.23</td> <td>£39.95</td> <td>200269</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE</td> <td>20.09.23</td> <td>£383.20</td> <td>200270</td> </tr> </table>	K. Hadfield	July Salary	02.08.23	£191.58	BACS	M. Wood	Plants and garden competition prizes refund	02.08.23	£199.00	BACS	A. Dunn	Footpath strimming	09.08.23	£250.00	BACS	K. Hadfield	Salary and expenses (August 2023)	20.09.23	£247.48	200268	Spanglefish	Website fee	20.09.23	£39.95	200269	HMRC	PAYE	20.09.23	£383.20	200270	
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<b>65.</b>	<p><b>Members Items of Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Porter reported that the 20 mph sign at the school house corner was back up, which was welcomed. Support had been sought by the pharmacy with advertising its business – this would be in the next newsletter. The pharmacy was now providing covid booster and flu jabs and Cllr Avaei was asked to let Hazlerigg and Brunswick PCs know about this. They had thanked the PC for its support in getting established.</li> <li>• Cllr Toward Wright reported that she had had a speeding complaint from a resident. She would ask about the speed van coming back. Cllr McKenna reported that he had applied for his Speedwatch training and been vetted but was still waiting to be trained.</li> <li>• Cllr Toward Wright had received a request for a dog ban on the playing field. However, the field was the responsibility of NCC. The PC had been able to get a litterbin and there would be a low fence around the kid's playpark.</li> <li>• Cllr McKenna reported that a reply of the HGV traffic survey was still awaited. He asked about progress with the planned bus shelter. Cllr Avaei would chase this up with Cllr Laverick.</li> <li>• Cllr Hitchenes had reported some potholes at the entrance to East Acres – he would send the details to Cllr Toward Wright. The hedges were overgrown as well and the landowner would be contacted about this. The hedge at 23 Sycamore Avenue also needed to be cut.</li> <li>• Cllr Thompson raised the potholes on the Horton Grange Road. The road was being resurfaced from 6 October. The PC noticeboard needed attention. Cllr Wood would action this.</li> <li>• Cllr Wood reported that recent cabling works by Virgin Media had not been finished very well, leaving a strip of lighter material where trenches had been reinstated. He would raise this with Virgin Media in the first instance, then potentially, Planning Enforcement.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Avaei</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Wood</p> <p>Cllr Wood</p>																														
<b>66.</b>	<b>Newcastle City Councillors' Items</b>																															

	The ongoing housing review consultation by NCC into changes at YHN was briefly discussed.	
67.	<p><b>Planning Applications</b>  <b>(1) 2017/0666/58/RES</b> Site Location: Land To The North Of Primrose Lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE13 9FR Proposal: Reserved matters application: Details of access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale for the erection of a 3 storey school building (Class D1), associated access, car parking, MUGA, landscaping, substation, bin store and external canopies pursuant to Outline Planning Application 2017/0666/01/OUT dated 4/10/2019. <b>No comments</b></p>	
68.	<p><b>Reports</b>  Cllr Wood reported on the NCC and Parish Councils Meeting from 13 Sept 23, which he and the Clerk had attended at the Civic Centre. The meeting had been for Chairs and Clerks to meet with Pam Smith to raise PC concerns. The Chief Executive had not been able to attend, but Christine Herriot, Mick Murphy and Louise Sloan had deputised for her.</p> <p>The meeting had proved to be quite useful, providing the opportunity to raise a lot of difficulties and issues and it had been agreed to meet perhaps quarterly or half yearly in future.</p> <p>One of the main issues was the lack of a list of contacts to enable PCs to contact the correct people quickly and easily and they had agreed to provide one. This had now been provided, and whilst many of the email contacts were team email addresses, it was an improvement.</p> <p>Litterbins were discussed and Mick Murphy had confirmed a small number could now be purchased per Parish. He also confirmed that NCC would pick up the costs for emptying these going forwards, after the first year. He did raise the proviso that they might transfer an existing bin, if one of the other ones was not being well used instead.</p> <p>Grass cutting was also raised and discussed at length and Cllr Wood had stressed that, whilst the PC realised this was driven by limited budgets, it was a major issue in the community which generated a large number of complaints, and he asked that this be fed back. Mr Murphy had confirmed NCC were going to supply blowers to the drivers to try to tidy up the mess on footpaths and roads in future.</p>	
69.	<p><b>Correspondence</b>  Cllr Thompson raised an email he had received regarding the closure of Darras Hall Health Centre. It was <b>agreed</b> that the Clerk would contact the surgery to invite a representative to attend the next PC meeting to explain their plans for services in Dinnington.</p>	Clerk
70.	<p><b>Items for October 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>	Clerk
71.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  Wednesday 18 October 2023 at 6.30 pm</p>	

**CHAIR.....**

**DATE.....**

The meeting finished at 8.25 pm.