

Minutes of a meeting of Dinnington Parish Council held on Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 6.30 pm.

Members Present: Cllrs G. McKenna, S. Phelps, J. Porter, R. Thompson, J. Toward-Wright, M. Wood
 City Councillor A. Avaei

Two members of the public were present

Minute No.	Agenda Item	Action required
117.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllr Hitchenes.	
118.	Declarations of Interest The Chair reminded members to declare any interests as they arose.	
119.	Police Report No report had been received.	
120.	Open Forum A member of the public raised a long-standing issue with a large tree outside the front of his property at Mitford Way. The tree roots were coming up through his garden and driveway and causing a lot of damage. He had first contacted NCC in August 2022 but there had been no action other than an initial visit and he could no longer get a reply from them. Cllr Avaei spoke to the resident outside of the meeting to progress the matter.	Cllr Avaei
121.	Minutes of previous meeting RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 December 2023 be agreed as a true record, subject to noting that Minute No. 107 referred to the tree on Mitford Way, not East Acres.	
122.	Matters Arising Cllr Wood reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Xmas trees had been taken down and stored awaiting collection by St Oswald's Hospice. • The replacement noticeboard had been delivered and arrangements had been made with Les Bass to fix it to the wall and remove the old one. This had been delayed by the Xmas holidays, but would proceed in the next month. • Barriers at Sycamore Entrance to Rec - NCC were looking to remove the barriers but were engaging with Northumbria Police first to check if they had any concerns. • Hedge on School cut - the owner had had it cut down. • The hedge at Fenwick Corner – Les Bass would be approached about doing this as well as tidying the planters. 	Cllr Porter
123.	Planning Consultations from Newcastle City Council These were noted. No comments to be submitted.	

<p>124.</p>	<p>Village Projects Tree replacement and maintenance programme Nothing to report</p> <p>A new village map Deferred until the GP surgery had been built and then a more detailed map sourced.</p> <p>Possible additional grass cuts If the need arises.</p> <p>Turn the area of the Old School Field remaining after construction of the Doctors into a small simple park. Although agreed in principle by NCC, this could not proceed until the Doctors land purchase and site requirements had been finalised.</p> <p>Consider reducing the speed limit to 20mph on Main Road. NCC had now reviewed all comments raised by residents and stakeholders during their consultation, and had confirmed that they were looking to move forward with the scheme. As a number of the comments were made in regard to the proposed roundabout, they were looking to remove this from the scheme and replace it with additional speed cushions either side of the junction. Members agreed that they would like the officer to talk to members about the options and Cllr Wood would set this up with him.</p> <p>Money towards New play park equipment in recreation ground As the ground was still saturated where some of the new equipment had been installed, NCC planned to review in 2-3 weeks with a view to lifting and reinstating surfacing when conditions were drier, including for turf, so the area could open straight up. Two picnic benches had been positioned on the field and the seat near the MUGA had been relocated to the main path overlooking the football pitch. The mini goal posts were on order from the supplier.</p> <p>Community Tree planting – dates were being discussed with Scouts for a weekend in March. There were 132 trees in total to go in – all dependent on getting the funding. The funders panel was meeting 31st Jan and the PC would be told afterwards if successful.</p> <p>Improvements to Footpath down to Big Waters Work had commenced on tender documents, but things were mostly on hold awaiting allotment planning permission being finalised. Hopefully a start on site would be made end of April/May.</p>	<p>Cllr Wood</p>
<p>125.</p>	<p>Updates</p> <p>Village Hall – the radiator replacement project had been deferred to later in the year when the weather was warmer, just in case there was no heating for a while.</p> <p>Newsletter - Nothing to report</p> <p>Library - Nothing to report.</p>	

	<p>Development of field adjacent to the allotments known as the Pleasure Grounds to facilitate additional Allotments - The drawings had been amended to take in NCC Highways planning concerns and returned to the ecologists to re-check the Biodiversity Net Gain issues of the retained meadow and recalculate requirements at the Recreation Ground as well. It was expected that planning issues would be finalised in early February and hopefully then planning permission granted.</p> <p>Allotments - Nothing to report</p> <p>Website - Nothing to report</p> <p>Dinnington Surgery - The Road Safety Audit had been approved by NCC for the slightly larger site area with the preferred proposed road access. This had now been returned to Argon's design team for their comments/action. Hopefully this would finalise the Planning Pre App process and allow the PC to revise the NP and get it moving again with NCC.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan - As Argon Health required a slightly bigger plot to accommodate their building to satisfy planning constraints, the NP will have to be revised slightly to allow for this. The plan was therefore temporarily on hold.</p>																
126.	<p>Financial Matters The following payments were approved:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 1077 1209 1216"> <tr> <td>K. Hadfield</td> <td>Dec Salary</td> <td>17.01.24</td> <td>£204.85</td> <td>200282</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M. Wood</td> <td>Xmas tree collection</td> <td>17.01.24</td> <td>£30.00</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TP Jones</td> <td>Payroll services</td> <td>17.01.24</td> <td>£63.40</td> <td>200283</td> </tr> </table>	K. Hadfield	Dec Salary	17.01.24	£204.85	200282	M. Wood	Xmas tree collection	17.01.24	£30.00	BACS	TP Jones	Payroll services	17.01.24	£63.40	200283	
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127.	<p>Members Items of Concern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Porter had met with NCC's community wellbeing officer. This was a new role to deal with adult wellbeing and a constructive discussion had taken place. She expressed some concerns about the lack of responses from the city councillors to queries. • Cllr Toward Wright had reported pavement damage at the bus stop and the work had been ordered. All known potholes were on the list to be repaired. The large potholes on Front Street adjacent the newsagents had been repaired, but would require a larger strip replaced eventually. She was also following up on the chicane signs at the vicarage so this should be sorted soon. Members acknowledged Cllr Toward Wright's work on highways issues with NCC which was now seeing results. • Cllr McKenna had chased up Speedwatch this week. There had been a change in personnel so his details had been passed on but it was taking a very long time to get anywhere. It was agreed that some information on becoming a volunteer could be included in the next newsletter. 	Cllr Wood															

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Thompson reported that the Sheraton Park hawthorn hedge had not been replanted yet. This would be chased by Cllr Wood. He also mentioned the footpath in the wooded section on the east of the road running north of the Vicarage towards Horton Grange, which had been put in as part of the opencast restoration and which was now all overgrown. This would be raised with Blagdon Estates for clearing and discussions held about a possible permissive footpath in the field from Gardners Houses entrance to connect up with the wooded section. • He also raised the hedge going down the vicarage bank which needed to be cut by the new tenant (he would chase this up with the agent), and there was some rubbish dumping at the south gate of the airport which Cllr Phelps would raise with the Airport. 	<p>Cllr Wood</p> <p>Cllr Thompson/Cllr Phelps</p>
128.	<p>Newcastle City Councillors' Items</p> <p>Cllr Avaei reported that the City Council had to make £22m worth of savings to balance its budget this year, though no cuts were planned to public health or social care. Levels of debt in local authorities had been reported in the media recently and the City Council had £700m of debt, equating to £2,300 per person in the local authority area. A new interim Director of Public Health had been appointed recently.</p>	
129.	<p>Reports</p> <p>The Airport were updating their security suite.</p>	
130.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>A response had been received from Catherine McKinnell MP regarding lorry movements through the village which showed that there were fewer movements than had been thought.</p>	
131.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 21 February 2024 at 6.30 pm</p>	

CHAIR.....

DATE.....

The meeting finished at 8.02pm.