

Minutes of a meeting of Dinnington Parish Council held on Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 6.30 pm.

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

Two members of the public were present

Minute No.	Agenda Item	Action required
149.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllr Hitchenes and from City Cllrs Avaei and Laverick.	
150.	Declarations of Interest The Chair reminded members to declare any interests as they arose.	
151.	Open Forum A representative of the British Legion Dinnington and Ponteland District branch was present and submitted a request to adopt the planter outside the doctor's surgery. This was supported. They also asked about using the PC noticeboard and newsletter to advertise the Branch and their events. Members agreed this would be possible subject to space being available and it was noted that there were other means available for this such as the village hall noticeboard, the post office and the newsagents. Cllr Phelps declared an interest as a member of the RBL.	
152.	Newcastle Half Marathon and 10k Event The Chairman outlined the main local concerns about this which were around the lack of consultation with the whole village, no opportunity to make comments, the long detours involved and the inconvenience. Members asked a number of questions including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would happen with local buses • Who had chosen the route • There was a 10k cancer run in Newcastle on the same day Chris Parr, representing the organisers of the event, advised that the buses would be re routed but the routes chosen would be up to the operators. He had chosen the course, and the route had been chosen to meet the strict requirements associated with such an event including having the infrastructure to cope with a run of this size. The run had been booked a year in advance with the City Council and a full risk assessment had been completed, with a plan of mitigation measures. The roads were likely to be closed for a two-hour window only, and emergency vehicles would be allowed for. A wider engagement would also be done 4-6 weeks before the event. Members felt that the decision had already been taken on this but thanked Chris for attending to answer their questions.	

153.	<p>Brunswick Pavilion and Cricket Pitch</p> <p>Allison McLeod from NCC attended for this item and provided some background for members about the developments. Members felt this was good news for the local area and welcomed what was being proposed. Members also thanked Allison for the work she had done on organising the community tree planting. This was much appreciated.</p>	
154.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 February 2024 be agreed as a true record.</p>	
155.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Cllr Wood reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had followed up the changing rooms issue with Noel Hanlon and there had been some progress with the dehumidifier. He was also considering some electric heaters to dry the air, cleaners were coming in and the drainage issue had been resolved. At the moment, the changing rooms were functional, but members might want to consider some financial support in future to improve the state of the building. • The new noticeboard had been installed. • Barriers at Sycamore Ave entrance to Rec – he had spoken to the resident who lived adjacent the path and they had been strongly opposed to having the barriers removed. He had therefore requested NCC to defer the removal to allow further discussions. A compromise might be to replace the bollards with up to date ones, which would still stop motor bikes, but allow access for prams and wheelchairs. The issue had come into focus since the new path was constructed for the benefit of the wider community, and access to the rec could be gained from other entrances. It was agreed that Allison McLeod would be asked to look at this to find a suitable barrier solution, which could be funded from CIL funds. • Discussions had been held and a site meeting arranged with Blagdon Estates on 3 April to discuss a possible off road permissive footpath in the field from Gardner’s Houses entrance to connect up with the wooded section - The fly tipping had been reported to them. • Keepmoat hedge - Keepmoat had again confirmed that they intend to carry out this work in the near future, but did not have a date at present. • Old school field gates – the gates had now been secured by NCC and were padlocked with a chain. • New Planning Policy Consultation – Local Plan – a few members had attended the event in Great Park Community Centre and had been reassured that the process was at a very early stage, and that the documents were just indicative at the moment. It would be about 6 months before a draft plan would be produced. 	Cllr Wood
156.	<p>Bench Outside Rede Place</p> <p>Member considered a request from a resident that this should be removed to prevent anti-social behaviour. However, members felt that it had taken some time to find a suitable location for the bench in the first place and that it was probably an isolated incident. If it happened again, contact</p>	

	<p>would be made with the Community Police. The resident would be informed.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>157.</p>	<p>Village Projects A new village map Deferred until the GP surgery has 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 has been finalised</p> <p>Consider reducing the speed limit to 20mph on Main Road. James Groombridge (NCC) was updating the scheme and proceeding with the work.</p> <p>Money towards New play park equipment in recreation ground All trees were now installed. The contractor would be returning in April to begin maintenance and would mulch the bases of the trees.</p> <p>Uniformed Scouting Groups had made a cracking effort on Saturday and installed 75 trees including 5 donated by a local resident. A message of thanks and appreciation would be sent.</p> <p>Remaining Heras fencing would be taken down prior to Easter Holidays – still currently holding off to try and let the ground dry out a bit more.</p> <p>The existing Cradle swing down near the BMX track had been painted.</p> <p>Main sign to activity trail still to be installed.</p> <p>Mini goal posts were marked out and installation should be in next fortnight.</p> <p>Allison Macleod was getting a price for new panels to the double See Saw.</p> <p>The School had given permission to install a litter bin on the grass adjacent their entrance on Sycamore Ave, as this was the nearest location to the Sycamore Ave entrance to the Park.</p> <p>Bin & Install ex hardstand - £567.63 per bin Hardstand - £137.55 Sensor = £100 £805.18 – one off Servicing - £711.90 per bin Sensor subscription pa = £60 £771.90 – annual charge</p> <p>NCC had asked the PC to consider paying for the bin to be fitted with a sensor and the one near the Sheraton Park entrance, as they had had</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

	<p>instances of one of the bins in the area being at 100% 4 times recently and almost overflowing.</p> <p>Improvements to Footpath down to Big Waters Work had commenced on tender documents, but work was mostly on hold awaiting allotment planning permission being finalised. Hopefully start on site end April/May. Urban Green had completed the clearance and crown lifting works down near Big Waters.</p>																
158.	<p>Updates Village Hall – Cllr Porter reported that the parking of a private bus had reoccurred briefly outside the village hall. The hall was to be redecorated and would be closed for about a week in the summer holidays. The floor would be sanded and resealed and a new noticeboard would be purchased.</p> <p>Newsletter – additional features would include tribute to Audrey Dellow, Speedwatch and RBL. Members agreed that they would revert to delivery themselves again and the Chair would identify distribution areas for each member.</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 revised ecological report was now with planner for final review. Hopefully planning permission would be granted in next couple of weeks. Tender package work was ongoing.</p> <p>Allotments - Nothing to report</p> <p>Website - Nothing to report</p> <p>Dinnington Surgery - The developers were now proceeding to prepare their full planning permission submission over the next 2 or 3 months.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan – the consultant was proceeding to alter and update the Local Green Spaces : LGS6 plan and update the document in readiness to un-pause the plan and get the process moving again.</p>	Cllr Wood															
159.	<p>Financial Matters The following payments were approved:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 1581 1209 1771"> <tr> <td>K. Hadfield</td> <td>Feb Salary and expenses</td> <td>20.03.24</td> <td>£245.95</td> <td>200285</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE</td> <td>20.03.24</td> <td>£409.20</td> <td>200286</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S. Phelps</td> <td>Travel reimbursement</td> <td>20.03.24</td> <td>£12.80</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Clerk reported that the annual insurance policy was now due for renewal. Zurich were again offering a reduced premium for a long term arrangement of three years, which members agreed should be taken.</p>	K. Hadfield	Feb Salary and expenses	20.03.24	£245.95	200285	HMRC	PAYE	20.03.24	£409.20	200286	S. Phelps	Travel reimbursement	20.03.24	£12.80	BACS	Clerk
K. Hadfield	Feb Salary and expenses	20.03.24	£245.95	200285													
HMRC	PAYE	20.03.24	£409.20	200286													
S. Phelps	Travel reimbursement	20.03.24	£12.80	BACS													

	The budget monitoring report and the end of year CIL spending reports had been circulated and members noted the position.	
160.	<p>Members Items of Concern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Porter reported that some public seats around the village needed repainting and minor repairs. This could possibly be picked up by the Scouts. • Cllr Toward Wright – pothole reporting was up to date, though there was an additional one to look at the following day. No work appeared to have been done yet on the Horton Grange road, though this would need to be done before the 10k run. She had sent an email about the lack of signs to the play area in the Recreation Ground, which Cllr Wood had chased up with Allison McLeod. • Cllr McKenna – he had sent information round detailing the green areas in the village which had been damaged by vehicles. Some of the damage had been caused by cutting corners and some appeared to be the result of widened driveways necessitating driving across verges to access them. It was agreed that Cllr Toward Wright would raise this with her contact in NCC Highways. • Cllr Phelps – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drainage on the football pitch was really poor and it had been suggested again that a fence was needed around it. • There had been a complaint from a resident regarding a speeding taxi belonging to Arrow Taxis which he had reported to the Airport. • The hedgerows at the plantation belonging to Blagdon Estates were leaning out into the road. Cllr Wood would raise this with them at his meeting in April. • He had a suggestion for the dog warden to attend at a location which Cllr Toward Wright would report. • It looked like bus disruption was set to return with industrial action planned for May. • Cllr Thompson – the school path at 23 Sycamore Ave needed to be cut back. The clerk would send the photographs to Cllr Champion. He also asked for a copy of the latest allotment holders list and raised the outstanding invoices for rent owed to the PC. This would be chased up by the Clerk. Finally, he had had a request for spending on footpath improvements on Main Road, between Sandy Lane and Coach Lane. Cllr Toward Wright would raise this with Dave McCourt. 	<p>Cllr Toward Wright</p> <p>Cllr Wood</p> <p>Cllr Toward Wright</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Toward Wright</p>
161.	<p>Newcastle City Councillors' Items</p> <p>Cllr Champion reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the signage had been removed from the bus stop. • He had been back in touch with the school regarding anti social parking and had asked for another letter to go out. • He was dealing with parking issues on the new estates arising from EV charging points. • He was trying to get a no dog ban on Big Waters (apart from guide dogs) overturned. 	
162.	Reports	

	<p>Cllr Wood and the Clerk had attended a meeting of the six parishes with NCC on 13 May 2024. Organisation of the meeting by NCC had again been poor with mixed communication regarding wither this was on teams or in person. No agenda had been sent to Dinnington until it was requested. Representations had been made about this when it appeared that people had joined the actual meeting in person.</p> <p>There had been a lot of discussion about most of the Parish Councils' dissatisfaction with pothole repairs. NCC said they fixed them within 30 days. Also, a lot of discussion about lack of adoption at Great Park.</p> <p>Litter was discussed, especially blown off building sites.</p> <p>The Chairman had complained about not being consulted about 10k run, when NCC Events had apparently been involved for over 6 months. NCC said they would look at changing the Protocol to include consulting PCs in future.</p> <p>Cllr Phelps reported back on an Airport meeting. They would be consulting on a new Masterplan this year and there were plans to extend the red route double lines towards Woosington and Prestwick/Ponteland.</p>	
163.	<p>Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 17 April 2024 at 6.30pm.</p>	

DRAFT

CHAIR.....

DATE.....

The meeting finished at 8.47pm.