

Otterburn Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 5 September, 2007

Between 7pm and 8.30pm at Otterburn Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Present

John Hartshorne
Val Corbett
Clive Emerson
Harry Scott
Ron Holden

Chairman
Vice Chairman

Apologies

Sarah Robson
Cllr. Brian Corbett
Cllr. John Riddle

Absent

In attendance

Miss Emma Anderson
Gemma Somerville

Parish Clerk
Hexham Courant

Copy to

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The meetings of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters arising

- a) *item 3b: Public seating in the village (Ron Holden)*: Mr. Holden proposed that either a new seat or the seat being kept by the Chairman be installed at the corner beside the old police house or opposite the Border Reiver. Mr. Holden could install the seats or the Parish Council could pay someone to do the work.

IT WAS AGREED 1) that Mr. Holden would arrange to dispose of the seats considered beyond repair and 2) to ask Keith Robson to provide a quote to install two seats.

- b) *item 3c: PC Carroll Memorial Seat (Chairman)*: The repairs to the installation had now been undertaken and the Keith Robson's bill could now be paid. Unfortunately, children had written in the wet cement. Mr. Hartshorne would repair this damage at a later date.
- c) *item 3d: Otterburn Hall (Val Corbett)*: A response to the Parish Council's submission was expected during October. It remains a matter of concern and it was hoped that the weight of evidence submitted would count in favour of the community. An incident of harassment had been reported to the police by the owner of the lodge. With regard to concern about the refurbishment of the Hall, the Chairman reported that all listed buildings were protected in some way and that the listing included the inside and outside of the building and the surrounding grounds. He hoped this would enable the appropriate authority to inspect the refurbishment work when required.
- d) *item 3e: Footpath to Otterburn Mill (Chairman)*: Because the planning permission was flouted, Northumberland County Council are unwilling to play any part in putting the path in place. Tynedale Council are considering who best to prosecute. Mr. Hartshorne had spoken to Cllr. Corbett to ensure that at least the path in the field can be constructed in the short term.

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Chairman:

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- e) *item 3f: Millennium Green (Chairman)*: It was expected that the transfer of the trusteeship of the Millennium Green to the Parish Council would be completed quickly.
- f) *item 3g: Interactive Speed Sign (Chairman)*: The idea of joining a consortium comprising Slayley and other Parish Councils so as to avoid prohibitive costs had already been agreed. A member of Corsenside Parish Council had then approached Otterburn with the view to sharing an interactive speed sign. There was still some confusion as to what the people of Corsenside wanted or what their Parish Council could afford. A partnership between the Parish Councils in Corsenside and Otterburn would allow Otterburn greater use of the shared sign than would be the case with the earlier proposal.

IT WAS AGREED (1) to pursue sharing an interactive speed sign with Corsenside Parish Council and inform Slayley Parish Council that this was now our chosen option and (2) if Corsenside Parish Council was not in a position to proceed immediately, for financial or other reasons, to wait until they were able to proceed.

- g) *item 4b: Air Ambulance donation (Clerk)*: Following the Parish Council's recent donation to the Great North Air Ambulance, the Clerk circulated a letter of thanks that had been received.
- h) *item 6c: Adoption of Revised Code of Conduct (Clerk)*: The members of the Parish Council formerly adopted the Code of Conduct, recently revised by the Standards Board for England.
- i) *item 7b: Opening of new footbridge across the River Rede (Harry Scott)*: Mr. Scott and the Clerk had attended the opening ceremony on 17 July. It was generally thought that the new bridge was a worthwhile and welcome structure. There was concern, however, that there were not sufficient rails on the sides of the bridge to stop children falling into the river.

IT WAS AGREED to write to Northumberland County Council and inform them of these concerns.

4. Finance

- a) *Parish Clerk's salary and expenses*: The Clerk's claim for salary (£78.00) and expenses (48p) was AGREED.
- b) *Application for financial support from RTC Sports Centre*: I letter had been received seeking financial support. It was appropriate that the Parish Council should be told how any grant given would be used in future years.

IT WAS AGREED 1) to provide a grant of £350 in the current financial year and 2) to invite representatives of the RTC to a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss their future needs for funding.

- c) *Audit 2006-07*: The Clerk reported that the audit had been completed successfully and presented the Auditor's account for payment. The auditor's reports had identified weaknesses in the production of printed minutes submitted for audit purposes. The Parish Council minutes had not been prepared in accordance with schedule 12, paragraph 41(2) of the Local Government Act, 1972. The Parish Council should ensure with immediate effect that if a loose leaf minute book is maintained, the loose leaf pages are consecutively numbered and initialled by the person signing the minutes.

The Clerk advised members that these recommendations had already been implemented.

5. Planning

- a) *Woodhill, Otterburn:* Plans for a proposed Orangery were considered and AGREED without objection.
- b) *Tofts, Otterburn:* A revised application had been received and agreed by the Chairman during the summer break.
- c) *The Dolphins, Leslies Drive, Otterburn:* Plans for a garage and bedroom extension were considered and AGREED without objection.
- d) *Public Rights of Way:* The diversion of bridleway's 5 and 6, in the vicinity of Otterburn Camp, were considered and AGREED.
- e) *Public Rights of Way:* The redirection of public footpaths 14 & 15 and bridleway 16, in the vicinity of the new School Bridge, Otterburn, were considered and AGREED.

6. Site Allocations

The Parish Council considered the proposed site allocations and AGREED its formal response which included the addition of a site between Snaith's garage and Redewater View. (PLEASE NOTE: A copy of the formal response is attached).

7. New business

- a) *Play Area Safety Inspection Report 2007:* The report was ACCEPTED.
- b) *Bulbs:* IT WAS AGREED to purchase a large bag of mixed daffodil bulbs to plant at various locations in the village.
- c) *Licensing Act 2003: Review of Statement of Licensing Policy:* Correspondence had been received and the contents were conveyed to members for their information.
- d) *Northumberland Association of Local Councils: AGM, 27 October, 2007:* IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk should attend this meeting.
- e) *Local Government Re-organisation Decision in Northumberland:* Correspondence had been received and the contents were conveyed to members. Members were very concerned that no opposition to the decision was being mounted in Tynedale or elsewhere.

IT WAS AGREED that the decision to establish a single unitary authority in Northumberland would not be beneficial for the rural areas of the county.

- f) *Development of Parish Transport Representatives:* Correspondence had been received and the contents were conveyed to members.
- g) *Tynedale Planning Forum Minutes:* Correspondence had been received and the contents were conveyed to members.
- h) *Tynedale Sustainable Community Plan 2007:* Correspondence had been received and the contents were conveyed to members.

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8. Any other business

- a) *Bus shelter lighting:* The Chairman reported that this matter had now been resolved following discussions with NPower in which it had been agreed to half the administration fee and settle the electricity charges for 2006. A revised account for 2007 would be issued. Northumberland County Council would take over responsibility for the administration fee in future and the Parish Council would only pay for the electricity used.
- b) *Road markings beside Snaith's garage:* Members discussed the poor state of road markings at this location and the likely danger of loose gravel on the road.

IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk prepare a draft letter to the Highways Department regarding this matter.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, 3 October, 2007 at Otterburn Memorial Hall.