

Otterburn Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 3 September, 2008

Between 7pm and 8.15pm at Otterburn Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Present

John Hartshorne
Val Corbett
Clive Emerson
Ron Holden
Harry Scott

Chairman
Vice Chair

Absent

In attendance

Miss Emma Anderson Parish Clerk
Mrs. Mary White Otterburn Memorial Hall
Mr. Mick Maughan Otterburn Memorial Hall
Cllr John Riddle From 8.15pm

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and AGREED from Sarah Robson who had family commitments.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

- a) *item 3b: Footpaths at Otterburn Hall:* The Clerk's Report was received and agreed.
- b) *item 3c: Signposting in Willowgreen re dog fouling:* The Clerk's Report was received and agreed.
- c) *item 6a: Parish/Town Council Elections:* The Clerk's Report was received and agreed.
- d) *item 6b: Post Office closure programme:* The Clerk's Report was received and agreed. The Chairman said it appeared that Post Office Ltd had had no intention of giving any consideration to representations from either the Parish Council or members of the public. The detailed response from the Parish Council had been entirely ignored.
- e) *item 6c: Recreational footpaths in Otterburn:* The Clerk reported that she had not been able to progress this matter since the last meeting.

4. Finance

- a) *Parish Clerk's salary and expenses for August 2008:* The Clerk's claim for salary (£89.25) and expenses (£4.60) was AGREED.
- b) *Parish Clerk's pay scale 2008/09:* Val Corbett reported that the salary scale for part-time clerks (Scale LC1) starts at £8.041 per hour. Following discussion IT WAS AGREED to 1) increase the Clerks' hourly rate of pay to £8.00 with immediate effect and 2) to review the pay scale in three months.
- c) *Invoices paid during summer recess:* The Clerk's Report was received and agreed.
- d) *Invoice from Playsafety Ltd for annual safety inspection at playground:* IT WAS AGREED to 1) pay an invoice totalling £77.15 received from Playsafety Ltd in respect of the annual playground inspection and 2) to consider safety and maintenance issues arising from the report at the next meeting.

Chairman:

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- e) *Consideration of annual donations to 1) Great North Air Ambulance, 2) Otterburn Memorial Hall and 3) St. John's Church:* Following discussion it was agreed to donate £150 to the Great north Air Ambulance, £750 to Otterburn Memorial Hall committee, with the proviso that should further support be needed during the remainder of the financial year that an application would be considered, and £200 to St. John's church to meet the cost of grass cutting and clock maintenance, with the proviso that should support for the proposed extension of the graveyard be required during the remainder of the financial year that an application would be considered.

5. Planning

- a) *T20080714 Demolition of existing stable block, construction of steel framed building for use as an indoor riding arena and conversion of exiting riding arena to stables at Soppit Farm, Otterburn:* This application was AGREED WITHOUT OBJECTION.
- b) *NCC08/00105/CCD Replace existing window with a door opening, construct new ramp and canopy and provide fenced play area at Otterburn First School:* This application was AGREED WITHOUT OBJECTION.
- c) *Planning applications recently approved:* The Clerk's Report with regard to the items below was received and agreed.
- 1) *08NP0013 Construction of marquee and associated ground works at Otterburn Hall:* With respect to this application, the Chairman reported that a site visit and public meeting of the Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA) Development and Control Committee (DCC) had considered this application on Friday, 25 July. A number of agencies and public bodies had been consulted though no objections were made except those from the Parish Council and a member of the public. In particular, the Chairman was concerned the Environment Agency had been slow to follow-up his written request to examine the sewage arrangements on site which, if this had been done, might have resulted in an objection or at least a further condition being attached to the eventual approval. After discussion, the DCC had granted approval by a majority of five to four. NNPA had not yet sent the formal decision in writing to the Parish Council. This gave cause for concern as a number of conditions had been attached to the approval. IT WAS AGREED that 1) these conditions should be closely monitored and 2) any failure on the part of the landowner to adhere to the approval conditions or the original design and/or proposed site works should be reported in writing to all members of the DCC and to Tony Gates, NNPA Chief Executive.
 - 2) *T20080490 Change of use and conversion of outbuilding at Sunny Brae, Otterburn*
 - 3) *T20080498 Construction of car port at Burnside, Otterburn*
 - 4) *T20080535 Construction of replacement porch at Heatherwick Cottage, Otterburn*

6. New business

- a) *Northumberland County Council Local Transport Plan 2009/10:* The construction of the path to Otterburn Mill was included in this document. The Chairman thought it very unsatisfactory that other items included as future projects, for example the installation of interactive speed signs, had already been completed.
- b) *Consultation on revised membership arrangements for Northumberland National Park Authority:* IT WAS AGREED that 1) more Parish Council representatives should be included in the revised membership arrangements, 2) fewer representatives of national organisations should be included and 3) the views of local people should be more widely considered in decision making.
- c) *Structural Review of Northumberland Strategic Partnership:* IT WAS AGREED that the Chairman would consider this report and forward his comments on the Strategic Review before the deadline of 26 September, 2008.

7. Any other business

The following items would be included on the Agenda for the next meeting:

- a) Playground and public seating work review
- b) Parish Council Website

8. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, 1 October, 2008 at Otterburn Memorial Hall.