

Otterburn Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday, 7 July, 2009

Between 7pm and 8pm at Otterburn Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Present

John Hartshorne
Val Corbett
Ron Holden
Harry Scott

Chairman
Vice Chair

Absent

In attendance

Miss Emma Anderson Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and AGREED from 1) Clive Emerson, who was unable to attend the meeting due to business commitments and 2) Sarah Robson, who was unable to attend the meeting due to 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 1: Annual Village Inspection (Update on Mill Path):* The Chairman reported that stones on the surface of the path had been removed and that the grass had been reseeded where necessary. Ron Holden was thanked for offering to cut the grass in the short term.
- b. *item 5a: Otterburn Hall:* The Chairman and Vice Chair had met with a representative of the hotel's owner and the new hotel management team at Otterburn Hall on 11 June. This had been a useful meeting and the Chairman and Vice-Chair were optimistic about developing a better working relationship. The new management team were keen to work more closely with the community. Those attending the meeting had walked the paths in the Hall grounds and discussed options for future public access using designated paths. These options would be discussed with the owner in the near future and a response was expected in August.
- c. *items 6e and 6f: Donations:* The Clerk's Report was received and AGREED.

4. Finance

- a. *Parish Clerk's salary and expenses:* The Clerk's salary and expenses for June, 2009 was AGREED.
- b. *Audit to 31 March, 2009:* The *statement of accounts* and *annual governance statement* for 2008/09 were AGREED.
- c. *Invoice received from Messrs BDO Stoy Hayward:* IT WAS AGREED to pay an invoice totalling £138 received from BDO Stoy Hayward in respect of external audit charges.
- d. *Other invoices received:* IT WAS AGREED 1) to pay an invoice totalling £36 received from Otterburn Memorial Hall in respect of room hire and 2) to pay an invoice totalling £156.50 received from Neil Jones in respect of remedial work at the Mill Path.

5. Planning

- a. *NNPA 08NP0013: Application from Thorminster Ltd on behalf of Otterburn Hall Hotel to vary Condition 6 of the planning permission to allow the marquee to be used throughout the year without periods of removal.*
The Parish Council welcomed the inclusion of an acoustic survey with the planning application and gave careful consideration to the accompanying statement by the hotel's owners justifying the year-round use of the marquee. The original conditions applied to the planning approval had made it clear that the materials used in constructing the marquee were not suitable for year-round use. As there was no proposal to change the materials used in the construction of the marquee the Parish Council was left with little choice other than to OBJECT to the application. Members AGREED.

6. New business

- a) *Local Transport Plan Programme 2010/11:* IT WAS AGREED 1) to support Byrness and Rochester Parish Council in its plan for the construction of a Rede Valley Cycle Way and 2) to ask Northumberland County Council to install traffic calming measures at the junction of the A696 and the road to Otterburn Mill in the interests of pedestrian safety
- b) *Refurbishment of playground equipment and public seating:* The Clerk's Report was received and AGREED.
- c) *Correspondence:*
- 1) A68 closure for resurfacing: The Clerk's Report was received and AGREED.
 - 2) CPRE Newsletter (Summer 2009): The document was made available to any member wishing to read it.

7. Any other business

There was no other business

8. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7pm on Tuesday, 1 September, 2009 at Otterburn Memorial Hall.