

Otterburn Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council held on 1 March, 2016
Between 7.30pm and 8.20pm at Otterburn Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Present

Andrew Robbins – Chair, Cllrs Sally Harris, Peter Tully and Clare Thorpe

In Attendance

Martin Chilvers – Clerk, Peter Mander, Brian Milne, Duncan Fisher, Stephen Dunn, Andy Grundy, Jeremy Warren, James ??, Bridget McClean (Hexham Courant), Lynne Dunleavy (until 7.50pm)

1. **Apologies for absence** – There were apologies from Cllrs Brian Corbett & Steven Farrell.
2. **Declarations of interest** – None were raised.
3. **Minutes of the last Ordinary meeting** – The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair
4. **Public Question Time** – The Chair welcome Lynne Dunleavy from Northumberland Community Flooding Partnership (NCFP). Lynne spoke of what the organisation does and provided details of Otterburn properties that were in the potential flood area of the burn that flows through the village. She advised that those residents are able to sign up for ‘text flood alerts’. NCFP would be willing to hold a ‘drop in’ session that would allow residents to find out more what they can do in the case of flooding and action that could be taken to reduce the risk. It was agreed this would be a good idea. Cllr Harris asked whether sand bags would be provided in case of need and Lynne advised this is the responsibility of NCC.

5. Matters arising

a) item 5a: Pedestrian and traffic safety through the village: The Clerk advised he had received an email from Steve Fletcher (NCC) reporting that he had not as yet received a response from the NCC street lighting team. He would chase them but feared the work would not be completed this financial year.

b) item 5d: Ray Wind Farm: The Clerk advised that he had received an email from CAN to the Elsdon PC address regarding the future Steering Group. He reported he had asked CAN to send the email to the Otterburn PC address as well and correct the mistake that Otterburn was not included. It was agreed to give consideration to who could represent the Parish on the steering group.

6. Finance

a) Clerk's salary and expenses for February 2016: The Clerk's claim for salary and expenses was agreed.

b) Reimbursement of payment for Issue 12 of Rede Valley Newsletter: It was agreed to reimburse Jane Cartridge £179.82 for the printing costs of the newsletter. It was noted that these funds were met from sponsorship and donations to the Newsletter.

7. Planning

a) 16NP0016: Renewal & extension of timber decking at Lodge 10, Otterburn Hall, NE19 1HE: There was concern expressed about the size of the decking but agreement that the colour was in keeping with the rest of the area and development.

b) Community consultation regarding the conversion of 'The Annex', Otterburn Hall: The Clerk confirmed a response had been sent. The Chair thought the proposal was good and especially that it was planned to have its own water treatment and sewage system. All Councillors were supportive of the proposal.

c) 15NP0108: Construction of additional decking (retrospective) at Lodge 4, Otterburn Lodge, Otterburn Hall: The Clerk confirmed this application had been considered between meetings and support sent to NNPA.

d) 15NP0094: Construction of timber decking and steps (retrospective): Lodge 12, Otterburn, NE19 1HE: The Clerk confirmed this application had been considered between meetings and support sent to NNPA.

Chairman:

Page 1 of 2

8. New Business

- a) *Village tidy-up 19 March:* The Clerk's report was received and agreed. Cllr Harris advised she may be able to obtain additional litter pickers if required.
- b) *Update from the HLF Revitalising Redsdale project meeting:* The Clerk provided a summary from the meeting he attended on 19 February. The interviews for the Project Manager were due to be held on 3 March. Tenders were due to be received from the initial investigative projects. Cllr Tully expressed hope that local people would be able to compete for the work on the projects.
- c) *Community Speedwatch:* The Clerk's report was received and agreed.
- d) *Trees at the Millennium Green:* The Clerk advised there had been a request from the largest remaining cherry tree to be cut back as it would be blocking sunlight to a neighbouring garden. It was noted that two trees had only recently been cut back in the same area. It was agreed by the Councillors that planning for under-planting was needed before any further trees were cut back. It was noted that three fruit trees had been promised as donations and an update on this matter was requested at the April meeting.
- e) *Youth group art exhibition at the Millennium Green:* The Clerk's report was received and agreed.

9. Any other business / Matters for discussion at the next meeting of the Parish Council

- a) The Councillors requested an update on the position regarding the stone seat proposed relocation to the Millennium Green.
- b) Cllr Thorpe asked when the second swing seat at the Play Area would be replaced and it was agreed to ask Cllr Farrell when he would be able to do this.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5 April, 2016 at the Otterburn Memorial Hall.

Formal meeting closed at 8.05pm

Surgery –

- Stephen Dunn advised he had been attempting to get a copy of the foul and surface drainage system in and around the Percy Arms area. There was a concern in heavy rain, surface and foul water was mixing. So far he had not been able to obtain a copy and was seeking assistance.

- Andy Grundy introduced himself as well as his colleagues Jeremy and James who had bought the Otterburn Hall. He spoke of their plans but also the trouble they were having with the Landlord, Pay U Today Ltd that had recently changed its name to MC Futures Ltd. Despite writing on several occasions directly and via solicitors they had received no response. He explained that other property owners were in the same position and the particular issue was concerning water supply and the sewage system. The Councillors advised they would do what they could to help the position.

- Jeremy Warren spoke of the plan to create the Otterburn Hall Community Interest Company and they were seeking ideas from locals of what the hotel can do for the local community as well as good and bad experiences of the hotel. They wanted the hotel to be part of the community and hoped local residents would sit on the board.

- Duncan Fisher provided a progress report on the development of the Percy Arms. He advised it was on schedule to be opened for the first wedding, now scheduled in early June. The pub would also be opening at the same time. The concern of smoke from the burning at the back of the Percy Arms was raised and Stephen Dunn advised only items appropriate were being burnt. One worker had been dismissed for burning material not appropriate. Cllr Thorpe also raised the concern of parking behind her house in resident parking positions.

Meeting closed 8.30pm