

Otterburn Parish Council - Parish Clerk's Report
3 April, 2013 – 10 May, 2013

Item 3a: EDF Compensation payment: A meeting with Community Foundation and EDF has been rearranged for 5 June. Given developments in particular to the proposed crossing as well as the RTC Sports Centre you will be asked consider whether any changes to the proposed distribution of the funding should be made.

Item 3b: Pedestrian and traffic safety through the village: Following a meeting with local residents and NCC (Stefan Bell and Jim Long) it has been decided that due to restrictions it will not be possible to create a crossing in the proposed location along the main road. It was agreed that whilst it could potentially be located elsewhere that would not impact on residents access and the bus stop, the crossing would not be used. Discussion moved on to what could be provided to ensure traffic passed through Otterburn slower and pedestrians were safer. Various ideas were noted and Stefan Bell was tasked to develop these in readiness for the June Parish Council meeting. I spoke to Stefan on 9 May and he confirmed these proposals would be ready for June when he and/or Jim would be willing to attend the meeting to discuss and agree next steps. Ideas discussed included a chicane to reduce traffic speed.

Item 3c: Village tidy up: The event on 20 April was well attended and approximately 30 bags of rubbish were collected. Thanks go to those volunteers who gave up a couple of hours of their time to assist.

Item 3d: RTC Sports Centre funding / future Trustees: I have been advised that the proposed meeting on 11 May has been cancelled. Speaking to Anne Lawson she is more than willing to attend a rearranged meeting to speak, train and provide guidance to people wishing to become Trustees. Anne confirmed that the new charity had now been set up and any new Trustees would be linked to this and hence ensure their liability was limited. Work was still required by the existing Trustees to close down the original charity before the new charity was operational. You will be asked to consider how the Parish Council can perhaps help with the organisation of a new meeting and advertise the need for new trustees from the Redsdale valley community.

Item 3e: Parish Council elections: Otterburn Parish council was an uncontested election with the existing six Councillors all sitting for another term. Election expenses returns will need to be returned to NCC by end May and I can collect these from you at the meeting.

Item 3f: Community Newsletter: The first issue of the newsletter is being printed and due to be circulated on 17 May. 1000 copies will be distributed across the local community and whilst there are not many pages in this issue it is anticipated interest will grow and the next quarter's issue will have more content. Whilst funding has been provided for the printing of this first issue a bank account has not yet been opened. You will be asked to consider whether the Parish Council will be agreeable to initially pay the invoice for approximately £65 before being reimbursed.

Item 4b: 2012-13 Annual Audit: You be asked to approve the Statement of Account and the Annual Governance Statement at the meeting.

Item 4c: Parish Insurance renewal: You be asked to approve the payment of the insurance premium for £337.46

Item 4d: NALC – Annual Subscription: You will be asked to approve the payment of £152.87.

Item 4e: Bank account signing authority: I will provide paperwork to add new signatories to the bank account.

Item 5a: 13/01171/FUL: New former roof construction, log cabin and garage: The Croft, Old Town Farm, Otterburn, NE19 1JZ: You be asked to review and comment on this application.

Item 6a: Declaration of Acceptance of Office: Following appointment for a new term on the Parish Council you need to complete this form that as Parish Clerk I will need to witness. We can complete this at the meeting on Monday.

Item 6b: Register of Members' Financial & other interests: Whilst you will have all completed this form within last 12 months I am advised by NALC and NCC a new version needs to be completed following the elections. The good news is that it has been reduced to three pages. Please can you bring your completed forms to the meeting.

Item 6c: Otterburn Mill bridge weight restriction: Following an 18 month trial NCC have proposed that the restriction of 18 tonnes is to be made permanent. They have invited comments to this proposal that closes on 10 May.

Item 6d: Plots of land at Willow Green: Following Mr Lynn's attendance to the April meeting a further on site meeting was held on 11 April. Options for the footpath route were discussed but without definite agreement. NCC has been approached for guidance however this has not proved useful and you will be asked to consider what action should be taken now.

Item 6f: NNPA Sill Consultations: NNPA arranged open sessions on 7 May regarding the Sill project that subject to funding will see the creation of a landscape Discovery Centre and a new YHA Youth Hostel at Once Brewed. The Chair will provide further background of the project.

Item 6g: NCC Mobile Youth Service Provision: I have received from NCC details of this service. This is a well equipped van with its own electricity and awning. A wide variety of activities are possible that I will provide details of at the meeting. There is a cost of £150 of a full day event.

Item 6h: Maintenance jobs in the parish: You will be asked to consider jobs that require attention within the village including the Millennium Green, Children's Play Area, public seating and grass cutting.

Item 6i: Millennium Green – summer activities: You will be asked to consider what, if any, activities could be arranged during the summer at the Millennium Green for the residents of Otterburn.

Martin Chilvers

10 May, 2013