Minutes of meeting of Bavington Parish Council held on Thursday 10th November 2016, commencing 7pm at Great Bavington Church Hall

**Those Present:**

Nicola Bell (Vice Chairman), Catherine Hogg, Peter Ramsden, Richard Taylor, Claire Miller (Clerk), two member of the public

**2016/30 Apologies for Absence**

Carol Brodie, Peter Acton, John Spearman

**2016/31 Disclosure of interests by members regarding agenda items**

Nicola Bell declared an interest in rent for Great Bavington Church.

Catherine Hogg declared an interest in planning application 16/03666/FUL.

**2016/32 Approval of minutes taken at the meeting held 4th August 2016**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

**2016/33 Matters arising from meeting held 4th August 2016**

* Pothole repairs had been carried out, however cattle grid outside Carr House and Carr Cottage in Great Bavington village full up and overflowing, and problems with grid near to Great Bavington Farm. County Council do clear out, however drains situated within cattle grid get blocked, and even when not blocked, do not drain adequately and system requires investigation/attention, Clerk to report to County Council. Tree branches overgrown to the left hand side of unnamed road from B6342 to Great Bavington with one wagon having suffered damage to wing mirrors, Clerk to contact County Council.

**2016/34 Election of Vice Chairman**

Nicola Bell to step down, feeling a conflict of interest as Secretary of Bavington United Reformed Church. Nicola Bell proposed Peter Acton as Vice Chairman, Peter Taylor seconded, all in agreement.

**2016/35 Correspondence**

* Northumberland County Council – changes to waste recycling centre opening days – smaller centres to have reduced opening hours of 4 days per week – flytipping had already occurred near to Ponteland – clerk to report this to County Council.
* Tynedale Hospice at Home – newsletter.
* Northumberland County Council – Core Strategy – final consultation involving Ponteland/Morpeth housing.
* Vera Baird – notice of Northumbria Police meeting to discuss policing priorities – County Hall 23/11/16 530pm or online survey available – diesel thefts problematic within the parish.
* Nick Hodkinson – reporting on deteriorating bridleway route around west side of Divethill quarry – it was agreed to initially contact Footpaths Officer, County Council.

**2016/36 Finance**

**2016/36/01 Invoices payable**

* Great Bavington United Reformed Church - £100 – rent of meeting room y/e 31/3/17
* To agree donation to Tynedale Hospice - £100
* St Aidan’s Thockrington - £100
* To agree donation to Great North Air Ambulance - £100 agreed
* To agree donation to Community Action Northumberland - £20 agreed

**2016/36/02 Audit of Accounts 2015-2016**

* Annual return received and accepted from BDO, External Auditor, with matters arising regarding high amount of reserves held in bank account (advisory, no obligation to take recommendation); risk assessment – Clerk confirmed risk assessment would be carried out annually -internal checks on asset and investments (recommendation) – however Bavington Parish Council does not hold any assets and investments therefore this was stated Not Applicable. Inspection period for the exercise of Electors rights – this had not included the first 10 working days of July.

**2016/36/03 Set precept 2017-2018**

* Receipts and payments to 31/10/16 and draft budget for 2017-2018 circulated to all. Possibility of election May 2017 discussed, with enough reserves to cover the cost, if required, and it was agreed to retain the precept at the current level of £1600.

**2016/37 To discuss becoming members of Northumberland and Newcastle Society**

Society involved with campaigning against wind turbines, however becoming members was not thought to be of additional benefit, as society do contact all Parish Council’s within Northumberland when turbine projects are being pursued, and it was agreed individuals could join the society if desired. Clerk had written to Vattenfall and County Council regarding impact of Ray Fell on the surroundings – with acknowledgement received from Vattenfall and reply from County Council indicating comments could be made on Core Strategy regarding renewable energy. Kirkwhelpington Parish Council had written to state this part of Northumberland had surely done its part for renewable energy.

**2016/38 Planning**

**2016/38/01 Planning Applications**

* 16/02941/FUL: Mr & Mrs Acton, Plashetts Farm - single storey extension to front of farmhouse to form entrance porch – supported.
* 16/03666/FUL: Mrs C Hogg, Bavington Mount, Capheaton – change of use of existing buildings to residential use and construction of extension on part of footprint of existing shed - supported.

**2016/38/02 Any other Planning Matters**

No other planning matters.

**2016/39 Ray Wind Farm/Broadband Update**

In addition to Advisory Group, Community Liaison Group connected with contacts within the local community had been set up, which had now served its purpose due to turbines being insitu. At last meeting of this group, Planning Officer from County Hall reported further examination of planning districts to look at potential sites for future windfarm development, with report going to Planning Department at County Hall next year, and then consultation to take place. Northumberland National Park Authority a separate planning authority and this would also apply. Currently, fund being set up with community consultation carried out and 13% response rate. In summary, reasonable distribution of views from parishes involved, strong support for community wide initiatives and grants for community groups; transport, broadband, access to mobile phone signal and energy initiatives identified as important issues; high response in respect to patient transport and leisure provision. Most people indicated fund should achieve good value and take into account statutory provision by others. Top up funding from other sources and legacy fund maybe helpful, and mechanism to support larger scale initiatives. There was a recognised requirement for grants to local organisations, and also provision for larger scale issues, eg. Broadband. Advisory Group originally proposed, but unlikely this would deal effectively with the sums of money involved, therefore group had suggested setting up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which would allow group to negotiate with broadband/transport organisation bodies, however Vatenfall reluctant to go down this route. Discussions with inorthumberland/B.T. with projected government rollout of 97% target for superfast broadband nationally by 2017, however within Bavington parish only 45% anticipated. Person’s closest to turbines should have extra provision for superfast (within 5km),B.T. currently looking at logisitics and cost for this – list of addresses and telephone numbers in the parish need to be verified. Blanket provision could be stipulated to all properties, however residents could be asked whether they had any interest in this – however broadband now a utility and further generations should be considered. Where costs are very significant, individuals may be asked to assist with works, eg. trenching. It is important local people have to approve proposals.

**2016/40 Parish Council Web-site**

It wasn’t clear how to upload documents onto parish council web-site, Peter Ramsden and Clerk to research.

Clerk to apply for scanning equipment through funding available to comply with transparency code.

**2016/41 Any other Business**

There was no other business.

**2016/42 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Bavington Parish Council will be held on Thursday 9th February 2017 commencing 7pm in Great Bavington Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 830pm.



Claire Miller

Parish Clerk