Minutes of meeting of Bavington Parish Council held on Thursday 4th August 2016, commencing 7pm at Great Bavington Church Hall

**Those Present:**

Nicola Bell, Catherine Hogg, Peter Ramsden

**2016/21 Apologies for Absence**

Peter Acton, Carol Brodie

**2016/22 Disclosure of interests by members regarding agenda items**

Nicola Bell, as secretary to Church Hall Committee, disclosed an interest in Parish Council rent for meeting room.

**2016/23 Approval of minutes taken at the meeting held 5th May 2016**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record, after minor amendment.

**2016/24 Matters arising from meeting held 5th May 2016**

* Northumberland County Council had confirmed in writing pothole and road repairs would be carried out by the end of May 2016, however there were still concerns about dangerous potholes in several areas – the unnamed road from B6342 to Great Bavington village then to A68; particularly to junction leading East to Kirkwhelpington and parish boundary to Norheugh, clerk to contact County Council.
* Nicola Bell had responded to Ponteland School consultation, further to agreement at last meeting of Peter Ramsden responding.
* Regarding changes to procedure for hiring of Great Bavington URC Church Hall - returns do not yet need to be made to Northern Synod. Strictly speaking, the Synod trustees should agree to hiring of hall, however delegated powers had been made to each individual church, however not practical and situation reviewed. Church agreed it would be wise to formalise the arrangement, and rather than the Parish Council making a donation, £100 rent would be payable, itemised at £25/meeting. Once the reporting procedure begins, the church is obliged to have a hiring agreement with all organisation’s hiring the room, and it was agreed to continue with the present arrangement of an annual payment each November.

**2016/25 Correspondence**

* Northumberland County Council – Core Strategy final consultation – Clerk had submitted response further to information/guidance received from Newcastle & Northumberland Society.
* Northumberland County Council – Local Transport Plan requests 2017-2018 – it was agreed to retain current requests of passing place on road between B6342 and Great Bavington/and passing place on C222 between Little Bavington and War Memorial.
* Whittington Parish Council – Neighbourhood Plan – noted.
* Northumberland Association of Local Councils – County Council revenue saving – noted, however areas of concern covering grass cutting/WC’s/public transport and support for community groups not applicable to Bavington Parish Council.
* Tynedale Hospice at Home – newsletter – donation to hospice to be added to November 2016 agenda.

**2016/26 Finance**

**2016/26/01 The following invoices were authorised:**

* Northumberland Association of Local Councils – annual subscription - £45.92

**2016/26/02 Request for donation – Community Action Northumberland**

* £20 donated last year – it was agreed to defer to November 2016 meeting.

**2016/26/03 Audit of Accounts 2015-2016**

* External audit report not yet received, however BDO had contacted Clerk to state bank balance was too high, discussion followed whether local organisation’s could apply to Parish Council for funding projects. Nicola Bell reported Bavington Church hall are to receive second hand chairs free of charge.

**2016/26/04 Any other financial matters**

* Green Rigg Wind farm meets thrice yearly to determine applications, Church does currently require repairs, and this could be a funding source.

**2016/27 Planning**

**2016/27/01 Planning Applications**

No applications received.

**2016/27/02 Any other Planning Matters**

There were no other planning matters.

**2016/28 Any other Business**

* Ray Wind Farm community fund – advisory committee had been constituted with representatives from PC’s within 10km radius, and 6 other members appointed from the communities further to interview. Turbines scheduled to be operational January 2017, with first funding monies available 2017. In addition, an approach had been made regarding broadband, being an item of significant concern to the community, (local transport also of issue). Subsequently, Inorthumberland/British Telecom and advisory committee had met, at present targets for Northumberland are 90% superfast coverage by end of 2015 and 95% end of 2017 (phase two), and prospects could be dramatically improved if wind farm funding available. Expected take up is 35%, with fibre to cabinet for small communities - initially determined 40 properties would justify a cabinet, costing £35K and requiring costly power supply, however numbers to justify now reduced to 15-20 properties; for isolated properties, fibre to individual properties is a better solution, with cost ceiling justifiable if not more than £1700/property. As alternatives there is fixed wireless, resulting in 15-30megabytes, however line of sight to transmitter required, costing £100/property; satellite option is high cost, however startup costs covered by a grant if current speed less than 2megabytes, but system does have disadvantages; final option 4G, with work to increase the distribution of this and when first introduced it did introduce faster speeds but have since dropped off significantly. An action plan is proposed by British Telecom to go for universal fibre to properties, whereby Wind Ray Farm and NCC make a contribution.

**2016/29 Date of Next Meeting**

The next date of Bavington Parish Council will be held on Thursday 10th November 2016 commencing 7pm at Great Bavington Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 8pm.



Claire Miller

Parish Clerk