

HORSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.00PM IN THE W/VILLAGE HALL

- 0528. PRESENT:** Cllr M D Senior, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs A Turnbull, C Rodgers, D Lillie and P Taylor
In attendance: Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council
- 0529. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** County Councillor P Kelly and Cllr S Lynch
- 0530. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr A Turnbull declared a personal interest in items relating to Northumbrian Water.
- 0531. MINUTES.** It was proposed by Cllr A Turnbull, seconded by Cllr M D Senior and AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2013 be signed as an accurate record.
- 0532. MATTERS ARISING.**
- a) **TRAVELLERS.** Minute 0515a refers. Letter received from Northumberland Estates advising that they had discussed matters with the tenant farmer and he was liaising direct with NWL. They advised that they were happy to set up a meeting with NWL and John Bramwell however the Parish Council felt that this was not necessary. Cllr A Turnbull agreed to speak to Northumbrian Water representatives to see if a solution could be found.
 - b) **CROWN AND ANCHOR.** Minute 0525a refers. It was noted that the Crown and Anchor had closed on Sunday 17th November. Akenside Developments look to be going ahead with the sale although no further information had been received.
- 0533. COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL KELLY'S REPORT.** Councillor Paul Kelly was unable to attend the meeting however had sent a written report which is attached to this minute.
- 0534. RESIDENTS** present raised a number of matters and where relevant they are listed together with the actions that will be taken, if required. In due course if necessary, reports will be made back to Council.
- a) **STATE OF THE ROADS.** It was felt that the state of the roads generally in the parish were in a poor condition although this was a countywide problem. It was agreed to report problems on Gallowhill Lane to NCC and to Paul Kelly.
- 0535. CORRESPONDENCE.** All correspondence received since the September meeting had been listed on the agenda and circulated.
- 0536. JOINT AREA COMMITTEE AND PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS.** It was noted that the Joint Area Committee and Parish Council Meeting had been held on 15 October 2013 although no councillor had been able to attend.
- 0537. WEST NORTHUMBERLAND FOOD BANK.** Information received from West Northumberland Food Bank who is a network of local volunteers and organisations who collect tinned and dried food that has been donated by local people and then distribute it to people who are in food poverty in villages, towns and local communities in and around Prudhoe, Hexham and Haltwhistle. Nearest collection points for donations are Co-op Prudhoe or Waitrose and Tesco, Hexham. Further information can be obtained by emailing westnorthumberlandfoodbank@gmail.com or telephone 07443519852.
- 0538. NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY: HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND GREEN BELT PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION.** It was noted that this consultation began on 31 October 2013 and runs until 2 January 2014. Information circulated to councillors for comments.
- 0539. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**
- a) **PLANNING DECISIONS/APPLICATIONS.** Details of planning decisions and applications as circulated were AGREED by all Councillors.
 - b) **SCA.** It was noted that SCA had withdrawn the planning application 13/02592/VARYCO which is a variation of planning application 20060283 agreed for an Energy Recovery Plant.
 - c) **STONEYCROFT.** It was noted that the planning application for tree works at Stoneycroft had been granted. The trees stated in the application were sycamores however the actual trees are poplar. The planning department will be contacted for their comments.

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REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
13/02168/FELTPO	Stoneycroft, Horsley	Tree Preservation Order appln to fell 4 sycamores and reduce and reshape 6 trees by 20%	GRANTED
13/02459/FUL	South Lodge, Tynewood, Wylam	Creation of new access from road by widening existing driveway	GRANTED

0540. FINANCE

- a) **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.** It was proposed by Cllr A Turnbull, seconded by Cllr P Taylor and AGREED accounts on the list as circulated be paid.
- b) **ACCOUNTS UP TO 31 OCTOBER 2013.** It was proposed by Cllr A Turnbull, seconded by Cllr P Taylor and agreed to accept the accounts up to 31 October 2013.
- c) **TO AGREE PRECEPT FOR 2014/2015.** After discussion it was agreed to levy a precept of £9000 for the year 2014-2015.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET OF VAT	VAT	CHEQUE AMOUNT	CHEQUE NO
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	272.94		393.80	SO
Mrs A Senior	Play Area Inspection	75.00		75.00	SO
HMRC	PAYE	83.40		83.40	000755
Northumberland Estates	Play area rent	150.00		150.00	000756
RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy wreath	30.00		30.00	000757
RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy wreath's for village groups	68.00		68.00	000758

INCOME RECEIVED

NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DATE
Lloyds TSB	Interest	£0.46	09.10.13
Lloyds TSB	Interest	£0.49	11.11.13

0541. VILLAGE ISSUES

- a) **LITTER PICK.** A litter pick had been arranged for 26 October however it was disappointing to note that no volunteers had turned up on the day. In future it was agreed to place notices on the lamp posts throughout the village.
- b) **OILCAN.** It was noted that the community oil buying scheme was currently running with 8 or 9 members in the village. Kathryn Nicholson is the co-ordinator for the village.
- c) **BUS STOPS.** Cllr A Turnbull is to sweep out the bus stops.

0542. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 20 January 2014 at 7.00pm in the WI Hall.

Signed as an accurate record

County Councillor Paul Kelly Report November 2013

- The Labour administration intends to shrink the Senior Management Team from six to three and to combine responsibilities so that Children's Services, Housing and Adult Social Services; Local Services and Transformation; Financial Services and Business are managed by only three directors. There will be no Chief Executive. I have serious reservations about the plan, described as a "big District Council", as the scale of the County Council and its important links with regional and national bodies needs a supremo with the ability to fight for our interests outside the North East as well as organising the delivery of services within Northumberland.
- The Core Strategy consultation document on Housing, Green Belt and Employment has been five years in the making. To suggest that it is a politically biased document produced by the new Labour administration is arrant nonsense. In fact the Conservatives are over represented on the Local Development Framework working group and must take their fair share of credit or blame for the draft proposals.

Northumberland has an increasingly ageing population, a shrinking working age population, particularly in the rural areas, and a need for employment sites in the main towns. Unless measures are planned to restore the balance, many of the villages will become unsustainable. Interestingly, reference is made in the document to the slow depopulation of East Tynedale.

- Seventeen Northumberland schools were inspected by Ofsted teams in a blitz over two weeks in October. The justification was the gap in attainment between those on pupil premium and those who weren't, more pronounced in the county than in neighbouring authorities. A number of schools have been downgraded from their previous score. Could it be that the lack of enthusiasm shown by parents, schools and educationalists in this part of the world for Michael Gove's Academisation programme has prompted a political response? Every head teacher under the cosh was asked about the quality of LEA support. The fact remains that all schools are autonomous and that governing bodies can accept or reject "interference" from the local authority. LEAs do not control schools and cannot be held solely responsible for their failure.
- Work will begin on Ovingham Bridge in February (scaffolding) but it will not close to road traffic until April. The pedestrian bridge will close for a week for refurbishment but foot traffic will be directed on to the road bridge during that time. The bridge will remain single track but the deck will be remodelled so that it is quiet and less prone to damage vehicle wheels. In the spring and summer months a "walking bus" will be organised for those First School children from the south side of the river. The debate about the safest way to deliver them to school continues. Parish Councillors and Goose fair organisers agree that Ovingham village green cannot accommodate both the work cabins, storage areas and the Fair itself and are seeking an alternative site.
- Wylam has had six injury accidents in a relatively short time on its main street. Last winter Lynn Clarke and Becky Frankel, mothers of children at Wylam First School, asked me for advice about how to introduce a 20mph limit through the village. I suggested that they measure public support via a petition. Six hundred signatures were collected in a fortnight and the petition, presented at the West Area Committee in June, was approved at a series of meetings in County Hall. Technical solutions were discussed with Gateshead's Transport Policy officer in October and the 20mph limit will be introduced before Christmas. Judgements about the suitability of this limit for other locations will be based upon accident history and the effectiveness of the pilot scheme.

Paul Kelly 17/11/13