

HORSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2014 AT 7.00PM IN THE W/VILLAGE HALL

- 0543. PRESENT:** Cllr M D Senior, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs A Turnbull, D Lillie and P Taylor
In attendance: Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council
- 0544. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr S Lynch
- 0545. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr A Turnbull declared a personal interest in items relating to Northumbrian Water.
- 0546. 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 November 2013 be signed as an accurate record.
- 0547. MATTERS ARISING.**
- a) **TRAVELLERS.** Minute 0532a refers. Cllr A Turnbull advised that he was pursuing this on behalf of the Council although was not making much progress.
 - b) **MILL LANE.** It was noted that Mill Lane had been left in a terrible condition following the Northumbrian Water project. It was felt that NCC needed to push for additional remedial work to be carried out by Northumbrian Water. John Bramwell had met with Highways Officers on site and they are to push for the work to be carried out by NWL. Paul Kelly will pursue this on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 0548. COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL KELLY'S REPORT.** Councillor Paul Kelly gave his verbal report to the Parish Council on matters relating to the County Council.
- a) **Hexham Bus Station** – A petition had been presented to the West Area Committee challenging the decision to develop the land at the current bus station and relocate elsewhere. It was accepted that the bus station in Hexham was inadequate with no inside shelter. Possibilities had been discussed for the relocation of the bus station however all options would have to be investigated by Highways Engineers and the scheme would need to be viable.
 - b) **Northumberland Homefinder.** A presentation was given to NCC members re the allocation of social housing and the legal requirements around allocating it. A copy of the presentation will be circulated to all councillors.
 - c) **Budget.** NCC need to make savings of more than £130m between 2014-2018, of which £32.5m will come in the next financial year. Some of these savings have already been made by the loss of the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and one Corporate Director.
 - d) **Post 16 Transport.** NCC is proposing to charge for post 16s transport which would mean a cost of £450 per year. This would have an impact on the rural areas.
 - e) **Albemarle Barracks.** It had been reported that 1000 troops would be returning from Germany/Afghanistan and relocated to Albemarle Barracks without the resources to service their needs. This burden will fall on NCC at a cost of £4m per year to ensure that the barracks are serviced with schools, retail outlets and public transport. The existing facilities are inadequate for further troops however no further details had been received.
 - f) **Ovingham Bridge.** The closure is now not expected to take place until after the Easter holiday. The plans for the work include removal of the high wooden kerbs and easing of the slope at the north approach to the bridge. Both of these changes should help to reduce damage to vehicles using this narrow crossing.
 - g) **20mph signs.** It was noted that a 20mph limit would be implemented in Wylam later this month.
- 0549. 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) **TREE APPLICATIONS.** It was noted that a planning application had been registered to remove a sycamore tree to the rear of the church although the Parish Council had not been consulted. Councillor Paul Kelly advised that the planning department had a very robust policy and healthy trees will not be removed for development purposes. *Update: NCC Tree Officer advised that this tree was not worth putting a TPO on and therefore the application was granted.*
 - b) **FOOTPATHS.** Maurice Holliday reported on the following routes in the Parish which will be reported to NCC.
 - **Harlow Hill Road** – Problems are being experienced on this road with litter being thrown from cars, several potholes and water pouring from the fields causing flooding.
 - **Two Hoots Road** – Also litter problems and speeding traffic. Maurice Holliday is to write to Heddon Parish Council. This route is a national trail for walkers and the speeding traffic is causing concerns.

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- **Whittle Dene** – The Woodland Trust is working within Whittle Dene putting in new steps, slip boards and improving the footpaths.
 - **Spital** – This area is still impassable
- c) **BUSES.** Although there are 2 buses per hour it was noted that passengers that purchase a return ticket must use the same operator for the return journey therefore effectively only 1 bus per hour. Councillor Paul Kelly advised that this topic had been raised at the January meeting of the West Area Committee with Cllr Alan Sharp from Haltwhistle also raising concerns over the reliability and quality of the buses.

0550. CORRESPONDENCE. All correspondence received since the November meeting had been listed on the agenda and circulated.

0551. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

- a) **PLANNING DECISIONS/APPLICATIONS.** Details of planning decisions and applications as circulated were AGREED by all Councillors.
- b) **STONEYCROFT.** It was noted that the planning application for tree works at Stoneycroft had been granted despite objections. *Update: NCC Tree Officer advised that he had been consulted on the planning application and his opinion was that the trees had become unbalanced due to pollarded to keep away from the power lines and would not recover their shape therefore permission was granted to remove some of the trees.*

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	DECISION
13/03725/FUL	1 Stoneycroft, Horsley	Construction of sun room to rear	Decision awaited

0552. 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.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET OF VAT	VAT	CHEQUE AMOUNT	CHEQUE NO
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	272.94		393.80	SO
HMRC	PAYE	83.40		83.40	000759
C Glew	Grass cutting	500.00		500.00	000760

INCOME RECEIVED

NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DATE
The Hearth	Re-imburement for wreath	£17.00	13.12.13
Lloyds TSB	Interest	£0.39	09.12.13
Lloyds TSB	Interest	£0.40	09.01.14
Horsley WI/Garden Club	Re-imburement for wreath	£34.00	09.01.14

0553. VILLAGE ISSUES

- a) **OVINGHAM JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE.** It was noted that the January meeting had been postponed due to the illness of the Chairman.
- b) **REMEMBRANCE DAY.** The Parish Council had provided wreaths for several community groups in the village who had re-imbursed the Council. It was noted that the wreath for the Crown and Anchor had not been re-imbursed. Under the circumstances it was agreed not to pursue.
- c) **PLAY AREA.** It was noted that Cllr S Lynch had removed the broken fence in the play area.

0542. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 17 March 2014 at 7.00pm in the WI Hall.

Signed as an accurate record