

HORSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21 MARCH 2016 AT 7.00PM IN THE WI/VILLAGE HALL

- 0751. PRESENT:** Cllr M D Senior, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs A Turnbull, D Lillie, C Rodgers and P Taylor.
In attendance: County Councillor P Kelly
Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council
- 0752. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr S Lynch
- 0753. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr A Turnbull declared a personal interest in matters relating to Northumbria Water.
- 0754. ATTENDANCE BY REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTHUMBRIAN WATER.** Mike Foster, Alan Willoughby, David McDermott and Judith Huffee attended the meeting to give an update on the upgrade of the water treatment works. There is to be a public information event in the WI Hall on 21st April from 3.00pm – 8.00pm. The upgrade scheme will start in May 2016 and it is expected to continue until December 2018. Over the next month NWL will be carrying out initial work which will include clearing the land by removing bushes and trees which are located in the planned construction areas. This work will be carried out between Tuesday 15 March and Thursday 31 March 2016. The diversion of an overhead power line that is currently located in the planned construction area will be carried out by Northern Powergrid before the scheme construction work begins. Working hours will be between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Access to the site will be from the west end of the village and the contractors have been advised to use this route. (If reporting any vehicles please note the company name, time and registration number, if possible). There will be signage on the A69 directing vehicles. Concerns were expressed over the screening of the site, lighting issues and noise levels. There will be a Community Portal online where residents will be able to look at information and post comments. Any issues should be directed to Northumbrian Water and representatives will attend Parish Council meetings during the construction period.
- 0755. RESIDENTS.**
- a) **GULLEYS.** There are two blocked gulleys opposite the Crown and Anchor. They had been reported however will be chased up.
 - b) **PUBLIC FOOTPATH.** The overgrown public footpath running along South Farm had been reported and NCC advised that they would arrange for the works to be carried out to clear it as soon as they are able.
 - c) **TELEPHONE WIRES.** It was noted there are long lengths of BT wire hanging onto the ground from poles at the east end of the village. This will be reported to BT Openreach.
 - d) **WI/VILLAGE HALL.** It was noted that Northumbrian Water are to paint the inside of the hall within the next few days. The WI is looking to erect a sign directing visitors to the hall. Paul Kelly advised that they would need planning permission.
- 0756. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.** Cllr Paul Kelly gave a verbal update on matters relating to Northumberland County Council. A copy of the report is attached.
- 0757. MINUTES.** It was proposed by Cllr M D Senior, seconded by Cllr P Taylor and AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on **18 January 2016** be signed as an accurate record.
- 0758. MATTERS ARISING.**
- a) **TESCO LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND.** Minute 0738a refers. It was noted that the next round of applications opens in April. A scheme would need to be proposed to apply for the grant which can be for allotments, improved play areas, community orchards or gardens.
 - b) **LITTER BINS.** Minute 0738b. Confirmation had been received from Northumberland County Council that the litter bin can be placed at Horsley Wood Cottages. The litter bin is now in place however a resident of Horsley Wood Cottages had approached Cllr M D Senior to complain about the installation of the litter bin. The notice board had also been replaced but after a discussion with the same resident this was removed. The resident is to refurbish the old notice board and put it back in its original position.
- 0759. CORRESPONDENCE.** All correspondence and information items received since the January meeting had been listed on the agenda and most of this correspondence had been circulated by email.
- 0760. RETIREMENT OF DAVID FRANCIS, NALC.** It was noted that a farewell gathering in Morpeth Town Hall is to take place on Thursday 24th March 2016 to mark the occasion of David Francis retiring.
- 0761. NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY – UPDATE.** Consultation on a Pre Submission Draft of the Core Strategy took place between 14th October and 25th November 2015 and around 1850 comments were received. The key issues that have arisen from the consultation need to be addressed before the Core Strategy can be submitted to Government. The proposed new timetable for the core strategy will see major modifications published and consulted on in June and July. The final strategy will be agreed in

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November and submitted to Government in December. This would see examination by Government in Spring 2017 and adoption in summer 2017.

- 0762. NORTHUMBERLAND LED STREET LIGHTING PROJECT.** Street lighting is being modernised across Northumberland in a £25m investment programme. Nearly 17000 lampposts will be replaced and all street lights fitted with new LED lights.
- 0763. TRAINING SESSION – PLANNING.** It was noted that Northumberland County Council are holding further training sessions for Town and Parish Councils on the Development Management process, focusing on planning enforcement, section 106 agreements and planning administration. Councillors are invited to attend.
- 0764. FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE.** Northumberland County Council agreed to implement proposed changes to the Fire and Rescue service following a 12 week consultation. The Service had to cut £500,000 from its budget in 2016/17. The following changes, will now be implemented:
- Instigate flexible staffing policies to improve cover
 - Remove the retained fire appliance from West Hartford Community Fire Station
 - Change the second fire appliance at Alnwick and fire appliances at Ponteland, Seahouses and Wooler to smaller fire appliances.
 - Close Haydon Bridge Fire Station
 - Increase collaboration with partner fire and rescue service

0765. INFORMATION ITEMS

- Campaign to Protect Rural England – North East Newsletter Spring 2016
- NALC – eNews March 2016
- Active Northumberland – Northumberland Residents’ Festival
- Clerks and Councils Direct – January and March 2016 issues

0766. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

a) PLANNING DECISIONS/APPLICATIONS. Details of planning decisions and applications as circulated were AGREED by all Councillors and are listed below:-

| REFERENCE | ADDRESS | DESCRIPTION | DECISION |
|-------------------------------|---|---|------------------|
| 15/03632/FUL | Land east of Town Farm Cottage, Stocksfield | Demolition of remaining wall and construction of one storey 2 bedroom house | GRANTED |
| 15/04319/VARYCO | Oaten Lodge | Removal of condition 2 (occupancy) of approved planning application W73/142 (erection of farm cottage0 | GRANTED |
| 16/00417/LBC 16/400416/FUL | Crown and Anchor, Horsley | Conversion of former Crown and Anchor public house to 1no 4 bedroom detached house with integral garage | Decision awaited |

0767. FINANCE

a) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. It was proposed by Cllr M D Senior seconded by Cllr P Taylor and AGREED accounts on the list as circulated be paid.

| PAYEE | DESCRIPTION | NET OF VAT | VAT | CHEQUE AMOUNT | CHEQUE NO |
|----------------------|---|------------|-------|---------------|-----------|
| Mrs A Senior | Clerical Services & Play area inspections | 338.40 | | 338.40 | SO |
| Waltons Marquee Hire | Marquee Hire | 250.00 | | 250.00 | BP |
| Glasdon UK Ltd | Litter bin | 246.27 | 49.25 | 295.52 | BP |
| HMRC | PAYE | 84.40 | | 84.40 | 000843 |
| Mrs A Senior | Play area inspection | 75.00 | | 75.00 | 000844 |
| Mrs A Senior | Expenses | 22.65 | | 22.65 | 000845 |
| Horsley WI | Hall rental | 30.00 | | 30.00 | 000846 |
| Spanglefish | Website maintenance | 24.96 | 4.99 | 29.95 | 000847 |
| J Cotton Ltd | Hedge cutting | 60.00 | 12.00 | 72.00 | 000848 |

| INCOME RECEIVED | | AMOUNT | DATE |
|--------------------|---|--------|----------|
| NAME | DESCRIPTION | | |
| Lloyds Bank | Interest | 0.19 | 09.02.16 |
| Lloyds Bank | Interest | 0.19 | 10.03.16 |
| HMRC CECAS | VAT refund | 906.65 | 29.03.16 |
| Northumbrian Water | Donation – Queens 90 th birthday | 850.00 | 29.03.16 |

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- 0768. QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.** It was noted that the marquee had been booked and a deposit paid. Northumbrian Water had kindly donated £850 to pay for the marquee. A flyer has been prepared and it is hoped it will be distributed shortly. The Lion and Lamb were holding the event in the garden where they will be a BBQ, ice cream van, a band, irish dancers and a quiz. The date is now Saturday 11th June. £650 had been raised so far from village events and the Parish Council had agreed to contribute up to £1000. The event will be covered by the Parish Council's insurance and Mandy Senior will inform the insurance company.
- 0769. VILLAGE ISSUES.**
- a) **LITTER PICK** – A village litter is to be held on Saturday 2nd April. Equipment will be available outside 7 Stonecroft all day.
 - b) **WAR MEMORIAL** – It was noted that the War Memorial is now designated as a Grade II listed structure and therefore listed building consent will be required to carry out any works. The Parish Council will be able to apply for a grant to carry out the repairs from the War Memorial's Trust and the Sir James Knott Trust. The War Memorial Trust had advised after the initial grant application that there was insufficient evidence to suggest the work was required however they would consider funding a condition survey. The Parish Council needs to obtain a minimum of two itemised quotes with a method statement. Unfortunately, difficulties had been experienced finding tradesmen who were willing to come out and quote for the work. Following a recommendation from Corbridge Parish Council, a contractor is coming out on Friday to discuss the work required. Terry Mulligan will also meet with the contractor.
 - c) **NEW TYNE CROSSING.** A letter had been received from Prudhoe Town Council seeking the views of the parish councils in Eastern Tynedale on their request that a scheme be brought forward, with funding allocated, for the construction of a new Tyne River Crossing. After discussion, the Parish Council did not support their proposals for a new river crossing as it was felt this would increase the level of traffic through Horsley.
 - d) **ENERGY MONITORS.** Community Action Northumberland, working in partnership with British Gas and National Energy Action have received 6000 energy monitors to distribute to Northumberland residents free of charge. 2000 of these were allocated to the Tynedale area and are being distributed by Stocksfield Community Association. The monitors have a market value of approx £40 and can help keep track of electricity usage. There are very easy to install and are completely free. Anyone wanting one of the energy monitors should contact Mandy Senior on 01661 852277 or email parishclerk@horsleyvillage.org.uk. The WI Hall also have a supply to distribute.
- 0770. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES**
- a) **OVINGHAM JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE.** Nothing to report.
 - b) **EAST TYNE DALE PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS FORUM.** The next meeting of the Forum is to be held on Thursday 14th April at 7.00pm in Corbridge Parish Hall.
 - c) **SCA FORUM.** Cllr A Turnbull is to attend the next meeting in April.
- 0771. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 16th May 2016 at 7.00pm in the WI Hall.

Signed as an accurate record

County Councillor's report for March 2016

1. NCC Budget, set last year as a two year budget, has had to be adjusted in the light of recent Government pronouncements. All service areas are required to make further savings, the most controversial being the Fire Service. Retained (part time firefighters) numbers will be reduced, Haydon Bridge fire station will close and some engines that require a crew of four will be replaced by smaller machines that can be crewed by two. Since 2005 the whole time firefighter workforce has been cut by 30%.
2. Of the seven local authorities that make up the North East Combined Authority, Northumberland will suffer the most from the reduction in Central Government funding because of its predominately rural nature which brings higher costs and its comparatively low council tax base. The Government imposed reduction of 1% per annum over four years of social housing rents will result in a loss to the Housing Revenue Account of £164 million. Consequently only one of the four social housing schemes proposed to be started by NCC can be carried out.
3. The impacts of the winter floods have been significant in the county. Strategic reserves of more than £10 million have already been spent in responding to immediate residents' needs. It is estimated that a further £14 million of reserves will have to be spent on repairing roads, bridges and infrastructure without any assurance of recompense from the Government.
4. Following the reorganisation of schools to two tier in the Alnwick area as a result of first schools petitioning for change, School Governors in Amble have requested the amalgamation of the High and Middle schools into one 9-18 establishment. Hot on the heels of that request came one from the six feeder first schools in the Ponteland pyramid to become primaries, rather than parts of a multi unit academy with one executive head as proposed by the Head of the Middle School. The Head of the High School supports the change to two tier. If the academy bid had been successful, the LEA could not invest in improving the school stock.
5. The case for the relocation of County Hall to Ashington as part of a strategy to regenerate all of the towns in the county has been examined and approved by two specialist consultant bodies, scrutiny committee, cabinet, internal audit and now by external audit. It has had the full backing of the Chief Executive who, as Financial Director for many years, has consistently produced financial performance that beats all other local authorities by a considerable margin. Invest to Save is a policy that inspired the loan of £140 million to Northumbria NHS Hospitals Trust to allow the buy out of Hexham Hospital PFI, the development of the Emergency Hospital at Cramlington and the rebuild of Berwick Hospital.
6. The ground breaking integration of Health and Social Care in Northumberland is a national exemplar and Haltwhistle Hospital/ Residential Care Home is being touted as the way to go by ministers. A recent visit by the CEO of Public Health England described the service in Northumberland as exceptional. In recognition of her innovative work in the field of Health and Social Care, the Deputy Chief Executive, Daljit Lally, was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours List.
7. All 67 county councillors have been asked to consider using £1500 of their Small Schemes Allocation in order to sponsor one of their High School or College students to take part as a crew member in the Tall Ships Event in August. Please spread the word.
8. Diverting the river road past the landslip between Ovington and Bywell Bridge on to the adjoining field is the only value for money option. Negotiations with Allendale Estates are progressing satisfactorily. The Bridges Engineer at the last liaison meeting of Ovingham Bridge in January forecast a seven month delay before reopening. **PK 14/03/16**