

# MELKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10 September 2024 at 7.15pm

**PRESENT:** Cllr T Lewis (Chairman), Cllr M Oliver, Cllr K Stronach,  
Cllr S Vallance

**In attendance:** Mrs K Little – Clerk

County Councillor A Sharp (arrived 7.25pm)  
Steve Walker MD, Stagecoach North East  
Owner of Melkridge Coal Yard (arrived 7.35pm)

1 Member of the Public

**447/24 Apologies** – Apologies accepted from Cllr S Hingston (on holiday)

**448/24 Minutes of meeting held 20 March 2024 to agree**

Proposal for Minutes of meeting held 20 March 2024 to be agreed

Prop: Cllr Lewis      Sec: Cllr Stronach      Agreed

**449/25 Minutes of meeting held 17 July 2024 to agree**

Proposal for Minutes of meeting held 17 July 2024 to be agreed

Prop: Cllr Lewis      Sec Cllr Stronach      Agreed

**450/24 Declarations of Interest in accordance with Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011, members to declare any interests in items on this agenda** – None declared

**451/24 Reports/updates**

451/24/01 Melkridge bus timetable changes to consider – Steve Walker MD, Stagecoach North East in attendance to discuss 3 options working within the constraints of passing of buses between Moor View and Carrsgate and minimise right turns on and off A69.

Option 1 – All eastbound buses travel full length of back road from Haltwhistle via Whitchester and Henshaw, westbound buses to routed Henshaw, Hardriding, A69, Melkridge Green, Whitchester, Haltwhistle, stops at Carrsgate and Moor View would not be served westbound with full service to the centre of the village  
Option 2 would provide an hourly service, with the bus leaving Haltwhistle in an easterly direction via Whitchester, through Melkridge to Henshaw via Carrsgate. Buses heading west would go through Henshaw, then turn up at Hardriding onto the A69, then turn back down into Melkridge, which would miss out the section of Carrsgate and Moorview.

Option 3

Remain as is, 2 hourly service restore some services which do not pass, mainly in the evenings

Proposal to accept Option 2

Prop: Cllr Stronach      Sec: Cllr Lewis

3 members voted to accept Option 2, 1 abstention

- 451/24/02 Update regarding electricity connection – update from Cllr Sharp regarding response from Highways for connection to mains electricity supply with Northern Power. Cllr Sharp agreed to fund the defibrillator. Clerk to contact Northern Power to source electricity to power the defibrillator, possibly utilise existing power supply, which had provided power to the phone box.
- 451/24/03 Update of damage to shed, overblow tree and resurfacing of car park, clerk had emailed Cllr Sharp to ask if he has received any response from NCC with regard to a tree surgeon removing the tree stump – Cllr Sharp advised Michael Armour from NCC to grind down the stump and poison roots to avoid any further growth. Village Green Committee to apply to community fund for a new shed cost approx. £2400.00 for new shed, Proposal for MPC to contribute £50
- Prop: Cllr Stronach Sec: Cllr Vallance Agreed
- 451/24/04 Melkridge Village Green – update of Town & Village Green Register, as the plan received is out of date, clerk had asked NCC lawyer for a current Index plan or Title plan, but been advised there is no up to date plan – Defer - Cllr Stronach to try and obtain more information
- 451/24/05 Update of unstable chimney at No 1 Hightown – Clerk had emailed Cllr Sharp to ask the owners for a completion date, work now complete – Cllr Sharp advised he had spoken to the owner of the property and the skip will be removed by the w/e 21 September 2024. The scaffolding is still in situ, which is obstructing a right of way for the residents of Hightown – Cllr Sharp to follow up.

**452/24 Coal Yard** (agreed to move this item to be brought forward and discussed after Agenda item 451/24/01)

Concerns raised regarding noise and traffic on Sundays and evenings. Owner of the Coal Yard aware the conditions of the planning permission that no operations shall be carried out, no plant shall be operated, no maintenance shall be carried out and no vehicles shall enter or leave the site other than during the following times: Monday - Saturday: 0800 - 1800 hours and not at any time on Sundays, Bank Holidays or Public Holiday and stated not aware of any activity outside these hours. It was reported the issue had been raised by a resident from Moor View, owner to speak to resident.

**453/24 Visual Inspection of trees in Queens Platinum Jubilee Park**

Cllr Stronach advised no concerns

**454/24 Correspondence**

454/24/01 Haltwhistle Town Council – response to withdrawal proposal  
Correspondence received advised Haltwhistle Town Council and Burial Committee agree to the withdrawal date of 31 March 2021 and assets remain with the committee. HTC agree to the request for residents of Melkridge to continue to pay single fees until 31 March 2031.

Prop: Cllr Vallance Sec: Cllr Stronach Agreed

454/24/02 Believ (Liberty Charge Ltd) EV charging in Melkridge – *forwarded by email - noted*

- 454/24/03 Cramlington Town Council – initiation to participate in research for dissertation - *forwarded by email*
- 454/24/04 HTC – proposed councillor training session - noted
- 454/24/05 NALC – Monthly newsletters - *forwarded by email*
- 454/24/06 NCC – Annual Joint Town & Parish Council Annual Conference – 3 October 2024 – Cllr Sharp to report any issues following the meeting
- 454/24/07 Request for donation Citizens Advice Northumberland  
Proposal to donate £50.00  
Prop Cllr Stronach Sec: Cllr Vallance Agreed
- 454/24/08 NCC – 2025-24 LTP Programme – maximum of 3 priorities to be forwarded for consideration – no issues raised

#### 454/24 Finance

- 454/24/01 Tender for grass cutting – NCC had previously carried out grass cutting in Queens Platinum Jubilee Nature Park but no grass cutting has been done this year. Proposal for Cllr Lewis to contact local contractor to cut meadow land and the clerk to contact Michal Morgan at National Highways to enquiry about cutting the grass next year.  
Prop: Cllr Vallance Sec: Cllr Stronach Agreed
- 454/24/02 Bank Mandate for signatories to be updated - defer
- 454/24/03 Clerks annual salary to review  
Proposal to increase by 7%  
Prop: Cllr Lewis Sec: Cllr Oliver Agreed
- 454/24/04 Accounts for approval and payment:  
Prop: Stronach Sec: Cllr Vallance Agreed

06.05.24	DR	Charges to 14 April 2024	8.00
08.05.24	100523	H&DJBC	£20.00
05.06.24	DR	Charges to 14 May 2024	£11.00
21.06.24	DD	ICO	£35.00
06.07.24	DR	Charges to 14 June 2024	£11.00
05.08.24	DR	Charges to 14 July 2024	£8.00
10.09.24	100524	K Little – Salary, admin & expenses	£391.18
10.09.24	100525	HMRC	£76.60
10.09.24	100526	T Lewis – Maintenance	£42.41
10.09.24	100527	H&DJBC	£787.30

**455/24 Date and Time of next meeting – 8 January 2025 at 7.00pm**

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

**SIGNED AND ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE  
MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Chairperson.....**

**Date.....**