



**Minutes of the meeting of Chollerton Parish Council held on Wednesday
24th May 2023 at 7.30pm at Barrasford Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Edward Heslop in the Chair

Cllr Andy Bennett
Cllr Fiona Charlton
Cllr Malcolm Johnson
Cllr Bruce Lowdon
Cllr Dorothy Pigg
Cllr Michael Smith
Cllr Maggie Tarbit
Ms Jayne Longlands in attendance

County Cllr (CC) Nick Morphet

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

None received.

2. Elections for the following year

(a) Chair

Cllr Edward Heslop was proposed as Parish Council (PC) Chair by Cllr Bruce Lowdon, seconded by Cllr Fiona Charlton, and duly elected.

The Chair was pleased to accept this post; he said he would continue for another year, with the proposal that others may wish to consider taking on this post after that period.

Cllr Andy Bennett suggested we appoint permanent finance and planning leads to assist the Chair in his role. It was **AGREED** that this would become an agenda item for the following meeting.

(b) Vice Chair

Cllr Dorothy Pigg was proposed as PC Vice Chair by Cllr Fiona Charlton, seconded by Cllr Bruce Lowdon, and duly elected.

3. Opportunity for Matters Raised by Members of the Public before the meeting to be discussed

Questions which require a substantive answer at the meeting need to have been submitted to the Parish Clerk in writing 5 days before the meeting

(a) Mr and Mrs Nickson from 15 West Crescent, Gunnerton

Mr and Mrs Nickson asked if the PC would be willing to retract their statement made to NCC regarding the property's planning application. The Chair suggested that Mr and Mrs Nickson contact NCC directly and it was **AGREED** that the PC would back this up (to state that there were no amenities on the path and confirming that different parking practices were now in place).

4. Declaration of Interest from Members

To receive disclosures of personal and/or prejudicial interest from Members on matters to be considered at the meeting

Cllr Bruce Lowdon declared an interest in Agenda Items 10(b) and 10(c).

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the PC Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 were approved as a true and correct record, and duly signed by the Chair (Cllr Tarbit and Cllr Smith).

(a) Matters Arising from the above minutes not addressed elsewhere on the agenda.

None.

6. County Councillor Report

CC Nick Morphet's reported as follows:-

(a) Ms Susan Ogle from NCC's Housing department had sent a flyer to the PC explaining the steps involved in the Homefinder process. Ms Ogle had also promised to chase up Karbon regarding the possibility of reinstating local adverts. She said there was no way that automatic notifications could be delivered, but that properties could be manually checked. It was **AGREED** that the flyer would be placed on the website (although, prior to this, Ms Ogle would be contacted, asking her to update the personal circumstances section).

(b) NCC's Street Lighting department said that the "twenty when lights flash" scheme at the south end of Barrasford was controlled by an electronic controller which would have been left with whoever was in charge of

controlling the lights. Cllr Charlton said she would monitor this situation going forward, to see if and when the lights were working.

- (c) The Give Way sign on the east side of the Five Lane Ends junction had been replaced and the post for the new sign at Edge House Farm had been installed. CC Morphet had asked when the sign itself would be added (and also when the new sign at Middle Farm would be installed) and awaited dates for this. CC Morphet had also flagged up the broken sign at the top of Dalla Bank.
- (d) The signs for the species-rich grassland project had been ordered. CC Morphet was getting a microgrant from Northumberland Communities Together and also funding from RHS, but was still £258.30 short. It was **AGREED** that Chollerton PC would pay 50% of this amount.
- (e) The bench order was still on hold. It was **AGREED** that installation of the bench would be sorted by the Barrasford Monday Men.
- (f) A new Public Footpath would be created in Gunnerton which would run between the Coal Road and the playing field. It was not a Public Footpath yet, because NCC needed to make a Definitive Map Modification Order, which might take some time (Autumn 2023 at the earliest but, if contested, then this would take another four years).
- (g) One of CC Morphet's LTP programme requests last year had been to have the footway between Barrasford and Barrasford quarry resurfaced. This item had not made the programme or been rejected outright. The Highways Inspector would like to inspect the surface, but that vegetation encroaching on the path was preventing him from inspecting the full width. It was noted that the Monday Men had scraped the vegetation back to reveal the surface of part of the path. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Pigg would arrange for some photos to be taken (once some areas had been cleared away) and send these through to CC Morphet.
- (h) CC Morphet would be doing a Footway Accessibility Audit in Gunnerton on Saturday 15th July. He would be assisted by his colleague Wendy Breach from Active Travel Tynedale. They would assess the width and surface of every footway and identify where dropped kerbs were required. He would then draw up a map and send it to Highways Programme, asking them to make improvements. They would be meeting in the middle of the village at 10.45am that day, and all residents were welcome to assist.
- (I) CC Morphet was unable to spend his allowance on Japanese Knotweed control in Gunnerton. He was willing to pass the quotes on to any residents or community groups who wanted to tackle the problem.

- (j) The knotweed on the A68 to the south of the entrance to Barrasford quarry was sprayed by NCC last year and would be sprayed again this year.
- (k) Following discussions about roadside litter at the last PC meeting, CC Glen Sanderson said that NCC were going to crack down on the problem. Further updates would be provided as developments took place.
- (l) The gulley wagon would be cleaning out all the gulleys in the ward over the next few weeks.
- (m) NCC had launched a new system for flagging up issues, called FixMyStreet. This can be accessed via computer, tablet or phone, letting it identify your location or by entering the location manually. Once the issue is logged you will get updates on what's been done to fix it. The link is; <https://fix.northumberland.gov.uk/> It was **AGREED** that this link would be added to the PC website.
- (n) The LGBCE released its proposals for Northumberland's new ward boundaries on 2nd May. They were proposing to change most wards to a degree, but there were no proposals to change the Humshaugh ward boundaries. They would be consulting on the changes up to 10th July. A link to the consultation was provided; <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/northumberland> for anyone who wanted it. It was **AGREED** that we would respond, using the link, to say that we agreed to have no changes in the Humshaugh Ward.
- (o) Northumberland Communities Together had recruited a second Locality Coordinator for Tynedale. As a result, Ms Angela Watt would no longer be responsible for the Humshaugh ward, and our new Locality Coordinator would be a lady called Ms Delia Faran. Ms Faran was keen to meet with all the PC's and it was **AGREED** that CC Morphet would invite Ms Faran to attend the next meeting. A Locality Coordinator's job is to act as a link between community groups and to support vulnerable members of society.
- (p) Northumberland had just received £7.8 million to improve its bus services. Most of the money would be spent on new and improved ticketing products and new and improved services. There would be extra funding available for local bus service enhancements following engagement with parish councils and county councillors, so we should seize any opportunities to push for better bus services for Chollerton parish.
- (q) CC Morphet had been looking into sewage pollution and water quality in the North Tyne. It was **AGREED** that CC Morphet would provide a presentation on his research at the next PC Meeting.

The Chair thanked CC Morphet for his report.

Cllr Bennett asked for an update on the mobile library van; it was **AGREED** that CC Morphet would follow this up.

7. Items for Discussion

To discuss issues which have arisen or are causing concern within the Parish of Chollerton

(a) Uncut grass and rubbish at Barrasford

Cllr Pigg noted that the grass had been cut by Karbon Homes contractors that week. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Pigg would follow up the 'rubbish' issue directly with Karbon Homes.

(b) Coronation Mugs

Distribution of Coronation Mugs to children in the parish was discussed.

(c) Request for purchase of weedkiller by Barrasford Monday Men

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Pigg would enquire further about weedkiller requirements for the Barrasford Monday Men; the PC would do what they could to assist with their request.

(d) 2024-25 LTP Programme Consultation

It was **AGREED** that the following points be provided to NCC as Chollerton PC's LTP priorities for 2024/25:-

1. Signage at Walk Mill (there's no white lines following the resurfacing and feel it would benefit from signage stating road narrows and even priority for one direction).
2. Viaduct Barrier
3. Footpath from Barrasford to Barrasford Quarry to be resurfaced.

8. Correspondence

To note items received and sent out and consider their contents, as necessary

(a) St Giles Church, Chollerton: email from Ken Carlisle dated 25th April 2023

It was **AGREED** that £1,300 be donated to St Giles Church at Chollerton.

(b) Gunnerton Green Playing Field Wall: email from Galbraiths dated 5th May 2023

It was noted that Ms Gemma Nixon had been contacted regarding assistance in putting up the wall at Gunnerton Playing Field.

9. Financial Matters

(a) Bank reconciliation as at 14th April 2023: £12,543.33

This figure was noted and accepted.

(b) Dickinson's Grass Cutting: £2,040 paid on 14th April 2023

It was noted that £2,040 had been paid James Dickinson for grass cutting services.

(c) Defib World: £143.19 paid on 6th April 2023

It was noted that £143.19 had been paid to Defib World.

(d) NALC Subscription: £179.87 to pay

It was **AGREED** that this payment would be made.

(e) BHIB Accounts for Insurance: £687.14 to pay

It was **AGREED** that this payment would be made.

(f) Clerks Wages (Feb to May 2023): £602.84 to pay to the Clerk, £150.60 to pay to HMRC for tax

It was **AGREED** that these two payments would be made.

10. Planning Applications

(a) Permission Granted: Station House, Barrasford

(b) Planning Consultation 23/01425/FUL 14 West Crescent, Gunnerton NE48 4AX

(c) Planning Consultation 23/01424/FUL 15 West Crescent, Gunnerton NE48 4AX

(d) Permission Granted: Land South West of Chollerton First School

These applications were noted.

11. Information Items

To note information items received and passed to Parish Councillors via email.

None.

12. Any Other Business

Business taken under this agenda item is for discussion only.

(a) Gunnerton Bridge near Demesne Farm

Cllr Lowdon noted the Gunnerton Bridge was currently structurally unsafe and it was **AGREED** that the West Area Highways department at NCC would be contacted about this.

(b) PC Emergency Plan

Cllr Bennett noted there had been no responses with regards to the request for volunteer flood wardens. Cllr Lowdon volunteered to carry out this role. It was **AGREED** that if members felt we had any areas that needed to be listed they should let the Clerk know, otherwise an addendum to the Emergency Plan would be made.

13. Date and Venue for Next Meetings

(a) Quarry Visit

As previously discussed.

(b) Business Meeting

Wednesday 26th July 2023 at 7.30pm at Colwell Village Hall

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.