

Minutes of meeting of Norham Parish Council held on Monday 28th September 2020

Those present were George Straughen (GS), Jim Greenwood (JG), Jim Blythe (JB) John Grahamslaw (JJG) and Alison Murphy (AM).

AGENDA

9.20.1 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies from Dougie Watkin.

9.20.2 Application under s 85 Local Government Act 1972 re D Watkin

Motion proposed by GS and seconded by JG. Granted unanimously. 9.20.3 To make any Declaration of Interest

None

9.20.4 To confirm Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 27 July were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by Jim Greenwood.

9.20.5 Matters Arising from Minutes

i Proposed Joint Neighbourhood Planning in Norham and Islandshire

No progress to report.

ii Play Areas

JJG continuing to inspect – no defects to report. DW continuing to disinfect play areas (and school play equipment). JG's report on VAT/possible funding sources for new play equipment was considered and discussed. Agreed that in first instance VLC would ask Cllr Lawrie if he might be able to assist to any extent.

iii Public Conveniences

It was agreed that these should continue to be cleaned three times per week.

iv Lower Tweed Trail

VLC will send all councillors a copy of the first draft leaflet for comment

v Mobile Mast/BT Phone box

There have been a number of residents who have lodged objections with NCC re BT's application to remove the phone box. Re the mobile signal a resident has also been actively corresponding with local MP and EE regarding improvement of the signal. Cllr Lawrie has also raised the matter with NCC.

vi Northumberland LED street lighting/Undergrounding of cables

Nothing to report

vii Street Signs/Village Map

The frame for the new map should be in position by early spring

viii New Speed signs/30mph reminders

New speed sign on Castle Bank should be in position within the next few weeks. Cllr Lawrie is funding all costs (ex VAT), and the maintenance agreement has been signed.

ix Norham Development Trust

No progress to report

x Norham Website

Slowly building. GS will discuss accessibility of information on the website with Mark

Holmes. JB reported that cycling club had received a number of enquiries via the website and that it was well used by fishing club. Also obviously well used by the parish council.

xi NCC Draft Local Plan-De-allocation of Land
Objection to de-allocation has been sent to NCC.

xii Flagpole

There was lengthy discussion re this proposal. Fundraising has begun and has £150 so far. Concerns re the proposed height, and use of public funds for this purpose, were noted. It was agreed that GS would discuss further with those involved.

xiii Illegal camping

Agreed that AM, JJG and Michael Carr were to be thanked for all the work done at the bottom of the Cow Holme to dissuade larger vehicles from parking there especially overnight. Since the signage went up there has only been one instance of overnight parking. Situation to be monitored.

xiv Complaint re Boy Racers

Agreed that the last reported late-night incidents seem not to have been repeated. A complaint had been received re someone riding a mini scooter round paths and fields. This had been reported to community police.

xv Trees

A report had been received from D Gibson and was discussed. The work on two trees in Jubilee Field would cost £400 (ex VAT). Agreed that this work should be carried out. AM will confirm this to D Gibson. Planning permission would be required for tree work in Jubilee Field as it is in conservation area. It had been confirmed by Barry Wilson of NCC that trees on the highway were the responsibility of NCC. They will carry out some work down Pedwell Way shortly, and the larger jobs will be considered. There was some doubt as to whose responsibility the large trees by the garage were.

xvi Jubilee Field

Agreed that councillors should consider how to improve/make the best of the Jubilee Field for all members of the community. It was noted that the double gates towards the sewage works (which had been installed by Northumbrian Water) were deteriorating. This would be raised with Northumbrian Water – as would the state of the wooden fence near the bridge over the Mill Burn.

xvii Heritage Orchard

GS and JJG will discuss long term upkeep of the orchard with the Natural Environment Group.

9.20.6 Community Police Report

The terms of the report were noted. Agreed it would have been useful to have had some mention of the speeding issues in the village. VLC will raise this with them.

9.20.7 Local Transport Plan

Agreed the council's three priorities for next year would be

1. a) Resurfacing of the back lane between St Cuthbert's Square and West Street;
2. b) Resurfacing of Boathouse lane
3. c) Resurfacing of Mount Carmel loaning from Emerick road through to the road to Salutation Inn.

9.20.8 Christmas Lights

Agreed that new battery driven Christmas lights were needed. VLC and GS will discuss.

9.20.9 Norham 900 – bonfire etc

After discussion it was agreed in principle that the parish council would run/organise an event on 5th November 2021 (global pandemic allowing), which may include bonfire/fireworks and /or torchlight procession. This would depend on what funds might be available, and what safety requirements were raised by NCC/fire authorities etc.

9.20.10 Broadband

After discussion it was agreed that the Broadband Upgrade Fund campaign would be further advertised. Closing date for registrations is 31st October.

9.20.11 Pedwell Way mud

After discussion agreed that GS and JJG will discuss possible solutions though it is accepted that as Cow Holme is flooded on a regular basis mud will always be a problem. Complaints had also been received re the steps from Fishers Walk to the riverside.

Finance

9.20.12 To review Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Payments: S Broadbent (re WCs) 5th Aug £207.59, and 2nd Sept £156; to V Craig (re signage for Cow Holme) 16th Sept £71.55

Receipts- from NCC (re Precept) 7th Sept £2600, and (re WCs) 24th Aug £2000

9.20.13 To look at Bank balances in Current and Deposit Account

As at 28th Sept Current Account £17150.21; Business Account £ 971.15

9.20.14 To look at Planning Application decisions

27 Castle Street granted

9.20.15 To look at state of Roads and Pavements

Potholes outside 1 West Street reported.

9.20.16 General Correspondence

None

Any Other Business (For information only)

Issues had been raised re West Street as follows:

1. Request to extend front gardens east of The Masons potentially along to Salmon Corner - -this may have planning ramifications – to be checked.
2. Litter - request for signage to be displayed to the East of The Masons -situation to be monitored
3. Cycling on Pavements - this appears to have stopped since schools returned.

and in relation to Lane from St Cuthbert's Sq. to West Street

1. Query re the corner – it is becoming smaller and smaller for a variety of reasons. 2. General messiness in the area.

Agreed GS and AM will meet to discuss solutions.

Date of next meeting: 23rd November 2020