

Minutes of meeting of Norham Parish Council held on Monday 25th January 2021

Those present were George Straughen (GS), Jim Greenwood (JG), Jim Blythe (JB) John Grahamslaw (JJG) Dougie Watkin (DW) Sheelagh Hume (SH) and Alison Murphy (AM). One member of the public was also present.

AGENDA

01.21.1 To accept apologies for absence

None

01.21.2 Application under s 85 Local Government Act 1972 re S. Hume

Application dropped as unnecessary in light of SH's attendance.

01.21.3 To make any Declaration of Interest

None

01.21.4 To confirm Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 23 November 2020 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

01.21.5 Matters Arising from Minutes

i Proposed Joint Neighbourhood Planning in Norham and Islandshire

No real progress to report. A discussion document had been shared in December 2020. Pointed out that its terms are contradictory as regards de-allocation of the Glebefield for housing. As things currently stand the site has been de-allocated because of heritage concerns, though an objection has been lodged and an outcome on this is awaited. DW confirmed the NCC draft local plan is still under consideration - NCC may have to increase its county allocations for housing.

ii Play Areas

JJG continuing to visually inspect – no defects to report. DW continuing to disinfect play areas (and school play equipment). This is weather dependent and planned for Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays where possible. Re renewal of play equipment, VLC has contacted Cllr Lawrie who confirmed he has allocated £6700 for this purpose, so the rest of the funding must now be raised. After discussion agreed that GS and VLC will take over this project and will liaise with Holly Wright on it. It may be necessary to try to get other quotes. Any suggestions re sources for funding welcomed. Agreed local parents (and indeed grandparents) might also be asked to help with fundraising.

iii Public Conveniences

Continue to be cleaned three times per week and are in reasonable order. Some minor repairs required which GS will deal with. Agreed that tiles will also be replaced, finances permitting. VLC will check.

iv Lower Tweed Trail

Most recent updated version of leaflet considered. Agreed might prefer more wildlife information if possible. Further information in map key also required. Also a suggestion that the shell in Ord should be replaced by mention of the new nature walk. Also query whether there are public WCs in Cornhill.

v Mobile Mast/BT Phone box

Emails from various mobile providers considered. Agreed VLC will forward these to Local MP and Cllr Lawrie. Attitude of BT a concern if they intend to argue that Mobile signal is fine so they can remove the phone box. O2 say they will carry out some works -will keep in contact with them until this is complete). Vodafone -no action planned. Councillors asked to encourage others to object to phone box removal.

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. Discussion re previous request to rename road that goes past Birchill. VLC confirmed renaming (or naming) of road would result in change of postcode for houses on that stretch. Discussion whether this could be an advantage or a disadvantage, especially in light of new proposed development at Galagate. Agreed to investigate procedure for change of postcode.

viii New Speed signs/30mph reminders

New speed sign on Castle Bank should be in position within the next few weeks, once new speed limit signs up.

ix Norham Development Trust

Discussion re application to Rural Energy Fund for funding for a feasibility study. Agreed that this could be beneficial for the village.

x Norham Website

Still being added to and improved. The group would like more involvement from the village and in the group.

xi NCC Draft Local Plan-De-allocation of Land

Objection to de-allocation has been sent to NCC. Awaiting outcome.

xii Flagpole

Fundraising continuing, having raised c£1000 already. It is hoped sufficient will be raised by early spring to enable a flagpole to be put up. Still agreed that 8m should be sufficient height, with appropriately sized flags. DW will discuss requirement for planning for any flagpole (which will be removable), and proposed play equipment, with a contact at NCC.

xiii Trees

Planning permission granted to take down two trees in Jubilee Field. Work should be carried out shortly. There was also a query re trees cut down by Marmion House. To be checked.

xiv Jubilee Field

Discussion re removal of some vegetation. GS will also speak to Environment Group re grass cutting amongst trees in new orchard.

xv Pedwell Way Mud

GS and JJG had met with Trevor Smith to discuss possible solutions. A quote (£950) had been received and the landowner has agreed to pay it in full - awaiting a cheque.

xvi Christmas Lights

Agreed VLC will thank Ladykirk Estates and Mrs T A Grahamslaw for donating the trees.

01.21.6 Community Police Report

The terms of the report were noted. Agreed that via Facebook and Newsround residents will be encouraged to complain to police re speeding.

01.21.7 Norham 900

A number of events planned – whether they proceed or not remains to be seen. May be Norham 901....

01.21.8 Shoreswood Parish

GS and VLC attended meeting to discuss possible joining up. Shoreswood to deliberate further.

01.21.9 NDT Application to Rural Community Energy Fund

Discussed as above at Item 01.21.5 ix.

01.21.10 Holiday house planning policy

After discussion agreed that it may not be possible to have such a policy as require to have 20% or more holiday house in the area before becomes appropriate. Such applications will have to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

01.21.11 May Elections

Elections currently due to proceed on 6th May. Nomination papers have to be lodged by 8th April.

01.21.12 Electric car charging point

After discussion agreed no need for one at this point. JB pointed out that applications to Barmoor Windfarm Fund might be favourably considered if charging points included.

Finance

01.21.13 To review Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Payments: 30th Nov to V Craig £120.40 re new Christmas lights; 4th Dec to S Broadbent (re WCs) £150, and 5th Jan £150;

Receipts: 3rd Dec from HMRC (VAT refund) £384.40

Agreed that GS should be reimbursed for cost of new light and new battery for Millennium Clock.

01.21.14 To look at Bank balances in Current and Deposit Account

As at 25th January Current Account £15787.37; Business Account £ 971.17

01.21.15 To look at Planning Application decisions

Land North West of Galagate House: Granted

1 Cross View: Granted

70 Castle Street: Granted

39 West Street: Granted

Re application for new muck store at Galagate, there are no objections.

01.21.16 To look at state of Roads and Pavements

It transpires that it was not NCC but Northumbrian Water contractors, Fastflow, who had carried out clearing of pavement from Birchill to the Station junction. Thanks will be sent as it was a difficult job well done. GS still trying to contact NCC to meet to discuss the lane between St Cuthbert's Square and West Street. AM has had confirmation that it is a highways matter-DW will discuss with contact at NCC.

Flooding noted at Station junction. New gully not working. Flooding also noted at corner at the top of Castle Bank- water coming up through drains.

Query whether when road sweeper is due to visit, some advance warning can be given by NCC so people can be asked to move their cars. VLC will try to identify a local contact.

01.21.17 General Correspondence

None

Any Other Business (For information only)

Bernicia planning to re-roof their remaining houses in St Cuthbert's Square using concrete tiles rather than rosemary ones used on all other houses. Query whether this change requires planning permission as will look very odd.

Date of next meeting: 22nd March 2021