

DRAFT Minutes of meeting of Norham Parish Council held on 26th July 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). Colin Hardy, newly elected County Councillor was welcomed. One other member of the public was also present.

AGENDA

07.21.1 To accept apologies for absence

None

07.21.2 To make any Declaration of Interest

None

07.21.3 To confirm Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 17th May 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

07.21.4 Matters Arising from Minutes

i Proposed Joint Neighbourhood Planning in Norham and Islandshire

No progress to report.

ii Play Areas

RoSPA inspections completed. A couple of advisories re seat heights – GS and JJG will deal with these. New equipment now ordered and deposit paid. It is hoped the equipment will be installed in September. Query whether the existing slide could also be renewed. After discussion agreed that this might be controversial but may happen eventually. Agreed that the fundraising campaign had been hugely successful in a very short space of time – residents and businesses had been remarkably generous -as at 26 July the total was £16762.80 so only c£750 short of the total required (net of VAT). Agreed that if funds collected exceed the quote then new matting would be purchased for below existing swings slide etc. Old equipment will be removed as required at same time as flagpole is put up (see below).

iii Public Conveniences

Agreed these should continue to be cleaned three times per week for the time being. WCs are in reasonable order. Repairs to the back had been carried out as previously agreed. The contractor refused payment and asked that the quoted price of £200 be treated as his contribution to the new play equipment fund. Cupboard next to WCs (no longer used by NCC) now for use of village equipment e.g., Norham in Bloom, A boards etc. Agreed GS to obtain two quotes re replacement of the window.

iv Lower Tweed Trail

The leaflet is now available and ready for distribution. Horncliffe PC have also now paid their contribution towards costs. Agreed a meeting would be held with other PCs representatives to distribute leaflets, agree next steps re publicity etc.

v Northumberland LED street lighting/Undergrounding of cables

NCC will be contacted re Failure to complete LED replacement programme. Re undergrounding it had been noted that the Berwick Borough Plan (still in force) recommends undergrounding as the poles and cables detract from the view of the castle. CH was asked to take this matter to NCC to see if some pressure could be brought to bear on Scottish Power, who are aware that equipment is old and will be in need of replacement soon.

vi Village Map

The frame for the new map has been completed by Ian Simpson, and is ready to be put up with help of some volunteers. It is has been well made and in oak. Original quote had been c£2000. Ian Simpson has now confirmed he will only charge for materials and the sum he would have charged for labour should be treated as a donation to the new play equipment fund. Further discussion re change of name/postcode for the road past Galagate. A number of residents have said they do not want this so the idea will be dropped. The new map will show postcodes and house names where possible. The old Norham village sign will be attached to it. As regards side spaces discussion as to how they should be used. Discussion re possibility of new bigger board for Parish Council notices on village hall.

vii New Speed signs/limits

Waiting to hear further from NCC re 20mph speed limit possibilities and request for pedestrian crossing near the

school. Agreed that would like 20mph through the centre of the village, but certainly at least by the school. CH will discuss with Highways.

viii Norham Development Trust

Greencat Renewables have completed Stage 1 part of feasibility report, during the course of which they considered all possible renewable energy sources. The recommendations at this stage are solar and wind. Stage 2 involves more detailed consideration of these possibilities, including asking NCC re their attitude as regards planning consent. It is unlikely that matters will progress thereafter as there are currently no financial incentives for renewable energy developments though it is possible that might change. Re Norham in Bloom agreed that a huge amount of work was done by that group and the Clean -up group. the village is looking very good for residents and visitors and results will not be available till September. NCC are also to be thanked for helping by ensuring grass was cut at the right time, and street were swept.

ix NCC Draft Local Plan-De-allocation of Land

It would appear that the area west of Glebefield has been re-allocated for affordable housing.

x Flagpole

It appears that this may be put up soon – preferably before the play equipment goes in -sone publicity would be welcome for those who did the vast bulk of fund raising.

xi Jubilee Field

Some clearing and grass sowing has been carried out (grass seed donated by McCreath Simpson and Prentice). As regards the wall that requires repairs GS had obtained two very similar quotations which were considered. Agreed if possible that all the repair works should be carried out asap, so the contract would be placed with whoever could promise to complete the required works this year. Agreed that the aim should be to have the field, which was originally donated for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, should be refreshed for her Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

xii Pedwell Way Mud

The works have been carried out, and a new drain is to be put in at the contractor's own expense. So far the drainage seems to work – though acknowledged that the river flooding will always leave silt build up on the road.

xiii Community Police Report

The terms of the report were noted. Also noted that any reports of speeding should be made to 101 not to the parish council. VLC will put this in Newsround and on Facebook.

xiv Norham 900

A big 900th birthday party for the castle is being planned for 11th Sept by Friends of Norham castle. After discussion agreed that the cost of two portaloos would be paid for by the parish council from the Castle (Business) account. GS confirmed that he had spoken to Mr Orpwood who has confirmed use of his field for parking, and that he will ensure the grass is cut and that the entrance to the field is smoothed. Discussion as to whether a bonfire and hog roast could be held. One suggestion was a well stewarded bonfire with BBQ, entry by ticket only (to include the cost of food) in jubilee field. Fireworks were controversial. To be considered further. Suggestion that the trees I Jubilee field could be tidied up and cuttings burnt on the bonfire.

xv Highways England Proposed Infill of bridge

No further developments-anticipated that there will not be any for some time, and that prior warning will be given.

xvi Stackyard Lane.

It appears that Coast and Castle Housing Association deny that the hedge on the west side of the lane belongs to them. Agreed would need to check the ownership position re vicarage hedge. Agreed in principle that removal of the rough hedge and planting of a more domestic one would be more attractive, along with a proper foot path down the side of the lane. Planning situation would need to be considered.

xvii Parking

Noted that parking is a general issue throughout the village as it is everywhere, and that the situation should be monitored before other options might be considered. Concerns had also arisen regarding the lane behind St Cuthbert's Square. Hedges were to be cut back at the request of NCC (VLC will check if letters had been sent out).

7.21.5 Local Transport Plan programme proposals.

After discussion agreed that these would be

1. 20mph zone through the centre of the village, or at the very least by the school
2. Re-surfacing of lane from West Street round behind St Cuthbert's Square, through to Church Lane
3. Re-surfacing of Boathouse Lane.

CH will support the first of these which should help.

Finance

07.21.6 To review Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Payments: 21 May: £192 to Greaves West & Ayre; £150 To PCC re Newsround; £150 to PCC re graveyard maintenance; £250 to Village Hall; £50 to GNAA; £50 to CAB; £50 to HospiceCare; 26 May £443.39 to BHIB Ltd; £75 to NDT; £50 to CAN; 27 May £150 to S Broadbent; 13 June £164.40 to PlaySafety Ltd; 7 July £200 to S Broadbent; 9 July £1950 to J Gibson Photography; 22 July £10529.82 to Playdale Ltd.

Receipts: 28 May £3000 from Simpson McCreath Trust re play equipment. Total of £2485 in other donations received re new play equipment; 5 July £382.80 from Norham Arts group re teas from Open Garden weekends (for play equipment); 14 July £300 Horncliffe PC re LTT leaflet.

07.21.7 To look at Bank balances in Current and Deposit Account

As at 26 July Current Account £30389.38; Business Account £ 971.21

07.21.8 To look at Planning Application decisions

Croftfield: Granted

Birch Hill: Granted

07.21.9 To look at state of Roads and Pavements

Potholes generally much improved. Agreed should be reported to NCC as and when noticed. Re footpaths noted that a complaint had been received re Fisher's Walk-had been strimmed in June but nettles again proving a problem. Discussion re cutting of paths from Birchill up to Watch Law and behind The Columns. Also discussion re gates/fence across the river bank near the Cow Holme. Agreed that it would be appropriate for paths to be where possible suitable for mobility scooters/push chairs. The gate near Cow Holme is a kissing gate and therefore inappropriate. GS will contact NCC Footpaths Officer to discuss these points. Also noted that irrigation pipes are across the right of way along the river preventing grass cutting. JG also raised concern re the state of the pavement between Bridge Farm and the bridge – it is in a very bad state of repair and very overgrown making it impossible to walk down – walkers are forced on to the road at various points which is obviously dangerous especially with a pushchair.

07.21.10 General Correspondence

None

Any Other Business (For information only)

Query re availability of marquee/gazebos for fundraising. Confirmed there were gazebos available – contact should be made to VLC.

Query re installation of electric charging points somewhere in village. After discussion agreed that CH would investigate at NCC re provision of these. Would require designated parking places. Query re obtaining of a condition report re the market cross. GS and JJG will look at it in first instance.

Date of next meeting: 27th September 2021

