

NB THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES AS YET TO BE FINALLY AGREED

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting of Norham Parish Council held on 22nd July 2024

Those present were George Straughen (GS), Jim Greenwood (JG), John Grahamslaw (JJG), Dougie Watkin (DW) and Alison Murphy (AM). Sheila Johnson (SJ) was also present as were several members of the public. Colin Hardy (CH) NCC County Councillor was also present.

- 7.24.1 To accept apologies for absence**
Apologies accepted from Sheelagh Hume.
- 7.24.2 Declaration of Acceptance of Office by Sheila Johnson**
Sheila Johnson (SJ) having been duly elected, accepted office and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. She confirmed that she was accepting office as it was her understanding that the Electoral Commission had been consulted by NCC before the result of the by-election had been declared, and that they had therefore been happy with the process. She also confirmed she would act as councillor in the best interests of all members of the community, whether they had voted for her or not.
- 7.24.3 To make any Declaration of Interest**
GS and JG both declared an interest in any items relating to Norham Development Trust (NDT), as directors of NDT, and to Norham Recreational Trust (NRT), which governs the Jubilee Field, as Trustees of NRT. It was pointed out to JJG that he should also declare an interest being the third Trustee of NRT, which he then did.
- 7.24.4 To consider applications for dispensation under para 17 of Norham Parish Code of Conduct**
GS confirmed that in order for the applications for dispensation to be considered he and JG would leave the room. GS asked if any councillor would like to act as Chair for this part of the meeting whilst he was absent. DW volunteered. SJ and AM were both asked if they wished to be Chair, and both declined. GS and JG then left the room. JJG then also left the room, explaining that he too wished dispensation. DW then asked if there were any objections to the applications for dispensation. AM confirmed she objected. SJ confirmed she did not, as did DW. The applications for dispensation were accordingly granted. VLC at this point left the room to ask GS, JG and JJG to return. At this point AM and a number of members of

the public left the meeting. GS, JG and JJG returned to the room. DW explained what had happened in their absence.

7.24.5 To confirm Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meetings of 20th May 2024 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed.

7.24.6 Matters arising from Minutes

i Proposed Joint Neighbourhood Plan – Options Paper

After discussion it was agreed that, if possible, a one-off single item meeting of the parish council would be arranged to discuss this matter, in the hope of making some progress. Sarah Brannigan from NCC Neighbourhood Planning Team would be invited.

ii Public Conveniences

No further anti-social behaviour in relation to WCs had been reported. The building could do with a refresh when time allowed.

iii Play Areas

The RoSPA inspection reports had been received. These raised a few minor issues, mainly in relation to the slide and the ground surface around it.

iv Community Police Report

The community police report indicated that ‘there had been no new crimes or incident reported since the last meeting....and no new reports of anti-social behaviour or speeding issues.’

v Undergrounding of cables

Nothing to report.

vi Norham Development Trust

GS confirmed GreenCat are in the process of organising the surveys which are required for any planning application of this kind. GS confirmed that NDT recognised the concerns that had

been expressed about the project and would consider how those concerns could be best addressed. It is intended to be a community project, and NDT recognise they have to listen to the community.

GS also confirmed that NDT were now in charge of the production and distribution of Norham Newsround after Mr and Mrs Harris, who had carried out this role for many years, had been unable to find anyone to volunteer to take it over.

In addition, NDT are responsible for the website – a refresh of which was currently underway.

Finally, GS confirmed that the refurbishment of 1 Tower Cottages was nearly complete, and it is hoped the property would be advertised to let within the next week or so. Flyers would be delivered round the parish inviting applications.

vii Jubilee Field

The field is looking good but there have again been complaints about dog poo not being picked up. Agreed a notice would again be put in Newsround reminding people that this is an area where children play. JJG also confirmed a new gate post is needed. GS agreed he and JJG would take remedial action.

viii Parking in Castle Street

GS confirmed a further revised plan had been received but did not reflect what had been discussed at the previous meeting. A fresh plan would be requested. Once, and if, the parish council was happy with the scheme, it would be put out for consultation in the parish. It was confirmed that NCC did not put this type of matter out for consultation themselves. It was also confirmed that if NPC did not wish to proceed with a new parking scheme, it could not be imposed by NCC.

ix Proposed 20mph Speed limit

It had recently been confirmed that it was now against government guidelines to allow 20mph speed limits on a through road – so a village wide 20mph speed limit would not happen. A speed survey had apparently been carried out in April. There was discussion about the results of that survey which showed that

some vehicles had gone through c60mph and some at 6mph so the average speed was slightly misleading. Noted that some villages in Scotland had had a higher police presence recently to raise speeding awareness. VLC to contact NCC in respect of other possible speed calming options.

x Land at Glebefield

A further very informal meeting had been held with Diocese representatives. In brief they would like a housing needs assessment carried out (this is in hand via the Neighbourhood Plan process as funding has been applied for) and they were also looking for other pieces of evidence as regards demand. In addition, they would like views on what type of mix of housing might be considered. The area is allocated for housing in the NCC Local Plan so, bearing in mind the new government's wish to increase house building, it was inevitable that some housing would be built. It would not all be affordable housing as grants no longer exist for the type of development that was built at the Glebe Field. It was more likely to be a mixed development and, if possible, some affordable homes for rent. There was discussion re how any such new development might be controlled so that the houses could only be used as 'principal residences' i.e. not holiday homes, or second homes. GS confirmed the Diocese were aware of such concerns. CH also confirmed NCC were actively considering an 'in perpetuity' clause for new developments, in terms of which any new homes which were not principal residences would be subject in 100% extra council tax.

xi Lower Tweed Trail

In reasonable condition except for two large fallen trees in Castle Wood. GS will contact NCC Footpaths Officer on this matter.

xii Paton & Co Donations

After discussion agreed a further payment of £250 would be made to Norham in Bloom.

xiii Trees

The crowning of trees at Bow Well, on Castle Street and on the Cow Holme had all been dealt with.

xiv Truck Run

The Borders Truck Run had gone through the village on 6th July – in the region of 140 trucks had taken part, raising funds in aid of charities mainly connected to Borders General Hospital

xv Local Transport Plan Programme 2025-26

After discussion on what the priorities should be for this, agreed that a village inspection would be requested to identify what could be carried out in the normal course, and therefore what matters could be included in this programme, Possibilities suggested were the footpaths to the bridge and up past Birch Hill, and Boathouse Lane resurfacing.

FINANCE

7.24.7 To review Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Payments from Current Account:

21 May

V Craig	£64.99	Norton security
Greaves West Ayre	£240	Internal Audit Fee
ClearInsurance	£571.72	Insurance
NDT	£200	Newsround
NDT	£75	Website
Village Hall	£300	Donation
GNAA	£100	Donation
CAB North	£100	Donation
HospiceCareNN	£50	Donation
N&DPCC	£150	Graveyard maintenance

30 May

S Broadbent	£150	WCs
V Craig	£37.89	Stationery

2 June:

D Gibson	£3960	Tree works
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1 July

S Broadbent	£150	WCs
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14 July

PlaySafety Ltd

£187.20

Annual inspection

Receipts Into Current Account:

Donation

£400

- 7.24.8 To look at Bank balances in Current and Deposit Accounts**
As at 22 July the balance in the Current Account was £8139.42 and Business (Castle) Account £611.43.
- 7.24.9 To look at Planning Application decisions**
Land Northeast of Asgard- Permission in principle: Granted
- 7.24.10 To look at state of Roads and Pavements**
GS asked that VLC report a sunken manhole cover in the lane between South Lane and Bow Well on
[**https://www.fixmystreet.com**](https://www.fixmystreet.com)
- 7.24.11 General Correspondence**
None

Any Other Business (For information only)

An issue re vibration noise emanating from air source heat pumps fixed to Bernicia houses in St Cuthberts Square was raised. To be investigated further. A house in West Street which has been unoccupied for a considerable period and is now seen to be in a state of some decay was raised. CH confirmed that NCC had a grant scheme which might provide funds to carry out repairs. GS raised the question of the mobile phone signal -VLC will contact John Cooper of NCC to request an update.

Date of next meeting: 23rd September