

## DRAFTMinutes of Meeting of Norham Parish Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Those present were: George Straughen (GS), Jim Blythe (JB), Sheelagh Hume (SH), Dougie Watkin (DW), John Grahamslaw (JJG) and Alison Murphy (AM).

### 1.20.1. To accept apologies for Absence

Apologies from Jim Greenwood

### 1.20.2 To make any Declaration of Interest

GS declared that in relation to Item 1.20.6 he was a neighbouring proprietor but had no vested interest.

### 1.20.3. To agree Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

## **11.19.4 Matters Arising from Minutes**

### i. Proposed Joint Neighbourhood Planning in Norham and Islandshire

DW reported there had been a recent meeting attended by two officials from Northumberland County Council (NCC), who were clearly keen for matters to progress. It was to be hoped therefore that there would be some progress soon.

### ii. Play Areas

Holly Wright, from the Play Park Group, presented new plans which had been received from Playdale, for consideration. It would appear that Playdale provided the best, 30-year, guarantee for wooden play equipment. Various quotes had been received but after negotiation she confirmed that the current work could be carried out by Playdale for £21140 incl Vat. It was agreed the plans would be circulated amongst the parish councillors and careful consideration would have to be given to funding sources. There was also discussion regarding timing of replacement of the posts round the green. SH indicated she hoped this might take place in late spring. JJG confirmed a visual inspection of the current play equipment had been undertaken on 24 January and no defects had been noted.

### iii. Public Conveniences

These continue to be well maintained. NCC payment had been received.

### iv. Tweed Way

Jim Gibson was working on a leaflet with a view to it being available by the School Easter holidays. Costs would be covered by the parish council in the first instance, with the hope that other councils would be able to contribute in due course. The plan is to ask local walking groups to walk the path to give their comments on it.

### v. Mobile Mast/BT Phone box

Agreed after discussion that VLC should contact the local MP to ask for news of any developments regarding funding for areas where mobile signals are non-existent.

### vi. Northumberland LED street lighting/Undergrounding of cables

No developments to report.

### vii Street Signs/Village Map

Discussion regarding the form of the map. GS had inserted names of all houses. AM will try to locate a postcode map so that these could be shown. Discussion re earlier query about Turnpike Road. It was agreed VLC would ask the History Society if they had a copy of the Enclosure Act map from 1765.

### viii New Speed signs/30mph reminders

Cllr Lawrie has agreed to fund the third speed sign, to be placed on Castle Bank. It will be erected as soon as the new 30 mph speed limit has been approved. The other speed sign at Birch Hill will be monitored, as it has not been working to maximum efficiency.

### ix Northumbria in Bloom

The group will be entering again this year. Discussion re parking on verges. Noted that this damaged the grass and made the verges look unsightly, which harmed the chances of the group. Agreed VLC will put a notice in next newsround to this effect. Some of proceeds from WI's Soup and Sandwich lunch on 13 February will be going to the group.

x Liaison with Northumberland County Council

GS and VLC have met with a number of NCC representatives and easier contact is very helpful.

xi Norham Development Trust

The community orchard in the Jubilee Field will be planted this week. The bird hide construction is making progress.. There is a meeting with English Heritage on 31 January to discuss the possibility of a funding application to heritage lottery Fund for a village wide project. There will be a drop in session on 27 March so residents can find out everything that has been going on.

xii Norham Website

Mark Holmes and John Adams will be attending next coordination group meeting on 3 February to demonstrate the new website. It has been agreed that the domain name ownership will be transferred to Norham Development Trust to ensure continuity. The parish council will have various pages and all archived documents will be transferred over. VLC will update all policies and send them to councillors so they can be read before the next meeting, with a view to their all being approved and then uploaded on to the new site.

1.20.5 Christmas Lights

Ladykirk Estates will be thanked for their donation of a Christmas tree. There is a need for new lights. After discussion it agreed that GS and VLC would consider the possibilities.

1.20.6 Planning Application re Galagate

Councillors had made a variety of comments on the plans which had been circulated. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that GS would draft the response on behalf of the council, incorporating these comments and reflecting the terms of the discussion. DW indicated that he had become aware that the allocation of land for affordable housing in Norham, in the field next to Glebefield, had been withdrawn although the parish council had not been informed of this. He believed this was a result of an objection from Historic England. Agreed that VLC would contact Cllr Lawrie and ask him to investigate/clarity the position.

**Finance**

1.20.7 To review Payments and Receipts since last meeting

£2000 had been received from NCC (WCs upkeep), and payments of £100 and £130.94 had been made to S penman (WC cleaning). Agreed after discussion that some improvement work would be carried out to WCs.

1.20.8 To look at Bank balances in Current and Deposit Account

Current Account £15765.35; Castle Account £970.42

1.20.9 To look at Planning Application decisions

9 Pedwell Way granted.

Also noted that pavement outside the house next to the shop had been tidied up. The planning dept had indicated they could do nothing about the pointing but were confident that it would weather.

1.20.10 To look at state of Roads and Pavements

As a result of discussions with Northumbrian Water they had agreed to carry out some clearance work of the Birch Hill footpath as a gesture of goodwill after the lengthy roadworks and disruption of supply. This will take place when the road is closed after 10 February. GS

will contact Graeme Bucknall to ask if any work could be carried out on the side road by the village hall simultaneously.

#### **1.20.11 General Correspondence**

There was a NCC Library consultation on 23 March 5pm in Berwick if anyone wanted to attend.

#### **Any Other Business**

AM reported finding a used hypodermic needle under the bridge on the riverbank. She had removed it and it had been collected by NCC. She noted there was a great deal of litter along the hedge opposite the school. JB confirmed he hoped to arrange a litter pick in late February and would cover this area. SH confirmed the tractor run would take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 23 March 2020