

Minutes of meeting of Norham Parish Council held on Monday 22nd March 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

03.21.1 To accept apologies for absence

None

03.21.2 To make any Declaration of Interest

None

03.21.3 To confirm Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 25 January 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

03.21.4 Matters Arising from Minutes

i Proposed Joint Neighbourhood Planning in Norham and Islandshire

No progress to report.

ii Play Areas

JJG continuing to visually inspect – no defects to report. DW continuing to disinfect play areas (and school play equipment). Re new equipment NCC has confirmed Cllr Lawrie's contribution of £6700 for this purpose is secure notwithstanding the upcoming elections., The rest of the funding must now be raised – total anticipated in the region of £20000 plus VAT. A notice will be put in Newsround to raise awareness. One of possible suppliers is visiting on 31 March to inspect site/update their quotation. Holly Wright also trying to obtain other quotes. Once quotes are available will push ahead with fundraising from the community and various other funders. Donation of £500 also received from Ladykirk Estates.

iii Public Conveniences

Continue to be cleaned three times per week and are in reasonable order. Agreed will continue this regime at least until government restrictions fully lifted. Some repairs required to back external wall, which will cost c£200 to repair. Agreed these should proceed.

iv Lower Tweed Trail

Final (hopefully) draft of leaflet should be available shortly and will be circulated to all. As Twizel viaduct is currently closed, with no diversion) it is thought best to wait until it is reopened before pushing forward with any publicity. Facebook page in process of being set up. Also agreed logo will be an image of a heron -in due course will have way markers made with this logo.

v Mobile Mast/BT Phone box

Awaiting news re BT phone box- consultation period has ended. BT also running tests re mobile signals-awaiting news from Chris Williams.

vi Northumberland LED street lighting/Undergrounding of cables

Nothing to report. Complaint received re brightness of new light in North Lane. NCC have been contacted.

vii Street Signs/Village Map

The frame for the new map should be in position by early spring. Agreed to further investigate procedure/cost for road renaming, with a view to calling it Birch Hill, and obtaining new postcode for affected properties.

viii New Speed signs/30mph reminders

New speed sign on Castle Bank should be in position imminently. Pole has been put up though query whether in correct position. VLC/GS will check. A new road sign has been purchased by a resident for Boathouse Lane, and has been erected just past the layby, apparently with consent of local landowner. Waiting to hear further from NCC re 20mph speed limit possibilities and request for pedestrian crossing near the school.

ix Norham Development Trust

Very recent news that Application to Rural Energy Fund for funding for a feasibility study has been successful.

x NCC Draft Local Plan-De-allocation of Land

Still awaiting outcome.

xi Village Green

New posts and refixed and repainted chains all now in place, and have transformed the green, all at no cost to village. Huge thanks to Sheelagh Hume and family who raised funds for posts via the Tractor Runs, William Hume and team who removed and replaced the posts and all others who volunteered to paint etc (and those who provided tea/coffee etc to the workers). A donation of £20 towards cost of paint has been received.

xii Flagpole

NCC have confirmed this a permitted development subject to certain conditions. Still agreed that 8m should be sufficient height, with appropriately sized flags. Final position on the green to be discussed. Fundraising campaign

has very nearly reached target. After discussion agreed that fundraisers should give exact amount required to NPC, who will purchase (and therefore also insure) the pole. VLC will investigate cost of flags (Union Jack, Northumberland flag, Saltire, St George's Cross) which NPC will purchase as their contribution to costs. Any balance in hands of fundraisers could perhaps be put towards play equipment fundraising.

xiii Trees

AM has chased NCC re trees outside Foreman's and at Bow Well, and the works down Pedwell Way which had been previously identified.

xiv Jubilee Field

Grass around orchard has been (and will be regularly) cut. Agreed Trustees would meet on site to discuss a 'face lift' (and any interested councillors could also attend). VLC will arrange. GS noted the Pocket Parks Scheme which might provide funding.

xv Pedwell Way Mud

A donation of £1000 has been received from Mr Orpwood to cover the cost of proposed works.

03.21.5 Community Police Report

The terms of the report were noted.

03.21.6 Norham 900

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

03.21.7 Schedule of Fixed Assets

Agreed. Another seat has been proposed by a Norham family. Agreed it would be appropriate either on Village green or in Jubilee Field.

03.21.8 Highways England Proposed Infill of bridge over railway at Norham station

VLC organising a meeting (Zoom probably) with Highways England to discuss further. GS has spoken to landowner who has no objection to attempts to prevent the infill

03.21.9 Stackyard Lane.

GS/JJG have discussed state of the lane with T Smith and hope to achieve an improvement one way or another (though it will never be perfect). The lane is not strictly the responsibility of the parish council, nor of the county council. AM to discuss possibility of plantings from current Castle Street works being used for some repairs. Also a query re the state of the hedge down the west side of the lane which is in a very rough state. Agreed VLC/GS will contact the housing association and the church who, it is assumed, are the owners of the hedge.

03.21.10 May Elections

Elections on 6th May. Nomination papers have to be lodged by 8th April. VLC has made appointment to have all papers checked and submitted on 30th March. GS thanked all councillors generally for their efforts and support over the last term of office. And specifically, JJG for inspection of play equipment, AM for cutting grass, and VLC for clerking works. Agreed VLC should also send thanks to Cllr Lawrie for his support both moral and financial – we have received funds for 2 new speed signs, and a large contribution towards the new play equipment.

Finance

03.21.11 To review Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Payments: 29th Jan reissue of £75 to Norham Community Website; 29th Jan to S Broadbent (WCs) £162.99; 2nd Feb to George Straughen Ltd £14.34 (Bulb for millennium Clock); 2nd Feb to G Straughen (battery for Millennium clock) 3rd March to S Broadbent (re WC) £150;

Receipts: 19th March £1000 donation from Godman Charitable Co Ltd (re Cow Holme)

03.21.12 To look at Bank balances in Current and Deposit Account

As at 22nd March £16460.04 Current Account £15787.37; Business Account £ 971.19

03.21.13 To look at Planning Application decisions

7 Castle Street: Granted

03.21.14 To look at state of Roads and Pavements

Noted that at South lane end of path from castle Street to Bow Well there is a dropped kerb for use of mobility scooter users etc. often blocked by parked cars. VLC will contact NCC to ask for road markings to highlight the kerb. Noted that Mount Carmel loaning in very bad state after being used as an official diversion, and after flooding. VLC will contact NCC.

AM also pointed out that during the recent very wet weather all three roads out of Norham were virtually impassable, in main it would seem because gullies were blocked, which may be as a result of lack of regular maintenance. VLC will contact NCC.

03.21.15 General Correspondence

None

Any Other Business (For information only)

DW reported 30% increase in pupils at Norham school, which is good news. It is hoped that the school will get involved in some fundraising for the new play equipment.

Date of next meeting: 17th May 2021 (Annual Meeting)