

## Minutes of Meeting of Norham Parish Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Those present were George Straughen (GS), Jim Greenwood (JG), Jim Blythe (JB) John Grahamslaw (JJG) and D Sheelagh Hume (SH) and Alison Murphy (AM). Councillor Colin Hardy (CH), local County Councillor, and two members of the public were also in attendance.

### AGENDA

01.22.1 To accept apologies for absence

No apologies tendered.

01.22.2 To make any Declaration of Interest

None

01.22.3 To confirm Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 were confirmed as accurate records and signed by the Chair.

01.22.4 Matters Arising from Minutes

i. Proposed Joint Neighbourhood Planning in Norham and Islandshire

GS confirmed that after a long hiatus this matter had been resurrected after Cllr Sanderson's visit last November. In brief a draft Planning Policies Report had been prepared by NCC in 2020 but the matter had gone no further (NB this is not a draft neighbourhood plan). GS had considered this and had concerns that a settlement boundary was proposed for Norham. After discussion it was agreed that VLC would contact David English at NCC to establish the pros and cons of a settlement boundary. It was also agreed that VLC will resend the draft to all for their consideration. GS also confirmed that the terms of the 1999 Berwick upon Tweed Plan should be incorporated into any plan in so far as they relate to undergrounding of cables.

The reference to de-allocation of land should also be deleted.

ii Play Areas

The play equipment has all been installed. The barrier which was a cause for concern has been moved to the other side of the green. The pile of soil will also be removed very shortly. After discussion agreed that it had been a great community effort, that 86.5% of the funds had been raised by the community, that a photo opportunity should be taken to advertise this effort.

iii Public Conveniences

Agreed that these should continue to be cleaned three times per week. After discussion agreed that stronger chains covering the doorways would be appropriate if they can be found, failing which identical chains would be acceptable.

iv Lower Tweed Trail

Storm Arwen caused considerable damage but most of the trail is passable except for the stretch from Norham castle along to Glenburn towards Horncliffe. The worst was below the Castle and will be addressed by English Heritage. The trail on this stretch is officially closed till July but hopefully can be reopened sooner. Again, a re-launch of the trail can be addressed perhaps at Easter.

v Northumberland LED Street lighting/Undergrounding of cables

New traditional lamps have been installed round the green. Agreed that VLC should send email of thanks to NCC lighting department cc'd to Cllr Sanderson.

vi Village Map

Slates and leadwork on the noticeboard had now been completed. After discussion agreed that comments/suggestion should be sent to GS ASAP.

vii New Speed signs/limits

After discussion agreed that VLC will again chase Neil Snowden/Richard McKenzie at NCC (copying in CH and Cllr Sanderson)

viii Norham Development Trust – Renewables Project

JG reported on current progress with Feasibility report. A public meeting was to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb in village hall and all councillors were encouraged to attend. NDT's intention was also to apply for further grant to enable further investigations/applications to proceed so that if a decision was eventually taken to proceed with some form of renewable energy, then all matters were in place. After discussion it was agreed that the council gave its support to this second grant application. In addition, it was agreed that the parish council would have a veto on

any final decision. Also agreed that any decision to proceed would be dependent on a definite identifiable benefit for the village/community as a whole. CH confirmed that NCC and its Climate Team were very excited by the progress Norham was making. JG was thanked for all his efforts so far.

ix Jubilee Field

Storm Arwen has caused a great deal of damage to trees. The Trustees has met to discuss and thereafter had arranged for a fantastic voluntary community effort, including the invaluable help of Michael Carr. Most of the damage had been cleared up, and more to be done shortly. After discussion re the many molehills, it was agreed by majority 4/2 vote to employ a moleman who will charge £60 for first clearance of moles from the field.

x Community Police Report

Noted that there was very little crime!

xi Stackyard Lane

Still waiting to hear from Diocese re their part of the hedge. Agreed that GS would pursue this. After discussion agreed that work on the lane might wait until Jubilee Field projects had been completed.

xii Electric Vehicle Chargers

JB confirmed there were 109 houses in the village that only has on street parking/ VLC will report this to NCC. CH also raised possibility of other ROLEC EVCs being available from NCC. After discussion agreed that VLC will contact Richard Mackenzie to ask him to visit Norham to discuss possible sites, and ROLEC EVCs.

xiii NCC Free Tree Giveaway

120 free hedge plants had been ordered but delivery had been postponed as NCC teams too busy clearing up after Storm Arwen.

01.22.5 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

After lengthy discussion agreed that the parish council's main contribution to the jubilee would be a refresh of the Jubilee Field and that planting of some commemorative trees. As regards other events it was hoped that others in the village might take it upon themselves to arrange something. VLC will ask for suggestions/volunteers on Facebook

01.22.6 Parish Noticeboard

The current noticeboard was terminally damaged by the storm. GS will ask for quote for a new slightly bigger one.

## Finance

01.22.7 To review Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Payments from Current Account:

30<sup>th</sup> Nov Playdale £6140.40; 6<sup>th</sup> Dec S Broadbent £160.20 (WCs); 13<sup>th</sup> Dec Playdale £4893.82; 10<sup>th</sup> Jan S Broadbent £160.20 (WCs)

Receipts into Current Account:

30<sup>th</sup> Nov HMRC £326 (VAT reclaim); 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec NCC £2000 (WCs); 7<sup>th</sup> Dec HMRC £1023.40 (VAT reclaim)

Receipt into Business Account

6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2p (interest)

Noted that an application for VAT repayment had been missed. This would be rectified very shortly.

01.22.8 To look at Bank balances in Current and Deposit Account

As at 24<sup>th</sup> Jan Current Account £9914.99; Business Account £ 743.25

01.22.9 To look at Planning Application decisions

19 Castle Street - Granted

Land East of Threeways - Granted

01.22.10 To look at state of Roads and Pavements

All recent flooding had been reported, and works will be carried out by NCC where necessary. GS had met with Sam Read to ensure NCC was aware of all problems. Re potholes it had been confirmed that all reports are investigated (so an urban myth that they need to be reported four times before any action is taken). For future reference it has also been confirmed that during holiday periods emergency reports of flooding etc should be made online or by telephone to NCC Call Centre.

#### 01.22.11 General Correspondence

History Society had asked for permission to use Village Green on 9<sup>th</sup> April for use by some re-enactors (Rusty Bodkins) who will have archery. Granted so long as risk assessments are in place!

#### Any Other Business (For information only)

Further complaints re Post Office van. VLC confirmed that she had spoken to Denholm Post Office and had asked if the van driver could put up a list of times when he will be there on the village noticeboard in the hope that he will keep to those times.

A letter thanking Ladykirk Estates for the gift of the Christmas tree had been sent.

Date of next meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022