

Minutes of Meeting of Norham Parish Council held on 25th July 2022

Those present were George Straughen (GS), Jim Greenwood (JG), Jim Blythe (JB) John Grahamslaw (JJG), Dougie Watkin (DW) and Alison Murphy (AM). Colin Hardy NCC Councillor and one member of the public also attended.

07.22.1 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Sheelagh Hume

07.22.2 To make any Declaration of Interest

DW declared an interest in so relation to item 7.22.6

07.22.3 To confirm Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting of 16th May were confirmed as accurate records and signed by the Chair.

07.22.4 Matters Arising from Minutes

i. Proposed Joint Neighbourhood Planning in Norham and Islandshire

GS confirmed that he and VLC had attended a meeting in Ancroft (with DW as chair) to discuss how to proceed re this plan which had become moribund because of the pandemic. Those attending from NCC had confirmed after discussion that it would be beneficial to Norham and the other parishes to carry on. Holy Island had dropped out as their difficulties were peculiar to the island. It was agreed after discussion that Norham parish council would remain involved. A position statement was to be produced by each council by 3rd August setting out current issues as the old scoping report produced had been rendered out of date by the passage of time and the finalisation of the NCC Local Plan. In relation to Norham these would include the existence of the settlement boundary, the need for affordable housing, and the undergrounding of cables.

ii Play Areas

JJG inspecting regularly. RoSPA inspection had also been carried out. The seat height of swings on Ubbanford green had been mentioned. This would be addressed shortly. It had been recommended that the old slide be repainted. After discussion agreed that GS would obtain quotes for this job. Matting at the side of the old slide had also been recommended where the slide was over 1.5m high. Agreed a quote would be obtained from Playdale for this. There has also been a suggestion that barriers should be put across all gaps in the post and chains round the green. Agreed after discussion this was not necessary. There was also discussion re the placing of new seats on the green – or possibly on other side of road from the green where the bus stops on south side of the road.

iii Public Conveniences

Agreed that these should continue to be cleaned three times per week. WC sign has been re-fixed.

iv Lower Tweed Trail

The path had officially reopened though the 'closed' signs had been left in place for the time being as EH had not completed work on the path. Philip Bradley of NCC had confirmed that EH would apparently be there later in the week to carry out work. Also hopeful that Destination Tweed project may help with other problem areas on the path in due course.

v Northumberland LED Street lighting/Undergrounding of cables

GS reported that Scottish Power were still keen to help work towards completion of undergrounding over the next few years. At some point a meeting would be required with NCC re lamp posts.

vi Village Map

A first and early version of the map had just been received. After discussion it was agreed that GS and VLC should meet with the artist to discuss details.

vii New Speed signs/limits

It was confirmed that a '20mph limit while lights flashing' system was to be introduced by the school. 30mph sign and repeaters were to go up on Castle Bank.

viii Norham Development Trust

JG reported on current progress as regards the renewables project. The pre-planning application response had been received and appeared balanced and fair. A response had also been received from SPEN re grid connection, so Stage 1 of the feasibility report was formally completed. GreenCat Renewables had been appointed again as consultants on Stage 2, and a meeting had been held with them as regards progress on required scoping reports and surveys – their estimate for this work was £35K plus Vat NDT currently have £50k in hand. NDT had had an informal meeting with a local land agent to discuss general approach, GS JG and William Jackson had also had meeting with affected landowner to keep them informed of progress.

Also noted that the many groups in the village have worked hard to make the village as attractive as it currently looks. After discussion agreed that Norham in Bloom should be given a donation of £250 (the funds coming from those donated by Paton & Co).

ix Jubilee Field

After discussion agreed that new arch designed and paid for by JJG should be placed by the wall parallel to Castle Street. -JJG also has two oak trees which will be planted. He is also planning to commence refurbishment of at least one of the benches. GS has also asked contractors appointed previously re wall works if their tenders still stood. Agreed after discussion that S Watson would be asked to proceed with the works. JJG also suggested that the trees by the pigeon club shed should be looked at as they may need some work. Agreed that GS and JJG would meet to consider.

x Community Police Report

No crimes reported. Noted that hopefully the community police officer will attend the next meeting. GS also confirmed that his attempts at reporting the abandoned camp in Castle woods had taught him that trying to report anything via 101 was not easy.

xi Stackyard Lane

Still waiting for an estimated cost, and discussions with Church of England.

xii Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Agreed after discussion that the celebrations over the jubilee weekend had gone very well, and everyone involved should be thanked for contributing to their success.

xiii Dogs

After discussion agreed that dog poo continued to be a problem. VLC will put another notice in Newsround. Agreed that the vast majority of owners were responsible.

xiv Steps Near Bird hide

Philip Bradley has confirmed he should be able to provide the materials required so as previously agreed the works would be carried by volunteers.

7.22.5 Local Transport Plan programme 2023-24 proposals

After discussion agreed that the three requests made last year would be repeated in addition to resurfacing of Mount Carmel Loaning.

After discussion agreed that completion of the works on the road to Salutation from Galagate should be sought. CH asked to pursue this with NCC.

7.22.6 Tweed Valley Railway Campaign

After discussion (DW did not take part) agreed that the campaign would be given provisional support – obviously it would be necessary to see what route was proposed.

7.22.7 Illuminated Sheep

VLC explained that this project was part of a proposed art trail set up by Hexham Arts to mark the arrival of the Lindisfarne Gospels in Newcastle this autumn, and is intended amongst other things, to encourage tourist to explore Northumberland. Horncliffe PC and Norham PC along with the Church had made a joint bid for an illuminated sheep.

Finance

07.22.8 To review Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Payments from Current Account:

19th May: to Norham and Duddo PCC £150 (upkeep of graveyard) and £150 (costs of Newsround); to Norham Village Hall £250; to GNAA £50; to NDT £75; to CAB £50; to HospiceCare North Northumberland £50; to CAN 350; 31st May to HW Curry £1349.56 (fencing); 6th June to S Broadbent £231.38 (WCs); 14th June to Play Safety Ltd £168 (play equipment inspection); 5th July to S Broadbent £150 (WCs); 15th July to NNEG £100 (donation), to GWA £210 (internal audit fee)

Receipts into Current Account

12 July from Paton & Co £250 (donation), from A Barr (donation re Norham in Bloom)

Receipt into Business Account

6th June 6p (interest)

03.22.9 To look at Bank balances in Current and Deposit Account

As at 25th July Current Account £11014.85; Business Account £743.33

03.22.10 To look at Planning Application decisions

None

Noted that meeting with Rob Murfin, Director of Planning fixed for 18th August 6.30pm in Village Hall. Members were urged to attend-this was an excellent opportunity to discuss issues arising in the local and joint plans, and e.g. holiday lets.

07.22.9 To look at state of Roads and Pavements

Road still flooding on Norham side of the bridge. CH confirmed that works were to be carried out by NCC. The correct nature of these works was then discussed at length. Agreed that the works would be carried out but noted that this should happen just after harvest and before fields replanted. CH also confirmed a new road sign to be erected warning that the road was liable to flooding. Also agreed that AM would report online other very recent flooding in St Cuthbert's Square

07.22.10 General Correspondence

None

Any Other Business (For information only)

At JGs request VLC will request update from NCC re EVCs provision in the village.

JB asked that more path cutting be carried out from Post Hill to the viaduct, from the viaduct to the top of The Columns, and a little bit by Mill Burn. Fishers Walk also in need of some work. Noted that English Historic Railways have carried out some work on the viaduct which is excellent.

Member of the public requested that more information from the parish council should be put on Facebook, including dates of meetings, information from minutes etc. After discussion it was agreed

that this was not appropriate for the parish council. If the council wished to proceed to use FB there should be an NPC Facebook page, with a social media policy, but it was agreed the council did not wish to go down that route, All Agendas and Minutes were on noticeboard and on the website (which would be improved shortly as a professional web designer was to be employed to make the website easier to use.

It was noted that the new noticeboard had been put up-Mark Holmes and Holly Wright were to be thanked for their assistance.

Date of next meeting: **26th September 2022**