



**Minutes of the meeting of Chollerton Parish Council held on Wednesday  
24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm at Barrasford Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Edward Heslop (Chair) in the Chair

Cllr Dorothy Pigg (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Andy Bennett  
Cllr Fiona Charlton  
Cllr Malcolm Johnson  
Cllr Bruce Lowdon  
Cllr Michael Smith  
Cllr Maggie Tarbit  
Ms Jayne Longlands  
Ms Melanie Bramley

County Cllr (CC) Nick Morphet

**1. Recruitment for Parish Council (PC) Clerk**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the new Clerk, Melanie Bramley who he formally introduced to the PC. The new Clerk would be starting in post on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, with the current Clerk's last working day being 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

None received.

**3. Opportunity for Matters Raised by Members of the Public before the meeting to be discussed**

Questions which require a substantive answer at the meeting need to have been submitted to the Parish Clerk in writing 5 days before the meeting

None.

**4. Declaration of Interest from Members**

To receive disclosures of personal and/or prejudicial interest from Members on matters to be considered at the meeting

None.

**5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 were approved as a true and correct record, and duly signed by the Chair.

(a) **Matters Arising** from the above minutes not addressed elsewhere on the agenda.

(i) **Colwell Parking**

It was noted that Colwell parking was still an issue; it would now be up to the landowner as to how he wanted to deal with this.

(ii) **Fences at Gunnerton and Barrasford**

Kimberley Blackith from Karbon Homes reported that she was arranging to go out with the surveyor from Karbon. Karbon had checked the land registry, which confirmed the Barrasford fence was their responsibility. She would provide a further update, once they had surveyed the fences. Frank Peel from Karbon would be updating the PC on the Gunnerton fence.

**6. County Councillor Report**

NCC Nick Morphet reported as follows:-

- **The flooding on Chollerton Lonnen.** Northumbrian Water repaired the leaky valve in October but the repair had failed. They had obtained a replacement valve and were arranging for it to be installed. Cllr Morphet said that the pumping station was not running at the present time and the main was depressurised so the valve unlikely to leak; Northumbrian Water had also dug a ditch along the roadside to intercept any leakages. Cllr Morphet would update the PC with developments in due course.
- Andy Olive (the Highways Maintenance Area Manager) confirmed that **the drainage ditches on the Coal Road** out of Gunnerton were the landowner's responsibility and NCC had no plans to recut them. Cllr Andy Bennet noted the patchy Coal Road which needed attention; Cllr Morphet suggested that this could be added to the LTP.
- It was **AGREED** that Cllr Bruce Lowdon would get a team together to carry out the task of repainting **the railings on the Gunnerton bridge**.
- The Street Lighting team decided that the **Twenty When Lights Flash sign** on the north side of Barrasford would need to be mains powered from now on, and the sign would need to be moved to the other side of the road where it would be closer to the lighting

column. The lighting column was in a field, and they were currently trying to obtain the landowner's permission to install the Twenty When Lights Flash sign. Cllr Morphet would update on progress in due course.

- **The traffic speed survey in Gunnerton** would be taking place within the next two or three weeks.
- Cllr Morphet had enquired into **vegetation removal on the footway between Barrasford and the back entrance to the quarry**; this might have to be requested through the next Local Transport Plan programme and he would update the PC in due course. Cllr Morphet asked about funding opportunities from wind farms; the Chair replied that, if this task was NCC's responsibility, then the wind farms could not assist. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Morphet would try and get something in writing about this.
- Cllr Morphet reported that Susan Ogle (the Head of Housing Services) would keep pushing Karbon Homes on **the reinstatement of local Homefinder adverts**.
- Cllr Pigg noted that just outside Barrasford Village Hall was an ideal location for an **EV Charger**, an area at Gunnerton had also been identified for one; it was **AGREED** that Cllr Morphet would follow this up with the appropriate contacts at NCC.
- **At the Tynedale Flood Forum**, Cllr Morphet had learned that Northumbrian Water could now trace wet wipes to the property that flushed them, and they had started knocking on people's doors with a bucket of filthy wet wipes to ask them if they wanted them back. They also clarified that no wet wipes were flushable.
- Community Action Northumberland were holding a Zoom event called **Preparing Your Village Hall For Emergencies** on the morning of Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Speakers would include Nigel Fisher from the NCC's Civil Contingencies Team and Andy Dean and Christine Nicholls from CAN. The contact details for booking a place were; ([traceymorgan@ca-north.org.uk](mailto:traceymorgan@ca-north.org.uk) / 07919 531712). Cllr Andy Bennett said he would be interested in attending this event. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would send the relevant link through to PC members.
- It was **AGREED** that Cllr Bennett would report the pothole issues on the road below Nightfold Ridge near Birtley (C215) via Fix My Street. The C222 road between the Five Lane Ends and Hallington Mill was in a bad condition and it was **AGREED** that the Chair would raise this through Fix My Street. It was **AGREED** that the



parish council should request the roads to be surfaced (via the LTP) as; Coal Road NW of Gunnerton (the U8156) and the C222 between Five Lane Ends and Hallington Mill.

**7. Items for Discussion** To discuss issues which have arisen or are causing concern within the Parish of Chollerton

**(a) Parish Council Grass Cutting Tender for the next three years**

We had receive four grass cutting tender quotes from various interested parties. Following discussions, it was **AGREED** that the 2024 to 2027 tender would be awarded to James Dickinson (the amount being £2,040 per annum plus VAT). The grass cutting variations at Colwell were noted and these would be firmed up in due course.

**(b) Pensioner's Bungalow at Barrasford**

A pensioner's bungalow had recently become available at Barrasford and Mr and Mrs Tom Milburn had been successful in securing this property. The Chair thanked Cllr Morphet for the part he played in helping make this happen.

**(c) Town and Parish Council Survey**

The Town and Parish Council Survey had been submitted by Cllr Maggie Tarbit and she was thanked for her work in doing this.

**(e) Humshaugh Draft Neighbourhood Plan Update**

It was **AGREED** that we would acknowledge receipt of the Humshaugh Draft Neighbourhood Plan Update and wish Humshaugh PC well. Cllr Morphet noted that this was the first Neighbourhood Plan in the Ward and Humshaugh had put a considerable amount of work into it. He added that there was a financial reason for preparing the plan and it also carried legal weight; Cllr Morphet encouraged Chollerton PC to generate a similar plan. It was **AGREED** that this would be put on the agenda for the AGM in May 2024.

**(f) Woodland Creation Proposal at Colwell Update**

A response had been submitted to Sarah Radcliffe, Forestry Manager at H&H Land & Estates to say that the proposal had been met positively and the PC's only minor concern was that 1a and 1b may cause line-of-sight issues. However, the fact that there was a wider than normal verge should avoid this being a problem.

**(g) Condition of Bus Shelters**

**To be ratified at Chollerton Parish Council Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Cllr Michael Smith noted that the Barrasford Park bus shelter required a bit of work including felting and paint work; he **AGREED** to do this work himself, he would submit an invoice to the PC for the materials used.

Barrasford bus shelter was in good condition.

Colwell bus shelter needed cleaning out and the Chair said he would do this.

**(h) Barrasford Play Park Committee: Funding**

Cllr Dorothy Pigg declared an interest in this item as she is the Treasurer.

Cllr Pigg noted that David Feeney (a previous PC Clerk) had a letter which confirmed that the PC had a lease from the Duke of Northumberland in perpetuity. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Pigg would look for this document and place it within the PC file. It was **AGREED** that we would respond to Susanna Dawson, Chair of Barrasford Play Park Committee, with the appropriate information.

The Chair noted that S106 funding was currently available as informed by Angela Sadler from NCC.

Cllr Morphet said he would donate some of his budget towards Barrasford Play Park.

**8. Correspondence** To note items received and sent out and consider their contents, as necessary

**(a) Age UK email dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

Jo Linton from Age UK had written to the Parish Council. It was **AGREED** that Jo would be invited to attend the next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024, and the PC would also publicise the information.

**9. Financial Matters**

**(a) Bank reconciliation as at 14th January 2024: £9,459.79**

This figure was noted and accepted.

**(b) Final Clerks Wages for J Longlands (Oct 2023 to Jan 2024) £602.84 to pay to the Clerk, £150.60 to pay to HMRC for tax**

It was **AGREED** that these payments would be made.

**(c) Martin Dickson-Green, request for B4RN Funding**

It was noted that this funding request had been declined. The Chair was concerned that funding levels for B4RN would fall below their expected levels. B4RN needed £111k to proceed with the project, it was hoped that investment monies would come in. It was noted that positive feedback had been received from local residents.

**(d) Able Tree Services: payment of £450 made on 06.01.24**

This payment was retrospectively **AGREED**.

**(e) Phoebus Solutions: Oct 2023 to April 2024**

It was **AGREED** that a payment of £60 would be made to Sandra Medicott of Phoebus Solutions for processing the Clerk's Pay.

**10. Planning Applications**

**(a) Permission Granted: Erection of proposed replacement dust shelter at Swinburne Quarry, NE48 4DN**

**(b) Planning Consultation 23/04366/LBC Fell House Farm Colwell Hexham Northumberland NE46 4TS**

These applications were noted.

**(c) Planning Consultation 24/00110/FUL Demesne Farm Coal Road Gunnerton Northumberland NE48 4EA**

Cllr Andy Bennett updated the meeting on the contents of this planning application. It was **AGREED** that members would look at this online over the next couple of days, the Chair would then email asking for members' opinions.

**11. Information Items**

To note information items received and passed to Parish Councillors via email.

None.

**12. Any Other Business**

Business taken under this agenda item is for discussion only.

**(a) Contract for New Clerk**

It was **AGREED** that the Chair and Vice Chair would meet with the new Clerk to produce a Contract of Employment for her post.

**(a) Clerk Thank You**



The current Clerk was thanked for her work over her term in office.

**12. Date and Venue for Next Meeting**

**(a) Business Meeting**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm at Barrasford Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.