

Minutes of Meeting of Norham Parish Council held on 25th July 2016

Those present were: George Straughen (GS), John Urwin (JU), Jim Greenwood (JHG), and Jim Blyth (JB). Victoria Craig (VLC) was present as clerk.

7.16.1. To accept apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Bill McLauchlan.

7.16.2. To make any Declaration of Interest

No declaration of interest was made.

7.16.3. To agree Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd May 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from Minutes

i. Proposed Joint Neighbourhood Planning in Norham and Islandshire

a) GS attended a meeting of the steering group. Draft Terms of reference had been received and would be finalized in due course. It was likely that questionnaires would be produced in due course to elicit information/preferences/suggestions from the general public. It was important to note however that these matters were only relevant in relation to planning considerations. It was anticipated that it would take at least two years to produce an agreed NIPC joint neighbourhood plan.

ii. Leaflets for Walks around Norham

James Gibson had produced 5000 leaflets advertising the village, paid for by the gift from the late Mr. Thompson, whose family had approved by the leaflet. After discussion it was agreed that JB would coordinate their distribution outwith the village. Some had already gone to Tourist Information in Berwick.

iii. Recommendations for Norham Village

After discussion it was agreed that recommendations put before the parish council at the AGM on 23rd May were generally in keeping with the objectives previously expressed by the council itself. It was agreed that the council would continue with its own efforts in this regards, and where possible be supportive of the efforts of others to achieve the same ends. It is likely as indicated at (i) above that a village questionnaire would be instigated in the context of the Joint Neighbourhood Plan, which might elicit further ideas for the improvement of the village and its facilities, particularly for visitors.

iv. Electronic speed sign

Progress is being made. The post has been erected at the cost of NCC. The sign itself should be erected and commissioned as soon as the Unipart engineers are available. Once the final invoice has been issued the cost of the electronic sign will be reclaimed.

v. Chemical Spraying in Fisher's Walk

The terms of the email from Rob Kelsey were noted. GS had established that the previous spraying had been carried out by the contractor responsible for maintenance of the footpaths. He had carried out the spraying, as the amount of dog dirt on the path made strimming an unacceptable option. However as a result of GS' intervention a second spraying treatment had now been avoided, it was agreed that JB would contact the vicar and along with JU they would discuss how and when best to carry out a further cut. JU confirmed he had recently obtained a

tool which might achieve the desired cut without spraying dog dirt everywhere.

vi. Local Transport Plan Priorities 2017-2018

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that these would be

- a) Reinstatement of hard shoulders where badly broken up, from Norham Castle to West Mains – this is on the national cycle route;
- b) Reinstatement of hard shoulders on both sides of the road, from Morris Hall Farm to Norham Station Road End;
- c) Resurfacing of access road from Norham Village Hall to the village shop.

In addition a request would be added for resurfacing of the lane from West Street to St Cuthbert's Square.

vii. Play areas inspection

JU confirmed he had considered the terms of the RoSpa reports. The playgrounds and equipment were generally acceptable. It had to be kept in mind that the slide would be best replaced sooner rather than later. It is however legal, as it conforms to standards at the time it was erected. The repair/upgrading of posts and chains round the village green also demanded some consideration

viii. Public Conveniences

After discussion it was agreed that Sheila Penman be asked to obtain 3 soap dispensers as recommended.

ix. Maintenance of Footpaths

As indicated at (v) above it was agreed that Fisher's Walk would not be strimmed or sprayed by the council's contractor. Accordingly he would instead be asked to deal with the 'new' public path between South Lane and Castle Bank, and round the new stone planter.

x. Mobile Mast

VLC confirmed that she had chased Ms Trevelyan's office for an update. Apparently the matter had been referred to Mike Penning MP who deals with the Emergency Services network. VLC will continue to press for progress.

xi. Northumberland LED Street Lighting

Apparently the roll out of new LED lights across Northumberland was proceeding more slowly than had been anticipated. It was agreed that this was perhaps no bad thing, on the basis that it had been previously agreed that it would be useful to have the desire to bury the cables noted in the new draft Joint Neighborhood Plan.

xii. Seat Location Plan

JB has drawn up a list (containing 17 seats and benches), which VLC will type up and reproduce along with the plan on which the seats are marked. Generally they are in reasonable condition and it was proposed that a repainting schedule be drawn up, prioritizing this autumn those most in need of attention) so that a number of them are repainted/repared each autumn or spring.

xiii. Pantomime Funds

A request had been received for a donation towards the costs of putting on a village pantomime. After discussion it was agreed that a contribution of £100 would be made.

xiv. Parish Council Website

VLC had met with Alexander Dalgety for an initial training session. It was agreed that VLC and JU would meet to discuss how the parish council wanted their matters presented on the community website.

xv. Review Clerk's Salary.

Recommendations from NALC had been received for increases in the level of salaries for part-time parish clerks. After discussion (VLC having left the room) it was agreed that with effect from 1st May 2016 the clerk's salary would be increased from £8.344 to £8.717 per hour, and from 1st May 2017 to £8.873 per hour

xvi. General Correspondence

None.

Finance

7.16.4. To review Payments and Receipts since last meeting

Payments agreed at the AGM had been made as follows:

£50.00 to Great North Air Ambulance;

£100.00 to Norham Newsround;

£150 to Norham and Duddo Parochial Church Council for Graveyard maintenance;

£200 to Norham Village Hall Committee;

£50 to CAN;

£20 to CAB;

£120.09 to NALC;

£361.55 to Came & Co (insurance premium).

In addition £200 had been paid to Sheila Penman (WC Cleaning), £53.04 to T Simpson (Noticeboard repair), £159.60 to PlaySafety Ltd (Play areas annual inspection) and £4402.43 to Unipart (electronic speed sign)

In addition a donation of £200 had been received, to be used as required in relation to upkeep of the riverbank.

7.16.5. To look at Bank balances in Current and Deposit Accounts

As at 25th July the balance in the Current Account was £3137.50, and Deposit Account £1309.17

7.16.6 To look at Planning Application decisions

Since the last meeting applications had been granted in relation to

28 West Street, Norham

21 Castle Street, Norham, and

21 West Street, Norham.

7.16.7 To look at state of Roads and Pavements

JU indicated that the NCC pothole reporting system seemed to be improving slightly. It appeared that some work was envisaged as some potholes which had previously been reported had been edged in yellow, including those at Morris Hall. JB indicated that the road surface between Galagate and Ubbanford was deteriorating. This would be reported. There were also two potholes at the top of Castle Bank which would be reported.

Any Other Business (For Information Only)

GS reported that it appeared that pedestrian gate into the Jubilee Field had been stolen. A replacement would be costed.

GS reported that the overgrown hedge behind Ubbanford, which belonged to Birchill, and which had been the subject of a number of complaints, was to be cut back shortly.

GS reported that the condition of Cow Holme had improved but there was still a problem with drainage. He believes that there may be an old drain down the side of the road, where the village's old septic tank used to drain into the river. He is to investigate, and if the drain can be identified he will discuss the matter with D Watkin in the hope that NCC could be persuaded to reinstate it as a drain for the road.

GS reported that part of the riverbank just upstream from the sewage work fortifications was now eroding very badly. There is a tree about to fall into the river. He will discuss the matter with D Watkin, and will contact the Tweed Riverbank Forum to see what assistance can be given.

JHG reported that the Running Club would now hold the Castle Bank Challenge on 1st September.

JB confirmed that the Norham Bike Festival would take place on September 11th. The village green was booked. There would be some disruption in the village due to the number of bikes expected.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 26th September 2016 at 7.30pm in Norham Village Hall.