



Wylam Parish Council

<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9th JUNE 2014 AT 7.00 p.m. IN THE INSTITUTE</p>
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Councillors Present: Mr. S. Barlow, Mrs. R. Creighton, Mrs A. Francis (Chairman), Mrs. M. Gillis, Mr. B. Japes, Mr. T. Martin (Vice-Chairman), Mr. W. Nicholson.

Also Present: Mrs. D. Carney (Clerk); County Councillor Paul Kelly;

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk advised that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mr. A. Mitcham and Mr. P. Fisher (Tree Warden).

23. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI) IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS.

No Interests were declared.

24. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions were put.

25. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL KELLY

Councillor Kelly reported on the following matters:

- a. Post-16 School transport. The Northumberland County Council (NCC) Policy Board had declared the present policy of pupils' subsidised travel to colleges outside their local area unsustainable. As a result of it, Northumberland 6th Forms were shrinking and the ability of individual schools to provide a viable 6th Form curriculum was threatened. £28m per year was being lost to Newcastle & North Tyneside Colleges. Parents would be asked to pay £600 per annum per pupil with some exceptions in cases of hardship. NCC would seek to bring this cost down to £450 in line with other counties.
- b. State of Education in Northumberland. County Council members had received a presentation from the Executive Division of Children's Services, Health and Wellbeing. There is a significant gap in the standard of provision between Northumberland and neighbouring counties. Ofsted has advised that the performance of the 3-tier system at secondary level is letting children down and has underperformed

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significantly since 2009. The conversion to a 2-tier system is happening as a result of failure of certain Middle Schools.

- c. Northumbria NHS Trust - Berwick Infirmary. NCC will act as a banker to facilitate the rebuilding of Berwick Infirmary. £25m has been loaned at low interest rates.
- d. Briefing on the new Care Act. This Act limits the amount of money for someone who receives care to £72,000 (two years' care), after which the burden will fall on NCC. Councillor Kelly is a member of a working group set up to address this financial challenge. In Councillor Kelly's opinion, the personalisation of Care budgets has been a success and should be rolled out generally. Building of suitable housing units will be part of the strategy to keep Northumberland's aged population active and independent.
- e. Hoods Close, Whittonstall Mine Planning Application. UK Coal, which made the original application is in administration. High quality coal is available at this site, which may attract interest from other mining companies.
- f. Ovingham Bridge restoration works. The bridge would close on 30th June. High river levels have delayed scaffolding erection and the start of the work. A large crane will be used on the Ovingham side of the bridge. This will mean that part of the Listed Packhorse Bridge will have to be removed temporarily. This will be fully reinstated after the works have finished.
- g. Hagg Bank fuel supplies. R. Powell, a Locality Officer with NCC, has been designated to liaise with the residents. Parr Petroleum has agreed to supply oil via a smaller tanker. The agreement of residents as to a timetable for deliveries will be sought in an attempt to regularise and minimise the number of deliveries. Councillor Kelly would monitor the situation.

26. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 19th MAY 2014.

The Minutes had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting and were **agreed** to be a true record of proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

27. CLERK'S REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. Tyne Valley Rail Users Group. It was noted, with thanks, that D. Peel had agreed to attend meetings and report to the Parish Council.
- b. Accessible defibrillator. This matter would be tabled at a future meeting of the Parish Council.
- c. Path to Jubilee Field from Woodcroft Road. No further information had been received from Northumberland County Council (NCC).
- d. Wall at Charlie's Corner. The owner of Blakett Court had confirmed that the wall belongs to Blakett Court and that the damaged sections



would be repaired as soon as possible. The Clerk has asked that the repairs be deferred until after the commemorative poppy display had flowered (to late September) as this is in front of the area of wall in need of repair.

- e. Clerk's Appraisal. This is in progress.
- f. Wylam Parish Council Web site. A further meeting of the Working Group was held on 4th June. A full report would be made to the July meeting of the Parish Council.
- g. 20mph scheme for Wylam. The SID sign is in place at Ingham Terrace. After the scheme has been given time to take effect, the Clerk would write to NCC for comparative speed data.
- h. Tree work at Engine Dene. The work had been completed.
- i. Wylam Allotments Access track. A second quotation for this work is being sought. Quotations received would be tabled at the July meeting of the Parish Council.
- j. Assets of Community Value. This matter would be discussed fully at a future meeting of the Parish Council with a view to registering the assets with NCC.
- k. Dog walkers at Charlie's Corner. The Clerk had replied to both residents as agreed. T. Martin reported that two areas of dog faeces had been found in the area. The Parish Council will continue to actively monitor the area.
- l. Exhibits at Wylam Railway Museum. See **Item 28**.
- m. Transfer of Parish Council Payroll to NCC. See **Item 29**.
- n. Wylam Post Office. See **Item 32.5**.
- o. LMAPS. No further information had been received regarding a Community Flood Action Plan. B. Japes would seek to progress the matter at the next LMAPS meeting.
- p. Bench at Engine Dene. The Clerk had notified the resident concerned. The bench would be installed as soon as possible.
- q. Handrail on steps below Tyne View. The Clerk has notified the resident concerned of the Parish Council's decision.
- r. Dates of Future meetings. These had been booked at Wylam Institute.



28. PROGRESS REPORT ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXHIBITS AT WYLAM RAILWAY MUSEUM.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC.

A resolution was passed excluding the press and public from the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (personal information).

The Clerk provided an update on arrangements for certain exhibits loaned to the Museum by the late Roy Bell. It was **agreed** to await a reply from the solicitor dealing with the Estate. Meanwhile, transfer or sale agreements would be drawn up as appropriate. B. Japes notified members that the model locomotives were due for lubrication, and agreed to do this with help from other members.

29. REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING WORK OF VILLAGE HANDYMAN.

Following the transfer of the Parish Council payroll to NCC, it was confirmed that current arrangements would continue, with M. Hadden submitting his timesheets to the Clerk on the 20th day of each month. The Clerk checks the hours worked and notify these to NCC. M. Hadden's timesheets are also copied to NCC. It was **agreed** that these arrangements would be reviewed in January 2015.

30. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING 19/05/14

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting (19/05/14) is attached for information only.

All items from the list can be made available to members through the Clerk at the Parish Council office. If any item of correspondence on the list needs further discussion, this can be included on the Agenda for the next meeting.

The following items were discussed:

- a. Letter from Wylam resident reporting muddy puddle at western end access to the Nature Reserve. It was **agreed** that when the allotments access track is repaired, this problem would be addressed.
- b. Letter from Hagg Bank resident reporting overgrown vegetation on Wylam Wood Road. This was noted sympathetically. This had been reported to Paul Turnbull of Local Services. It was felt that, while the state of the trees/verges was not ideal, it would contribute to slowing traffic.

31. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following report is included for information only. The applications had been considered by the Parish Council's Planning Group since the

Alan Francis

last meeting and a summary of the Group's comments forwarded to Northumberland County Council by the Clerk.

Please note that the Planning Portal is now open again and applications can be viewed online. **The Parish Council's comments are now filed online and can be viewed with other comments at <http://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications> .**

31.1 Planning Applications considered by Parish Council since last meeting 19/05/14

14/00439/FUL 123 & 124 Dene Road, Wylam.
Conversion of flat roof of garages of 123 & 124 Dene Road to pitched roof.

WPC Comment: The Parish Council is not able to comment on this application as the information received and on the NCC web site is incomplete - there are no drawings of the proposed scheme. Work to bring the porch forward, which is excluded from the application, has already begun.

14/01277/FUL 21 Woodcroft Road, Wylam.
Two-storey extension to provide new entrance, enlarged living room, utility room, family bathroom & one additional bedroom.

WPC Comment: Support the application. The site is large enough to accommodate the extension and the materials & design of the proposed scheme should enhance the appearance of the dwelling.

31.2 Planning Applications approved by NCC since last meeting 19/05/14

14/00918/FUL 15 Falcon Terrace, Wylam.
Kitchen extension & alterations to rear of existing dwelling.

31.3 Planning Applications withdrawn since last meeting 19/05/14

None.

31.4 Planning Applications refused permission by NCC since last meeting 19/05/14

14/01056/FUL Land NW of Hague Cottage, Wylam Wood Road, Wylam.
Change of use & conversion of garage block to a dwelling, along with change of use of land to garden.

Grounds for refusal: New dwelling in Green Belt; no provision for appropriate contribution towards off-site children's play, open space or sports facilities; by reason of its siting, the proposed dwelling would fail to achieve an acceptable standard of residential amenity for occupiers of neighbouring properties to the south.

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32. FINANCIAL MATTERS

32.1 Report on Income Received since the last meeting (19/05/14)

The Clerk had provided the following report on Income received by the Parish Council for members' information prior to the meeting.

- a. Wylam Parish Council.
No income received.

- b. Wylam Post Office Community Account.

DATE	SOURCE	AMOUNT
07/05/14	S. Loveday - rent	£1,000.00

The report was **accepted**.

32.2 Consideration of Schedule of Payments to be approved at the meeting (09/06/14).

The following schedule of payments is to be considered for approval at the meeting. Any payments marked (*) are to be made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Two schedules of payments are given, for the Parish Council's General Community Account and for the Post Office Account.

- a. General Community Account Payments Schedule.

Inv. Date	Payee	Details of supply	Chq.No.	Voucher	Total
01/04/14	Ov'ham JBC	Precept (1)	102950	14/022	£2,295.00
22/05/14	CPRE	Subscription 2014	102951	14/023	£36.00
29/05/14	NCC	May Payroll recharge	102952	14/024	£824.54
01/06/14	Gilpin Press	Globe (2)	102953	14/025	£438.61
01/06/14	M. Hadden	Holiday Pay to 31/03/14	102954	14/026	£234.89

- b. Wylam Post Office Payments Schedule.
No payments due this month.

The schedules of payments were **approved** and the cheques duly signed.

32.3 Consideration of Requests for Financial Assistance received since last meeting 09/05/14.



The Clerk reported that no requests for financial assistance had been received.

32.4 Consideration of the Report of the Internal Auditor on Wylam Parish Council's Accounts for the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2014.

Mr. F. Phillips had reported that the Parish Council's Accounts 2013/14 were in order. His report was **accepted**.

33. **REPORTS**

Reports were received from Parish Council representatives on the following groups and committees:

- a. Museum (B. Japes; T. Martin)
See **Item 28**.
- b. Wylam Playing Field Association (A. Francis)
Plans for a packed programme at the Wylam Summer Fair were well in hand. The recent Quiz Night had raised nearly £1,300.00. The grass cutter is working well. The Gym equipment has proved seriously faulty and the Committee has asked Pennine to remove it and refund the money. This was disappointing as the equipment had been well-used. A. Francis was puzzled by reports in the online version of the Hexham Courant of 4th June that vandalism was a problem at the Jubilee Field. She agreed that the Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee would write to the Hexham Courant to ask where this misleading information had come from.
- c. Joint Burial Committee (S. Barlow; M. Gillis)
M. Gillis reported on latest issues at the Cemetery.
- d. Tree Warden (P. Fisher)
P. Fisher had submitted a written report on the following matters:
 - (i) Tree risk survey - The Haughs Nature Reserve. This would be reported on fully at the July meeting of the Parish Council.
 - (ii) Tender document for landscape & tree work at Jackson Road/The Dene. P. Fisher had drawn up a tender document. This was discussed and **agreed**. It was **agreed** to request submission of tenders for the work from suitable companies.
- e. Wylam Institute Committee (A. Mitcham).
No report was made.
- f. East Tynedale Parish & town Councils Forum (T. Martin).
T. Martin advised that there had been no meeting of the Forum. T. Martin would attend the next meeting on 14th July.



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- g. NCC West Area Committee (T. Martin).
T. Martin had not attended the last meeting but would try to attend the next one scheduled for 10th June.
- h. LMAPS. (B. Japes).
B. Japes would attend the next meeting on 10th June.

34. URGENT ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- a. Grass cutting at War Memorial Green. It was noted that a Wylam resident had voluntarily cut the grass at this location and that the appearance of the area had been much improved as a result. It was **agreed** to thank the resident for his work but to ask him to notify the Parish Council when he next cut the grass there, so that a record could be kept for insurance purposes.
- b. NCC Jet patcher visit. It was noted that this machine had repaired potholes on Holeyn Hall Road.
- c. Invasive Plants. A note on this matter and request for more help submitted by D. Peel was tabled.
- d. Request to place memorial bench at Wylam riverside. It was **agreed** that members of the Parish Council would visit the proposed site below the Nature Reserve with the resident concerned. The resident would be notified of this decision.
- e. Review of members' expenses policy. It was **agreed** that this would be on the Agenda of the July meeting of the Parish Council.

35. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates of future meetings of the Parish Council were confirmed:

Monday 21st July 2014 at 7.00pm.

Monday 8th September 2014 at 7.00pm.

Monday 13th October 2014 at 7.00pm.

Monday 10th November 2014 at 7.00pm.

Monday 8th December 2014 at 7pm.

Monday 12th January 2015 at 7.00pm.

Monday 9th February 2015 at 7.00pm.

Monday 9th March 2015 at 7.00pm.

Monday 13th April 2015 at 7.00pm.

Monday 11th May 2015 at 7.00pm. (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.



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Anne Francis

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