



Wylam Parish Council

<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 12TH JANUARY 2015 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. A. Mitcham, Mr. W. Nicholson.

Also Present: Mrs. D. Carney (Clerk); Mr. P. Fisher (Tree Warden); Kathleen Moore (Hexham Courant); 2 members of the public.

121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from County Councillor Paul Kelly.

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

No Interests were declared.

123. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- a. Mr. M. Hadden asked what progress had been made on the proposal to resurface part of the path leading from Woodcroft Road to the Jubilee Field. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council intends to obtain quotations from independent contractors. The design, feasibility and financing of the work would then be examined. It was hoped that contributions towards the cost would be made by Northumberland County Council (NCC), the Parish Council, Wylam Community Playing Field Association.
- b. Mr. M. Hadden asked whether NCC could be asked to re-examine drainage arrangements for the southbound carriageway of Main Road adjacent to Wylam War Memorial. The footpath had deteriorated as a consequence of standing water on the highway splashing on to it and in winter conditions frozen standing water posed a danger to traffic. B. Japes replied that this problem had been reported to the NCC Highways Directorate each year on a schedule of highway faults. It was noted that consideration would be given to citing this particular problem as a priority for the 2016/17 Local Transport Plan.
- c. Mr. M. Long had submitted a written question (dated 09/12/2014): "I understand that it is Wylam Parish Council's intention to ban dogs from the community recreational space known as Charlie's Corner from

January 2015. Is this proposed ban in keeping with the intentions expressed in the original covenanting document which gifted the space to the Parish Council in 1924 - and to the Wylam Community - and what period of formal notice to Wylam residents is legally required before a ban is imposed?"

After examining the original Conveyance (dated 9th December 1950) relating to Charlie's Corner, the Chairman replied that the ban was indeed in keeping with its intentions. The land was gifted to the Parish Council *"in trust for the perpetual use thereof by the public for exercise and recreation pursuant to the provisions of the Open Spaces Act 1906."* It was noted that this clause referred to exercise of members of the public, not their dogs and that the "use" made of Charlie's Corner by some dog walkers had in effect constituted "misuse". Mr. Long also asked when the ban would be enforced by notices and whether dog walkers could still use the area until the notices were posted. It was **agreed** to refer Mr. Long to the article published in The Wylam Globe which put the date of the ban at 1 January 2015. The Clerk explained that there had been a delay in obtaining the official notices due to the Christmas holiday break, but that a temporary notice would be placed on the gate in the meantime.

124. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL KELLY

Councillor Kelly had submitted a written report which was read to the meeting and included the following topics:

- a. NCC Planning Committee decisions. Hexham Fire Station's relocation to the Hospital site had been approved. An anaerobic digester proposed for Fourstones had been rejected.
- b. NCC Policy Board. Matters to be discussed included Supported Bus Services (taking into account, in addition subsidy cost per passenger, accessibility and the needs of remote communities), the implications of the Health & Social Care Act (as many as 2000 new applicants may need assessment during the next 6 months).
- c. Measures to reduce speed in South Wylam. Councillor Kelly had spoken to the relevant NCC officer who had expressed confidence that the signage and temporary chicanes could be introduced in the near future.

125. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th DECEMBER 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.

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

- a. University of Newcastle Business School study of Ovingham Bridge closure. It was noted that this study was due to be published shortly and therefore any input from the Parish Council would not meet the deadline.

- b. Path from Woodcroft Road to Jubilee Field. Independent quotations had not yet been sought.
- c. Clerk's Appraisal. This had been arranged for 15th January. (Councillors A. Francis and R. Creighton).
- d. Assets of Community Value. The Clerk would contact Northumberland County Council's Planning Department as soon as possible.
- e. Dogs at Charlie's Corner. Notices had been ordered and would be available week commencing 12th January.
- f. Wylam Parish Council's website. A meeting is to be held in January once members have submitted a short biography. Members were encouraged to do this as soon as possible.
- g. Wylam Hills Farm - westbound bus stops. It was noted that it looked likely that the bus stop would be moved soon. Temporary signs had been painted on the footpath.
- h. Japanese Knotweed. A site meeting with Tyne Rivers Trust had taken place on 11th December. Tyne Rivers Trust is to send a quotation and this should be available for consideration at the next meeting. The best time for the work to take place is in May.
- i. Felling and removal of Sycamore at Wylam riverside. This work has now been completed.
- j. Repair work to Wylam Allotments Access track. This work was begun on 12th January. It was noted that the gatepost at the entrance to the track had rotted and the gate had blown over. A decision on whether to replace the gate would be taken at a later date.
- k. Christmas lighting display. It was noted that the lights had worked well since the timer had been fitted. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would obtain a quotation for servicing of the display and for installation of a separate circuit for the lights. It was also **agreed** that P. Fisher would be asked to check the trees and recommend any necessary work prior to the service.
- l. Parish Council computer requirements. A quotation had not yet been obtained. It was noted that the office printer is showing signs of ageing and in need of a minor repair.
- m. Wylam Globe Archive copies. These had not yet been deposited at Woodhorn Archive. B. Japes reported that he had attended to all requests received for archive copies. It was **agreed** that the remaining copies would be offered to Wylam First School and if not required by the school would then be recycled.

- n. Traffic Issues at The Crescent/Wylam Wood Road/Elm Bank Road. No progress had been made on this by NCC to date. (See also **Item 124c**).
- o. Draft Constitution for Ovingham Joint Burial Committee. The Clerk has written to the Committee Clerk.
- p. "Lest We Forget" Heritage Lottery Application. A. Smith had been notified that the Parish Council is willing to lead this funding bid. A meeting to firm up the application had yet to be arranged.
- q. Village Handyman's new rate of pay. M. Hadden had been notified that the Parish Council had agreed pay him on the Living Wage scale from 1 April 2015.
- r. Professional advice regarding trees at The Plantation, Wylam. MWA Arboriculture had been notified that the tender had been accepted and are proceeding with the work.

127. CONFIRMATION OF DATE FOR THE WYLAM VILLAGE LITTER PICK 2015.

It was **agreed** that this would be held on Saturday 21st March 2015 at 10am.

128. CONFIRMATION OF DATE AND SUGGESTIONS FOR SPEAKER FOR THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2015.

It was **agreed** that this would be held on Wednesday 17th June 2015 at 7.30pm. It was **agreed** to approach *iNorthumberland* to ask that their Digital Engagement Officer be guest speaker.

129. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING 08/12/14

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting (08/12/14) was included with the meeting papers 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 noted:

- a. Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy. It was **agreed** that comments would be collated and reported to the next meeting.
- b. Request for information on flooding from Patrick Parsons Ltd., consulting engineers for GVA (Wylam Hills Farm site development). B. Japes confirmed that he had forwarded photos.
- c. Suggestions for use of Reece Foundation grant. It was **agreed** that these would be discussed at a future meeting of the Parish Council.
- d. TPO request to NCC. This email would be forwarded to members.

130. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

130.1 Planning Applications considered by Parish Council since last meeting 08/12/14

14/04031/FUL Southlands, Wylam Wood Road, Wylam.
Demolition of existing 2-storey building, construction of new 2-store lofted building with double garage & associated storage space. Extend existing roof line to create a double height portico with stepped entrance & convert existing loft space into a bedroom with 2 Velux-style windows. Repave existing driveway.

WPC Comment: No objections. The proposed scheme will make more efficient use of available site space and will not affect amenity of neighbouring properties. The materials and design is in keeping with existing buildings.

14/04053/FUL Mandale House, Elm Bank Road, Wylam.
Construction of rear extension to form enlarged kitchen, dining room and living spaces.

WPC Comment: Support the application. The materials are appropriate and the design is in keeping with the existing property. There is no intrusion on neighbouring properties and the extension is easily contained within the site.

130.2 Planning Applications approved by NCC since last meeting 08/12/14

14/03387/FUL 8 Bluebell Close, Wylam.
Retrospective: Erection of 1.9m high timber screen fence, garden summerhouse & raised timber decking area.

130.3 Planning Applications withdrawn since last meeting 08/12/14

None.

130.4 Planning Applications refused permission by NCC since last meeting 08/12/14

14/03608/FUL 41 Woodcroft Road, Wylam.
Proposed ground floor single-storey extension to rear and loft conversion.

131. FINANCIAL MATTERS

131.1 Report on Income Received since the last meeting (08/12/14)

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.

DATE	SOURCE	AMOUNT
08/12/14	Interest - Museum A/C	£1.51
08/12/14	Interest - BP A/C	£4.65
30/12/14	NPowergrid - Wayleaves	£138.27

b. Wylam Post Office Community Account.

DATE	SOURCE	AMOUNT
11/12/14	S. Loveday - rent	£1,000.00

The report was **accepted**.

131.2 Consideration of Schedule of Payments to be approved at the meeting (12/01/15).

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
19/12/14	Trees Please	Engine Dene trees	102999	070	£15.24
30/12/14	NCC	Payroll recharge - Dec 2014	103000	071	£947.17
01/01/15	NCC	Falcon C'tre rent (3)	103001	072	£300.00
06/01/15	Clerk	Expenses 17/6-09/12/14	103002	073	£239.12
12/01/15	Ovingham Joint Burial Committee	Precept (2)	103003	074	£2,295.00
12/01/15	St. Oswin's Church	Donation - bells	103004	075	£465.00

b. Wylam Post Office Payments Schedule.

Inv. Date	Payee	Details of supply	Chq.No.	Voucher	Total
17/12/14	British Gas	Careplan 1	100030	PO-009	£133.44

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

Signed.....Date: 09/02/2015

131.3 Consideration of requests for Financial Assistance received since last meeting (08/12/14).

A request had been received from St. Oswin's Church Parochial Church Council for a donation of £465.00 towards the cost of installation of a mechanism to silence the church clock's Westminster chimes at night. It was **agreed** to award this sum in accordance with the power given to Parish Councils under the Parish Councils Act 1957, section 2.

131.4 Confirmation of Wylam Parish Council's Budget for 2015/16.

A copy of the final draft of the Parish Council's 2015/16 Budget had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. No changes were made to the draft document and the Budget was **agreed**. A Precept demand of £37,000.00 would be sent to NCC.

131.5 Review of information on NALC/SLCC Local Government Pay settlement for 2014 - 2016.

The terms of the above pay settlement, effective from 1 January 2015, were **noted**.

131.6 Review of information about British Gas Careplan 1 contract.

A Careplan 1 contract has been taken out with British Gas for 3 - 4 Laburnum Terrace (Wylam Post Office). The information was **noted**.

132. REPORTS

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

a. Museum (B. Japes; T. Martin)

There was no activity to report on.

b. Wylam Playing Field Association (A. Francis)

The Jumbles Sale would be held on 24th January. A Rock & Roll Night would be held on 28 February. The Committee is still waiting for a second quotation for fencing. The tennis court area is becoming increasingly dilapidated and this is being addressed. The bridge feature in the play area is to be replaced and a meeting with a third company is to be held.

c. Joint Burial Committee (S. Barlow; M. Gillis)

M. Gillis reported that there had been no meeting.

d. Tree Warden (P. Fisher)

Peter Fisher had submitted a written report on the following matters:

(i) Jackson Road/Hedley Road tree risk survey. P. Fisher's

recommendations were accepted.

(ii) Engine Dene. Two replacement saplings had been planted (a Crab Apple and a Field Maple).

(iii) Nature Reserve. There were no safety issues to report. The two diseased trunks of the Sycamore on the riverbank had been removed.

P. Fisher proposed that a review of the Nature Reserve Management Plan be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. This was **agreed**.

- e. Wylam Institute Committee (A. Mitcham).
A. Mitcham reported that the Institute's income had increased making it financially sound. Some windows in the new extension would be replaced. The chairs are in need of replacement soon. Problems caused by users not disposing of rubbish still persist. The annual Coffee Morning and membership drive will be held on 14th March 2015.
- f. East Tynedale Parish & Town Councils Forum (T. Martin).
T. Martin reported that the regular quarterly meeting would be held on 14th January.
- g. NCC West Area Committee (T. Martin).
T. Martin reported that he had been unable to attend the last meeting.
- h. LMAPS. (B. Japes).
B. Japes reported that there would be further information about the LMAPS meeting schedule at the January meeting. The Police are aware of an increased level of thefts from garages on the Dene Estate.

133. URGENT ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- a. Parking problems at Stobo's Shop. R. Stobo had reported problems caused by car parking across the access to the rear of the shop. It was **agreed** to advise R. Stobo to contact NCC for road surface signage and that the Parish Council would support any such request.
- b. NCC Councillor Training. The Clerk had forwarded an email about the availability of e-learning for Councillors via the NCC website.
- c. Scouts Community Week. A request had been received from Wylam Scouts for tasks to carry out during this event. Work in the Nature Reserve and at Wylam Jubilee Field was suggested. It was **agreed** that all ideas would be forwarded to the Scouts.

134. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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)

Wednesday 17th June 2015 at 7.30pm. (Annual Village Meeting)

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

