



Wylam Parish Council

<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9th JANUARY 2017 AT 7.00 p.m. IN THE INSTITUTE</p>
--

Councillors Present: Mr. S. Barlow; Mrs. A. Francis (Chairman); Mrs. M. Gillis, Mr. B. Japes; Mr. W. Nicholson; Mr. T. Martin (Vice-Chairman); Mr. A. Mitcham.

Also Present: Mrs. D. Carney (Clerk); County Councillor Paul Kelly; Mr. Sam James (Village Tree Warden); Kathleen Moore (Hexham Courant).

123. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs. R. Creighton (reason for continued absence communicated to the Chairman and approved by Council).

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

T. Martin declared a DPI in Item 128a.

125. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present and no questions had been put.

126. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR PAUL KELLY

Councillor Kelly reported on the following matters and answered members' questions:

- a. Strategic Planning Committee. Consent had been given to 45 new dwellings at Beadnell. Northumberland Estates has agreed that all are to be principal residences in perpetuity, 20% of them affordable. A significant contribution towards improving the sustainability of Beadnell.
- b. Health & Social Care. Northumberland is to have the first Accountable Care Organisation in the UK. The CEO of NCC (Northumberland County Council) Steven Mason will oversee the partnership of Primary Care Services, NCC Care Services, Northumbria Healthcare and Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trusts. NCC and Clinical Commissioning Group will share the support structure for the Strategic Commissioning function, integrating NHS services, Social Care and Public Health. Daljit Lally will be System Project Director. Northumberland's Health & Social Care are seen as national exemplars e.g. provision at Haltwhistle.
- c. NCC Cabinet to consider modifications to Planning Protocols, Planning Application Validation checklist, Developer Fund for Affordable

Housing, the Treasury Managements Report and Fixed Penalty Notices for environmental abuse.

- d. State of the County trends. These show a 20% increase in over 65's, 13% of whom are classified as poor; a 33% increase in crime since 2015; an increase of 3.8% in children living in poverty (15% of all Northumberland's children); an increase of 16.7% in Fuel Poverty and a 13% increase in child obesity.
- e. NCC Corporate Plan. Since April 2013 central government has cut NCC funding by 55%. NCC has delivered £98 million in savings through the sale of redundant properties, use of IT, joint working, smaller workforce and decision to move to a smaller more efficient HQ in Ashington. Significant investment has been made in schools in Prudhoe, Bedlington and Alnwick, and there are plans for new builds in Ponteland, Hexham and Astley. NCC has won national awards for major improvements to road repairs, street cleaning, food defences, parks and coastline. Since 2013, NCC has built 619 affordable homes with 427 more due by March 2017. £238 million has been invested from 2015 to 2017 in the Market Towns Initiative. Councillor Kelly congratulated NCC on the imagination and ambition of its lead officers and declared himself proud to be associated with its success.

127. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th DECEMBER 2016.

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

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

- a. Damaged riverside path at End Stephenson Terrace. No further information had been received from NCC.
- b. Gentoo development: position of proposed play area. No further communications had been received from Gentoo or NCC. B. Japes had heard unofficially that Gentoo were considering changing the location of the play area.
- c. Highway & pavement condition survey 2016. This has been collated and would be sent to Stephen Wardle of NCC Local Services.
- d. NCC street lighting renewal programme. This would be progressed as soon as possible.
- e. Neighbourhood planning, Wylam. An article will appear in the March issue of the Globe. D. Carney agreed to draft a request for residents to submit their ideas. These would then form a 'wish-list' which would be discussed with NCC's David English.

- f. BT telephone box. BT had confirmed to NCC that the address of the box is Chapel Lane. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact NCC to ask how to proceed, if it were decided to install a defibrillator and B. Japes would follow up the financial aspects of purchasing the equipment.
- g. Graffiti and maintenance at public toilet block. NCC had notified the Parish Council that a private contractor would be engaged to remove the graffiti as Local Services does not have the appropriate equipment. NCC is also investigating the possibility of engaging a private contractor to improve internal paintwork.
- h. Gentoo: Sewer Closure Agreement. A response has been received from Caris Robson LLP. See **item 129**.
- i. Clara Vale banner. The banner has been returned.
- j. Wylam Entrance sign, Holeyn Hall Road. Following delivery of the Globe and a letter from the Clerk at Fallen Tree Farm, further information had been received regarding the whereabouts of the metal sign. See **item 130**.
- k. Listing of Wylam War Memorial. Notification had been received that Historic England is considering the war memorial for addition to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest as part of its response to the centenary of the First World War. Historic England's assessment of the memorial had begun and the organisation had called for comments about the architectural or historic interest of the memorial. The Clerk had liaised with Mr. P. Brooks to confirm the information received. P. Brooks had made some amendments and additions to the information and the amended document was forwarded to Historic England.
- l. Ovingham Joint Burial Committee. The Committee will next meet on 10th January 2017. Some documentation had been handed over. The Clerk and S. Barlow would make a full report to the February meeting of the Parish Council. In future all constituent Parish Councils would receive a copy of the Minutes of the Committee's meetings. Agendas would also be sent out to all constituent Parish Councils for posting on their notice boards in accordance with Wylam Parish Council's Standing Orders and Local Government legal requirements. The proceedings of the Committee would be managed in accordance with Wylam Parish Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. See also **item 138c**.
- m. Wylam Parish Council's Budget and Precept Demand 2017/18 . See **item 131**.
- n. Meeting with Local Services (06/12/2016). Stephen Wardle of NCC Local Services had provided updates on matters discussed at the

meeting. The invoice for maintaining the public toilets open during the winter months had been received. (See **item 137.2a**). Regarding poor drainage of water at the north end of Holeyn Hall Road, a JCB is to be sent to scrape the road surface. NCC recognises that further work will be needed and the Highways Department is to engage with the landowner should the hedges require significant trimming. This will be done in early 2017.

- o. Tyne Valley Woodlands Consultancy's quotation for work at Holeyn Hall Road hedge, Jackson Road and Engine Dene. The Clerk had written to accept the quotation and to commission the work. T. Martin reported that the work at Jackson Road had been done and had greatly enhanced the appearance of the Chinese Field.
- p. Tree Warden's Report: Ash tree at Engine Dene. The Clerk had notified the resident concerned of the advice received from Tyne Valley Woodlands Consultancy and the Parish Council's decision about the tree.
- q. Review of Standing Orders for Wylam Parish Council. See **item 132**.
- r. Review of Financial Regulations for Wylam Parish Council. See **item 133**.

129. REVIEW OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM CARIS ROBSON LLP REGARDING GENTOO'S SEWER CLOSURE AGREEMENT.

A copy of the letter received from Caris Robson LLP had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The advice received was reviewed. It was **agreed** to defer signature of the agreement pending further clarification from Caris Robson LLP.

130. REVIEW OF INFORMATION RECEIVED REGARDING MISSING WYLAM ENTRANCE SIGN AT HOLEYN HALL ROAD.

The owner of Fallen Tree Farm had confirmed that he gave the metal sign to NCC Highways staff in early September 2016. He advised that the collapse of the sign's stone plinth had demolished a section of fence owned by him and believes the PC bears some financial liability for the reinstatement of the fencing. The Clerk had contacted Greg Gavin of NCC to ask for the sign to be returned and the matter is being attended to. Following a road accident and further damage to fencing on 7th January Mr. Dixon had had to renew fencing at the site. The stones from the plinth are now in store at Wylam Nurseries, pending a decision about if and where to rebuild the plinth. Members thanked T. Martin and S. Barlow for recovering the stones.

131. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR 2017/18 AND PRECEPT DEMAND FOR 2017/18.

A copy of the Draft Budget for 2017/18 had been enclosed with papers for the last meeting. The Budget was **approved** and signed by the Chairman and RFO and a Precept Demand of £39,000.00 (an increase of 2.5% on 2016/17) was **agreed**.

132. REVIEW OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS.

A copy of the revised Standing Orders had been enclosed with the papers for the Parish Council's meeting on 12th December 2016. After some amendments were made the document was **approved**.

133. REVIEW OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS.

A copy of the revised Financial Regulations had been enclosed with the papers for the Parish Council's meeting of 12th December 2016. Several amendments were made and it was **agreed** that the final version would be ready for approval at the Parish Council meeting on 13th February 2017.

134. REVIEW OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NCC REGARDING EMPLOYER DUTIES IN RESPECT OF PENSIONS AUTO-ENROLMENT.

Copies of correspondence from The Pensions Regulator and NCC had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The information was **noted**.

135. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING 12/12/16

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting (12/12/16) was attached for information only.

- a. Mr. S.E. Loveday: Request for meeting. The contents of the letter were **noted**. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would arrange a meeting for Monday 16th January at 10am. A. Francis, T. Martin, B. Japes and M. Gillis would attend.

136. 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> .**

136.1 Planning Applications considered by Parish Council since last meeting (12/12/16)

None.

136.2 Planning Applications approved by NCC since last meeting (12/12/16)
 16/03643/FUL Land adjacent to Coachman's Cottage, Wylam.
 Change of use of land to residential land & construction of a domestic garage.

16/02871/LBC The School House, Main Road, Wylam.
 Listed Building Consent: construction of drive in Marshalls Conservation setts (gravel). Erection of timber garden fence between garden and drive (refer 12/0359)

136.3 Planning Applications withdrawn since last meeting (12/12/16)
 None.

136.4 Planning Applications refused permission by NCC since last meeting (12/12/16)
 None.

137. FINANCIAL MATTERS

137.1 Report on Income Received since the last meeting (12/12/16)
 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
12/12/16	SE Loveday – rent	£1,000.00

The report was **accepted**.

137.2 Consideration of Schedule of Payments to be approved at the meeting (09/01/17).

The following schedule of payments is to be considered for approval at the meeting.

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	Legal power	Chq. No.	Voucher	Total
30/11/16	G. Hodgson & Son	Repair Nature Reserve fencing	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 &10	103208	083	£720.32
01/12/16	G. Hodgson & Son	Repair of old allotment boundary fence	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 &10	103209	084	£1,349.34

22/12/16	NCC	Winter opening of Wylam public toilets	Public Health Act 1936 s87	103210	085	£2,400.00
29/12/16	NCC	Payroll recharge-Dec	LGA 1972 s112	103211	086	£598.80
01/01/17	NCC	Falcon Centre rent (3)	LGA 1972 s144	103212	087	£300.00
09/01/17	OJBC	Maintenance grant (2)	LGA 1972 s214(6)	103213	088	£2,025.00

- b. Wylam Post Office Payments Schedule.
No invoices presented.

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

137.3 Consideration of Requests for Financial Assistance received since last meeting (12/12/16).

- a. Northumberland Theatre Company. £50.00 had been allocated in the 2016/17 Budget.
- b. Northumberland Community Voluntary Action. It was **agreed** to award the organisation £50.00.

137.4 Consideration of quotations received.
None received.

138. REPORTS

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

- a. Museum (B. Japes, T. Martin)
It was **agreed** that B. Japes, T. Mitcham and T. Martin would lubricate the model locomotives. B. Japes reported that D. Petrie had offered to make copies of all old photographs of Wylam. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact him to arrange this. It was also **agreed** that the Clerk would liaise with H. Bates at Wylam Library to arrange a time for receipt of the model of North Wylam Station on Saturday 18th February. The Clerk also agreed to forward the dimensions of the model to T. Martin to enable the selection of an appropriate display space.
- b. Wylam Playing Field Association (A. Francis).
A Jumble Sale had been held on 7th January and a Burns Night Ceilidh would be held on 21st January. The transfer of the storage container has been held up due to waterlogged ground.

- c. Ovingham Joint Burial Committee (S. Barlow, R. Creighton)
It was **agreed** that M. Gillis would be Wylam Parish Council's second representative (replacing R. Creighton) on the Committee until the May Parish Council elections. Members thanked Mrs. Gillis for her offer of help.
- d. Tree Warden (S. James).
S. James reported on the condition of trees along the damaged footpath below Wylam Nurseries. Several had fallen across the path at waist level. Both S. James and T. Martin confirmed that dog walkers and others were still using the path, despite its very poor condition and the closure notices. T. Martin reported that the barriers erected by NCC had been forced apart again to give access. It was noted that people use the path at their own risk. It was **agreed** that the trees lying across the path should not be trimmed as the path is officially closed.
- e. Wylam Institute Committee. (A. Mitcham).
There had been no meeting.
- f. East Tynedale Community Forum (T. Martin).
The next meeting would be on 10th January, when the Forum would receive a presentation from CPRE.
- g. NCC Central Area Committee. (T. Martin)
The next meeting would take place at Morpeth.
- h. NCC West Area CoSH (B. Japes).
The next meeting would be on 13th February 2017.
- i. SCA Community Forum. (A. Mitcham).
The rescheduled meeting would be held on 12th January 2017.

139. MINOR ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- a. Christmas Lighting. The Clerk reported that CSN would install remaining trunking and diagnose the reason for switch off of some of the lighting display on 10th January. T. Martin would level off the areas near the support pole and seed them with grass in April if necessary.
- b. Hagg Bank Play Area. T. Martin reported that the seat had been installed and looked very robust.
- c. Header signs for village noticeboards. T. Martin had fixed these to all but one noticeboard. It was **noted** that the boards would need painting in the Spring.
- d. Wylam Community Orchard award. T. Martin reported that the Orchard had received a national award for excellence for its wildflower meadow from Save Our Magnificent Meadows. He thanked the Parish Council for the grants received for wild flower plants, which had helped the Orchard to win the award.

- e. Royal Garden Party 2017. The Clerk reported that information had been received to enable the Parish Council to put forward a nominee for inclusion in the County's ballot for places at the Garden Party. It was **agreed** that T. Martin be nominated and the Clerk would provide him with all the information received from NALC.

140. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Monday 13th February 2017 at 7pm.

Monday 13th March 2017 at 7pm.

Monday 10th April 2017 at 7pm.

Monday 8th May 2017 at 7pm. (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council).

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.