



Wylam Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7 PM. IN THE INSTITUTE

Present: Councillors J Joures (Chairman), TC Appleby, S Duckworth, J Henderson, J Martin and H Waddell

Also present: Marie Moore (Parish Clerk), S Grinter and J Hampton (WSUG), 28 members of the public and J Robinson (Hexham Courant)

Questions from Members of the Public

J Joures welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that because the majority were here to discuss the planning application for the proposed Children's Day Nursery, which had been discussed at length at previous meetings, he proposed to limit the discussion to the 15 minutes allocated for public questions.

Affected residents commented that whilst there had been a change to the application i.e. a reduction from 2 floors to one floor, there had not been a change in the location, timing of operation or scale of operation. There would therefore be no impact on the traffic and road safety implications.

It was also stated that the development would be on the Greenbelt and therefore if it was approved there could be further developments on the Greenbelt.

It was suggested that the number of residents in attendance showed the strength of feeling on this issue and they requested the Council to reiterate its previous objection to the proposal.

J Joures explained that the Parish Council was a statutory consultee only on this matter and would, in the formal part of the meeting, discuss its position and agree whether there was anything it wanted to add. He then asked for a show of hands on the application, the results of which were as follows:

- Against the application – 23
- In support of the application - 3

1. Apologies for absence

L Bray, A Francis, C Percy and K Quinn.

2. Declarations of Interest from members on items on the Agenda

T Appleby declared an interest in item 12.

3. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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4. Relocation of Riversdale Surgery

J Joures outlined the history to this issue and indicated that he was pleased that the CCG had responded so quickly to the Council's letter and had acknowledged that further public consultation work was required. Many people locally were concerned and wanted to get involved and have their say on relevant issues e.g. transport, alternative village locations etc.

WSUG stated that in their opinion the public consultation on the issue had been totally inadequate with one of the main issues of concern being access to public transport to enable people to access services in Prudhoe. More in-depth research was needed, and the CCG had indicated that they would do this to help develop future service provision. That said the CCG was due to meet on 12th February to make a decision on the closure so it would be very difficult to stop it. The best that could be hoped for would be to mitigate the impact on local residents.

There was a discussion about how the CCG could be held to account to ensure proper decisions were supported by a proper process and to ensure local people had an opportunity to have their say before final decisions were taken. This included the proposal by the Parish Council to call a public meeting.

Resolved that:

- i. J Joures would send an email to the CCG outlining local concerns, especially that a decision should not be made until full analysis and consultation has been completed.
- ii. A representative of the Parish Council/WSUG should attend the CCG meeting on 12th February,
- iii. Arrangements be made for a public meeting,
- iv. An article be prepared by WSUG for the next edition of the Globe,
- v. There should be regular dialogue between the Council and WSUG with H Wadell being the Council's representative for this.

5. Falcon Centre

It was reported that the Clerk had represented the Council at a meeting with representatives of the Falcon Centre User Group and officers from Northumberland County Council. The purposes of the meeting was to hear about the support that NCC could offer the group in taking their development plans for the building forward and to decide on next steps.

The use of the Centre for primary care had been suggested in the past but this seemed to have now been dismissed although the User Group wanted to keep this on the agenda. Others had suggested using the site for more housing.

It was noted that there was concern locally about the impact of this proposal on other village resources. If a community asset transfer was to go ahead the whole community would need to be on board.

The User Group's main concern was to protect the Falcon Centre as a community facility. To support this the Workers Education Association (WEA) had agreed to facilitate a session on the 29th February which would provide an opportunity for interested parties to share ideas for the building and agree an approach and representative structure for the Group.

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S Duckworth stressed that any work regarding the Falcon Centre should fit into a wider plan for the village and its community assets. This could take the form of a neighbourhood plan with the work on the Falcon Centre being included in this.

Resolved that:

- i. The current position regarding the future use of the Falcon Centre be noted and if possible, an article be prepared for the Globe,
- ii. Community representation be encouraged for the WEA event on 29th February with the Parish Council also being represented.

6. Report of the Village Handyman

- a. M Hadden reported on a telephone conversation with R McKenzie of the County Council's Highways Department. In response the Clerk outlined that current position with the County Council's Local Transport Plan priorities, details of which had recently been received.
- b. Issues with a number of drains had been reported,
- c. The Bus stop on the footpath at Orchard Corner remained in situ despite the highway sign being moved,
- d. There had been some work to trees and bushes on Ovingham Road,
- e. There were a number of items around the village that would need to be collected as part of the village litter pick.

Resolved that the report be received.

At this point T Appleby left the meeting and took no part in the discussion and voting on the following item.

7. Planning Applications and Decisions

With regard to 19/04204/FUL Change of use to D1 (Children's Day Nursery) on land east of Falcon Terrace J Joures J Joures outlined the content of the Council's previous objection and asked whether, in light of the change to the application, the Council wished to change its position on the application or add anything to its previous submissions

The general consensus was that having listened to residents' objections and the strength of feeling on the application the Council should support their objections. It was therefore

Resolved that

- i. The Parish Council should reiterate its previous objection to application ref 19/04204/FUL
- ii. No comments be submitted in relation to 19/04692/VARYCO
- iii. The planning decision on 19/04076/FUL be noted.

T Appleby returned to the meeting.

8. Dog Fouling

Following an increase in complaints locally about dog fouling the Clerk stated that she had reported this to Northumberland County Council with a view to discussing how best to address the issue.

It was suggested that an educational project with the school, to focus on the environment, sustainability and community engagement would be a good way forward.

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Resolved that:

- i. S Duckworth talk to the school about the possibility of developing an appropriate educational project that could help to address the issue,
- ii. J Martin to look at the possibility of installing poo bag dispensers in the village,
- iii. NCC be chased for a response on this issue.

9. Grant Applications

a) **Wylam Community Playing Fields Association (WCPFA)** – This application requested the sum of £3,000.00 towards the installation of new play equipment in the play area. Following discussion on the application, in particular the need to ensure all sections of the community were catered for and also the high level of unrestricted reserves held by the Association, it was

Resolved that:

- i. The application from WCPFA in the sum of £3,000 be approved on the basis that the Association is providing sport and leisure facilities in the village which the Parish Council do not provide,
- ii. a meeting be arranged with them in May to discuss the grant application for 2020/21 to ensure better fit with the Council's strategic priorities.

b) **Wylam Institute** – This application requested £3,000 towards the installation of a new suspended ceiling in the downstairs hall with associated electrical works and redecoration. The Institute had secured some match funding towards this project.

Resolved that the application from Wylam Institute in the sum of £3,000 be approved and a meeting be arranged with them as per minute 9 a) ii above.

10. Litterpick 2020

The Clerk reported that the event had been registered as part of the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean 2020 and as a result various resources had been made available including a model risk assessment and publicity materials. It was proposed that the risk assessment be used as the basis for the Council's event in March.

Members were also asked to consider the level of contribution made to participants representing local groups.

Resolved that:

- i. This year's Litter Pick should be held on Saturday 21st March 2020 at 10.00am and as many members as possible should attend.
- ii. The model risk assessment provided by Keep Britain Tidy be used as the basis for this year's event.
- iii. The contribution per group participant be confirmed at £5.00 each.

11. Annual Village Meeting

Following discussion about the format of this year's event and how best to secure greater community attendance it was

Resolved that the Annual Village Meeting should be held on Saturday 16th May 2020 between 2.00 – 4.00pm and discussions be held with representatives of the Community Orchard with a

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view to agreeing an alternative format and location possibly at Charlies Corner. This to include refreshments for those attending.

12. Finance

It was **Resolved** that

- i. The financial reports to 31st January 2020 be received.
- ii. The bank reconciliation for January 2020 be received
- iii. The payments and receipt detailed in appendix F be approved.
- iv. Sections 10 and 11 of the Council's Financial Regulations be amended to reflect new de minimus provisions i.e. the £60,000 contract threshold be amended to £5,000 and where contracts are below £3,000 and above £100 this be amended to £5,000 and £500 respectively.
- v. The Clerk's request to arrange a Debit Card on behalf of the Council be approved

13. Correspondence

Resolved that the correspondence received since the last meeting be noted and actioned where appropriate.

14. Reports from Parish Council representatives on Advisory Groups and External Bodies

- a. **WCPFA** – they were still looking at the possibility of siting a storage container on the site but were looking at the planning implications of doing so.
- b. **Wylam Institute** – S Duckworth to attend the next meeting
- c. **Heritage Group** – the Group was continuing to work towards the production of heritage resources.
- d. **Allotment Association** – a meeting had been held with representatives of the Association to discuss the content of the proposed agreement between the two parties.

The Council passed a resolution 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 (sensitive information).

At this point the Clerk left the meeting and took no part in the discussion and voting on the following item.

15. Clerk – Appraisal and Salary Review

J Jours reported on the outcome of the Clerk's annual appraisal and asked Members to consider a proposal for review of her salary in accordance with current guidance from the National Association of Local Councils on appropriate gradings for Parish Clerks.

The Council confirmed that they were happy with the Clerk's performance throughout the year, citing reasons for this, and agreed with the suggested salary increase.

Resolved that

- i. The Clerk's salary will be increased to point 29 of the NJC pay scales from 1st January 2020.
- ii. The Clerk to make arrangements to attend appropriate budget preparation training,
- iii. Where there is an anticipated one-off increase in workload this be met through overtime with the arrangements being agreed in advance.

The Clerk returned to the meeting.

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16. Riverside Footpath

J Joures reported on the meeting that had been held with T Martin to discuss the current position with the land on the riverbank adjacent to his property and on the agreed actions.

Resolved that the report be received.

17. 3-4 Laburnum Terrace

J Joures reported on the current position with the sale of the property and associated planning issues. He stated that the buyer was still required to progress the sale alongside the planning process.

Resolved that the report be received.

18. Quotations

Resolved that

- i. The quotation received from Wylam Nurseries for Grass Cutting at Holeyn Hall Crossroads during 2020 be approved.
- ii. The work to the Ash Tree on Engine Dene be not progressed at this time as the professional opinion of the contractor and the Council's Tree Warden, was that the work was not required.
- iii. The quotation for 2 litterbins from Broxap be approved.

19. To consider minor items & items for the agenda of a future meeting.

- i. Condition of footpaths in the village
- ii. Flood Risk
- iii. Tall Ships – J Martin reported on discussions held with regard to training opportunities associated with the event. There was the possibility of offering sponsorship to local young people to take part subject to funding being identified. Clearly there would need to be a process to select who would be eligible to receive sponsorship via the Parish Council

Resolved that J Martin investigate this further with a view to setting up a pilot project.

- iv. T Appleby reported that there was a possibility that he would be deployed abroad as part of his voluntary military service. Further information would be available at the end of March.

20. Date of next meeting

9th March 2020

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed: Date:

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