



Wylam Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9th DECEMBER 2019 AT 7 PM. IN THE INSTITUTE

Present: Councillors J Joures (Chairman), S Duckworth, A Francis, J Henderson, J Martin, C Percy and H Waddell

Also present: Marie Moore (Parish Clerk)

Questions from Members of the Public

- i. In response to a question about the removal of the Post Box from outside of the former Post Office premises J Joures explained that the box had been correctly removed, at the request of the Parish Council, as it was on land which the Council was in the process of disposing of.
- ii. Residents expressed their concern about the removal, by Northumberland County Council (NCC), of a large sycamore tree behind Stephenson Terrace, when it had not been marked for removal. They had complained and been told it was a last-minute decision. They felt that there should be no last-minute decisions and that residents should have been consulted. They were also concerned that there was now no screening for the bottle bank.

L Bray stated that as far as she was aware all of the trees adjacent to the wall were to be removed.

J Joures suggested that the residents should complain formally, in writing, to the County Council setting out what they would like to happen as a consequence of the removal. If they were not satisfied with the response from NCC they should come back to the Parish Council who would take it up on their behalf, reminding them of its Tree Policy in doing so.

- iii. A resident of Hedley Meadows commented that the removal of the trees at Orchard Corner was welcomed but that one tree marked for removal was still in situ. L Bray confirmed that this should have been removed and arrangements would be made with the contractor to do so.

1. Apologies for absence

T Appleby, M Hadden and Councillor K Quinn.

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

None received.

3. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Co-option of New Councillors

Resolved that the appointment of Councillors S Duckworth and H Wadell be approved.

Signed: Date:

Chairman of Meeting

5. Report of the Tree Warden

A report on current tree issues was circulated. With regard to the work at Orchard Corner it was noted that there were no plans to remove the ivy from the remaining large ash as there would be a significant cost in doing so. However, if the adjacent resident wished to remove any overhanging limbs, then he could do so.

Resolved that the report be received

6. Community Policing Update

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the Community Police Officer who had advised that patrols in the area had been stepped up as a result of reports of anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the Falcon Centre and also a number of attempted/break ins at property and vehicles in the area. Members welcomed this increased surveillance which would hopefully reassure residents.

With regard to the issues at the Falcon Centre it was noted that some small children used the 'yard' area as a safe play area and the Library did not have any issue with this. The problems had centres on youths congregating in the early hours drinking, playing loud music and using offensive language.

Resolved that the report be received.

7. Litter Bins

The Clerk reported that she had met with an officer from NCC to review the location of new litter bins in the Village. He had agreed that a larger bin could be located at Hagg Bank provided that the Country Park sign could be removed. The bin adjacent to Acomb Drive would need landowner's permission to be located in the preferred place next to the public footpath as it was in front of a field gate which appeared not to be used. The new bin in the main car park would be a post mounted wheeled bin located close to the entrance. The existing concrete bin would need to be removed.

Resolved that:

- i. The report be received
- ii. Orders be placed for the required bins and installation.
- iii. NCC be requested to move the country park sign at Hagg Bank to accommodate the new bin
- iv. The location of the bin adjacent to Acomb Drive be double checked and the landowner contacted for permission if necessary.

8. Grant Applications

a) Wylam Winter Tales – as no application had been received this item be deferred until the next meeting. It was anticipated that this would be a modest request for some running and production costs. It was also suggested that there should be a wider discussion with Wylam Winter Tales about their development plans and the support the Parish Council could provide.

b) Wylam Community Orchard – this application requested the sum of £204.00 to purchase wildflower seeds and bulbs to further enhance the community orchard. A volunteer planting session would take place in the Spring.

Resolved that the application from Wylam Community Orchard be approved.

Signed: Date:

Chairman of Meeting

9. Finance

Resolved that:

- i. The financial reports to 30th November 2019 be received.
- ii. The bank reconciliation for November 2019 be received
- iii. The payments detailed in appendix C be approved subject to the following additions:

Parish Council Current Account

Date	Payee	Purpose	Net	VAT	Total
4.12.19	Wylam Institute	Office Rent	900.00	0	900.00
	M Hadden	Expenses	15.93	0	15.93

- iv. The transfer of £5,000 from the Parish Council Current Account to the Post Office Current Account be approved, this being the first instalment of the allotment track repayment.

10. Planning Applications

Resolved that

- i. The planning decisions made by Northumberland County Council as detailed in appendix D be noted,
- ii. With regard to application ref 19/04353/PRUTPO - Tree Works at Wylam Hall, NCC be advised that the Parish Council requests that the work be carried out as a matter of urgency given the proximity to the public highway and the risk to neighbouring property.

11. Correspondence

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

12. To receive reports from Parish Council representatives on Advisory Groups and External Bodies

- a. **Wylam Institute** – the grant application would be submitted in the near future.
- b. **Ovingham Joint Burial Committee (OJBC)** – the Committee had agreed to increase fees with effect from April 2020. The Cemetery Superintendent had resigned, and the Committee was looking at options for this role going forward.
- c. **Heritage Group** – quotes were being obtained for the leaflet to be produced. There was also a need to ensure the website was up to date. C Percy would explore with the library the possibility of increased opening hours for the Railway Museum. He would also be talking to the National Trust about George Stephenson's Cottage. The future use of the telephone box was deferred until J Henderson could be present.
- d. **WCPFA** – the pavilion needed more work and their grant application was required.

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).

13. Quotations

Resolved that the quotations received from Tyne Valley Woodlands for the purchase and planting of trees at Orchard Corner and for the Winter Maintenance Programme be approved.

14. 3-4 Laburnum Terrace

J Jours gave an update on the current position with the sale of the property. A planning application had been submitted to convert the property to two residential dwellings the

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Chairman of Meeting

outcome of which could potentially delay the completion. Members were comfortable with this position. It was suggested that a representative of the Parish Council should speak to the neighbours about the planning application and stress that they could talk to the Parish Council if they wished.

Resolved that:

- i. The report be received, and
- ii. Neighbours of the property be contacted by a representative of the Council with regard to the planning application.

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

None reported.

16. Date of next meeting

Monday 13th January 2020

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

DRAFT

Signed: Date:

Chairman of Meeting