



Wylam Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 14th OCTOBER 2019 AT 7 PM. IN THE INSTITUTE

Present: Councillors A Francis (Vice Chairman), J Henderson, J Martin and C Percy

Also present: Marie Moore (Parish Clerk), Councillor K Quinn, L Bray (Tree Warden), J Robinson (Hexham Courant), B Dixon (Coachroad Productions) and 2 members of the public.

Open Session

Report from County Councillor K Quinn

Councillor Quinn reported that:

- a. Road markings had been completed at the junction of Tynedale Close,
- b. The speed survey in the village would be carried out as soon as possible,
- c. She had attended Ovingham Middle School to talk to pupils about local democracy; and
- d. She had attended the Women's Institute Centenary celebration.

The Clerk raised the issue of the broken speed indicator signs in the village and the fact that an NCC officer had suggested that the future maintenance was something for the Parish Council. As there was no paperwork to confirm this either way, she asked Councillor Quinn to seek clarification regarding this.

Questions from Members of the Public

In response to a question about Phase 2 works at Orchard Corner a resident explained that the report of the Tree Warden fully explained the current situation.

1. Apologies for absence

J Joures, T Appleby and M Hadden.

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

None received.

3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 9th September and 7th October 2019 and their signature by the Vice Chairman

Resolved that:

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chairman.
- ii. The minutes of the 7th October 2019 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the comments from J Joures and then be signed as a correct record.

4. Clerk's Report

Resolved that the following report be received:

- a. **Local Transport Plan Priorities 201-21** – the Council's top three priorities had been submitted on 1st October 2019.

Signed: Date:

Chairman of Meeting

- b. **Water Safety Equipment** – Following a recent incident NCC had confirmed that the water safety equipment had been replaced and had provided details of their inspection regime. They had also agreed to clean the existing signage.
- c. **Speed Indicator Signs** – see under report from County Councillor above.
- d. **Riverside Footpath** – Arrangements were being made to meet with T Martin. A date was awaited for the erection of the new fencing and T Fish of NCC was to meet with T Martin and S Brunskill regarding this. Advice was being obtained from NCC legal department and NALC on this issue.
- e. **Parish Council Vacancies** – the closing date for applications was 31st October 2019. Two applications had been received to date.

5. Reports of the Village Handyman and Tree Warden

- a. **Village Handyman** – The highway sign and bus stop were still blocking the pavement adjacent to Hedley Meadows despite the fact that Gentoo had indicated that they would move them. A build-up of leaves and other debris was still evident in the Library 'yard'.
- b. **Tree Warden** – a report on current tree issues was circulated. This included works to the trees adjacent to the riverside car park and the back lane of Stephenson Terrace, The Orchard Phase 2, the Nature Reserve, the large Ash adjacent to 20 the Dene and trees adjacent to Forster Gardens.

With regard to the Ash tree close to 20 The Dene she confirmed that Tyne Valley Woodlands had carried out all of the work previously specified. Some trees in this area were the responsibility of the County Council and they should be requested to inspect them.

The Warden also reported that she continued to monitor issues highlighted during the annual tree survey particularly the unstable riverside trees. With regard to the availability of tree packs from the Woodland Trust she suggested that it was difficult to identify areas within the Parish that needed more trees and was of the opinion that priority should be given to maintaining and managing existing areas with very dense and vigorous tree and shrub growth.

Resolved that:

- i. Gentoo Homes be contacted for an update regarding the signs on the footpath
- ii. NCC be asked to inspect their trees on the Dene and take action as necessary.
- iii. Advance Northumberland Homes be advised that the trees adjacent to Forster Gardens are not the Parish Council's responsibility. Further, that the Council will be looking to minimise future maintenance.

6. Nature Reserve Management

J Henderson submitted a report on the work she had carried out in relation to the development of a future management plan for the reserve. Her research had suggested that a preliminary ecological survey would be the primary tool in assessing the ecological quality of the site. This would then be used to develop a plan for its future management.

Once the plan was in place it would then also be possible to develop a more organised approach to engaging volunteers in the future management of the site and assess future funding requirements.

After speaking with a number of companies about the ecological survey she had obtained two quotations, both of which were circulated. After considering both quotations it was

Signed: Date:

Chairman of Meeting

Resolved that:

- i. The quotation from OS Ecology be accepted subject to confirmation of the price quoted, and
- ii. Budgetary provision be made in the 2020/21 budget for this work.

7. Points Bridge Project – End of Project Report

A comprehensive report from the project lead, Bryan Dixon, had been circulated to members and he was also in attendance to outline the key outcomes and developments since its completion. Following the project Wylam First School had been awarded Heritage School status. Reference DVDs were provided to the Council with copies for each of the key community participants. The DVD could also now be shared freely online and could be screened locally if desired e.g. as part of Wylam Winter Tales or via the Film Club or other local groups. It could also possibly be screened at the Annual Village Meeting in 2020. The static display boards would be made available, particularly as the Library was keen to display them. It would however be problematic to repeat the performance as further rehearsal would be required and logistically it would be difficult.

Members were of the view that the project had been a tremendous success and there was a need to discuss in more detail how it could be built on in future. It was also suggested that some of the resources obtained from it should be retained in a village archive.

In response to a question about how the project compared to others he had been involved in B Dixon stated that the mix of arts, technology and community was as good as anything he had been involved in and he was very proud of it. In terms of whether there was potential for further funding/awards this was something that would need to be investigated.

Resolved that the report be received, and the Council's thanks be extended to B Dixon and all participants for delivering a very successful project.

8. Northumberland Local Plan – Consultation on Scoping Documents for the Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations

Resolved that no comments be submitted to the County Council on these documents.

9. Hagg Bank Play Area Inspection

Members considered the report of the certified inspection of the play area carried out by Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. The Clerk had accompanied the inspector during the visit so that she was familiar with the issues examined. The inspection had not identified any major issues but there was a requirement to have some grounds maintenance works carried out and the signage and some swing seats replaced.

Resolved that:

- i. The report be received and its contents be noted,
- ii. Quotations be obtained for the signage and grounds maintenance work, and
- iii. Two new swing seats be ordered at a cost of £271.25 ex VAT.

10. Finance**Resolved that:**

- i. The Report of the External Auditor for 2018/19 be received and its contents be noted,
- ii. The financial reports to 30th September 2019 be approved.
- iii. The payments detailed in appendix G be approved subject to the following additions:

Signed: Date:

Chairman of Meeting

Parish Council Current Account

Date	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
4.10.19	Tyne Valley Woodlands Consultancy	90.00	18.00	108.00

Post Office Current Account

Date	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
19.09.19	Coachroad Productions	4,350	0	4,350

11. Planning Applications

The County Council had granted the following application:

Planning Ref: 19/02876/FUL - Proposed side and rear ground floor extension. Moncreiff, The Crescent, Wylam

The Parish Council had been invited to comment on the following applications:

Planning Ref: 19/03832/VARYCO - Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) pursuant to planning permission 18/04155/FUL to add two dormer windows to the rear elevation. Land North West of Hague Cottage, Wylam Wood Road, Wylam

Planning Ref: 19/03943/FUL - Proposed garage extension. Allen Cottage, Cherry Tree Lane, Wylam NE41 8AF

The Parish Council had been advised that the following application had been withdrawn.

Planning Ref: 19/02211/FUL - Demolition of disused North West Porch, erection of single storey meeting room, furniture store and lobby at North West. Erection of new lean-to single storey store West of existing South East store. St Oswin's Church Hall, Church Road, Wylam

Resolved that the report be received.

12. Correspondence

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

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

- a. **Heritage Group** – C Percy reported that the Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway had visited Wylam and it was hoped to link with the work they were doing.
- b. **Ovingham Joint Burial Committee (OJBC)** – J Joures had prepared a report which sought a view on handling the question of the appropriate level of charges when the matter was discussed again at the next OJBC meeting. It was noted that the current fees were significantly lower than those charged at other cemeteries in the Tyne Valley with no increases since at least 2012. Whilst there had been a proposal from a Wylam Parish Council representative to increase all fees to the lowest charged elsewhere with effect from 1st April 2020 there were also counter proposals i.e. increasing non resident fees to the lowest elsewhere w.e.f 1st April 2020 and increasing the standard fee for residents by £100 for each of the following two years. As no consensus could be reached the matter was referred back to each of the four parish councils represented on the Committee.

Signed: Date:

Chairman of Meeting

Following consideration of the report, during which A Francis highlighted the maintenance costs associated with the Cemetery and its buildings, it was

Resolved that Ovingham Joint Burial Committee be advised that this Council is of the opinion that all fees should be increased to the minimum charged elsewhere in the Tyne Valley with effect from 1st April 2020

14. 3-4 Laburnum Terrace

Resolved that this item be withdrawn as there was no business to discuss.

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

None reported.

16. Date of next meeting

Monday 11th November 2019

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed: Date:
Chairman of Meeting