



# Wylam Parish Council

---

## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020 AT 7 PM. IN THE INSTITUTE

---

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

**Also present:** Marie Moore (Parish Clerk), L Bray (Tree Warden) and M Hadden (Village Handyman)

### Questions from Members of the Public

M Hadden requested clarification as to what item 8 on the agenda 'Reconstituting the Council' meant. J Joures explained that this was about the Annual Meeting of the Council, identifying key areas of work and those Councillors who would be responsible for taking these forward.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

J Henderson and K Quinn.

The Clerk reported that K Quinn had advised that she would be working in London on a Monday evening and would therefore be unable to attend Parish Council meetings. Members of the public should therefore contact her direct. In response to this A Francis suggested that she be asked if she could meet with the Council every couple of months to discuss current issues.

J Joures reported that T Appleby had resigned from the Council as he was due to be out of the Country, on active service, for more than 6 months which meant that he would be unable to attend meetings and would therefore be disqualified from being a Parish Councillor.

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

A Frances declared an interest in item 10a.

#### 3. Minutes

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4. Minutes of the Ovingham Joint Burial Committee

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 be received.

#### 5. Reports of the Village Handyman and Tree Warden Handyman

a. M Hadden suggested contacting R McKenzie, Northumberland County Council (NCC) re the ongoing highway and road safety issues in the village. M Moore responded by suggesting that the time for this was not appropriate given the current position with the Local Transport Plan Priority process which would be notified to Parish Councils over the next few weeks.

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
Chairman of Meeting

- b. The surface of the footpath on Cherry Tree Lane was in poor condition. Northumberland County Council had said that they were responsible for this footpath but no funding was available for repairs.
- c. There were a number of blocked drains in the village which he had referred to K Quinn for action.
- d. The hedge on Station Road had been trimmed.
- e. He would be working with T Martin to support the village litter pick.

**Tree Warden** - a report on current tree issues was circulated which included recommendations for dealing with tree issues close to Wylam Allotments on land also in Council ownership, in particular the oaks and a birch on the west side in the Nature Reserve and the trees at the base of the pit heap on the east side. With regard to the oaks she had suggested phased thinning with three weaker trees being removed during the first phase and work to the remaining four trees to admit more light. Following discussion on the best approach to this work including the need for sensitivity and community consultation it was

**Resolved that**

- i. the reports be received.
- ii. The approach recommended by the Tree Warden with regard to the trees on either side of the allotments be approved. A schedule of work would be drawn up and a quote obtained.
- iii. The work on the allotment trees be discussed first with the ecologist who carries out the survey of the nature reserve.
- iv. NCC be reminded of their commitment to replace the trees felled in the Tyne Riverside Car Park

**6. Relocation of Riversdale Surgery**

J Joures reported that the CCG had postponed its decision on the closure of Riversdale Surgery as a result of the inadequate public consultation process to date. Work was now underway to address this and the intention was that the CCG would come back to the village to report on their findings.

Although this was a positive step, the general consensus was that the closure would go ahead and future discussion would be about mitigating the impact of this.

A number of issues had been raised locally e.g. the pharmacy offering blood investigations, volunteer drivers for those unable to access public transport so it would be interesting to hear what the CCG would be recommending.

S Duckworth highlighted the establishment of Primary Care Networks which would see GPs, dentists, pharmacists etc working together to look at opportunities for sharing good practice and joint working. This would hopefully inform service planning in this area.

**Resolved** that the report be noted and the CCG be asked for a timescale as to when they will report back on their findings.

**7. Falcon Centre**

C Percy reported on the User Group event that had taken place to consider the future of the Centre. Attendance had not been as wide as anticipated, which was a concern, so this would need to be addressed in the publicity for future events. More workshops were to follow culminating in a public meeting

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Chairman of Meeting

The WEA facilitated the meeting and their reps had suggested that discussion should be focussed on future uses which would then be explored as part of a feasibility study. The meeting had agreed that this should encompass the whole site rather than just the building with the future of the Library being critical to the process. A full asset mapping process across the village was also required to identify gaps in provision and to better co-ordinate the future planning process.

**Resolved** that the Parish Council be represented at the next workshop event and an offer be made to support the organisation of the public meeting.

#### **8. Reconstituting the Council at the Annual Meeting**

J Joures had asked that this item be on the agenda as he wanted each of the Councillors to have a particular area of responsibility and to contribute to getting things done both individually and collectively. A full discussion was needed about the approach to be taken with a particular emphasis on how the income from the sale of the former Post Office should be handled.

A Francis suggested that the Council should focus on smaller/tangible projects during the coming year which could be easily delivered.

S Duckworth was of the view that the Council should have a longer term vision/strategy and should identify projects that could contribute to this. On this point J Joures stated that the Council did have some guiding principles/priorities which should form the basis of such an approach.

This work could be linked to agreeing a process for making both large and small grants.

**Resolved** that the guiding principles/priorities be re-circulated and J Joures and S Duckworth discuss further how to take this work forward.

#### **9. Update on Signage for Cyclists on Wylam Bridge**

The Clerk reported that to date no further information had been provided by NCC on this issue despite an assurance from the Leader of the Council that the matter would be revisited. She had therefore asked Councillor K Quinn to pursue this with the appropriate officer and with the Leader.

**Resolved** that the position be noted and NCC be pressed for a response.

#### **10. Grant Application – Tynedale Hospice at Home**

The application requested the sum of £100 to help patients travel with dignity and ease to their treatment appointments.

**Resolved** that the application be approved.

#### **11. NALC member Council Survey on Anti-Social Behaviour and Petty Crime**

Members discussed and agreed their response to the questions posed in the survey.

**Resolved** that the Council should respond to NALC on this basis.

**12. Annual Village Meeting**

**Resolved** that the Clerk should discuss possible arrangements with Wylam Community Orchard.

**13. Wylam Summer Fair – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Resolved** that the Parish Council should book a stall at the event on the same basis as last year.

**14. Finance**

**Resolved** that

- i. The financial reports to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020 be received.
- ii. The bank reconciliations for February 2020 be received
- iii. The payments and receipt detailed in appendix F be approved subject to the addition of the following:

**Parish Council Current Account**

Date	Payee	Purpose	Net	VAT	Total
10.02.20	M Hadden	Refuse Sacks	7.56	0	7.56
9.03.20	G S Skip Hire	Litter pick 2020	210.00	42.00	252.00

**Receipts**

Date	Payer	Purpose	Net	VAT	Total
	Allotment Assoc.	Annual Rent 19/20	500.00	0	500.00

- iv. A review of the Council's banking arrangements be carried out and appropriate accounts be investigated for the investment of the capital receipt from the former Post Office.

**15. Planning Applications and Decisions**

J Jours reported that the bat survey had been carried out on the former Post Office and it was likely that the application would go before the Tynedale LAC in the near future.

**Resolved** that

- i. No comments be submitted in relation to 20/00141/FUL
- ii. The Council be represented at the LAC when the Post Office application is considered.

**16. Correspondence**

**Resolved** that:

- i. The correspondence received since the last meeting be noted and actioned where appropriate.
- ii. The request from D Peel that the Parish Council consider paying for the digitisation of the films from the P Brooks archive be deferred to enable an assessment to be made of the quality and value of the footage.

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

- a. **Heritage Group** – C Percy indicated that he would do a full inventory of of new P Brook's material received by him on behalf of the Parish Council.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Chairman of Meeting

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).

**18. Riverside Footpath**

**Resolved** that the update on the current position be noted and a further meeting be arranged with Tom Martin to which an invitation would be extended to County Councillor K Quinn.

**19. 3-4 Laburnum Terrace**

J Joures reported on the current position with the sale of the property and associated planning issues.

**Resolved** that the report be received.

**20. OJBC – Grounds Maintenance Contract 2020-23**

A Francis, Chair of the Burial Committee reported on the outcome of the tendering process that had recently been undertaken to select a new grounds maintenance contractor for Ovingham Cemetery for 2020-23. As the Burial Committee could not enter into a contract in its own right the contract had to be with the Parish Council. On this basis the Burial Committee had made a recommendation on their preferred contractor.

**Resolved** that the recommendation of the Ovingham Joint Burial Committee be approved, the contract be awarded to Adrian Jackson be approved and he be appointed as the Grounds Maintenance Contractor for Ovingham Cemetery for the period 2020 – 2023.

**21. Quotations**

**Resolved** that the quotation received from Scorpion Joinery and Home Maintenance Services for the installation of new litter bins be approved and the additional costs for the repair and refurbishment of existing litter bins and installation of new swing seats, be circulated for approval in due course.

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

- i. Arrangements for meeting major grant holders.
- ii. Parish Council priorities for 2020-21

**23. Date of next meeting**

6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.