



Wylam Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 15th JULY 2019 AT 7 PM. IN THE INSTITUTE

Present: Councillors J Joures (Chairman), T Appleby, J Henderson, and C Percy

Also present: Marie Moore (Parish Clerk), Councillor K Quinn, M Hadden (Village Handyman), S Robinson and 10 members of the public.

1. Questions from Members of the Public

M Hadden highlighted the following:

- a. The speed indicator sign was still not working properly – this had been raised with the County Council
- b. Grass verges on Wylam Wood Road were overgrown and could impact on road safety
- c. Roadside debris on Holeyn Hall Road had still not been removed despite an indication from NCC that this would be done.
- d. Overgrown verges on Holeyn Hall Road had been reported and had now been cut.
- e. Had weed spraying around the village been done?
- f. LTP issues – this would be fully considered at the September meeting so it was suggested that the Road Safety Group should prepare a report to support the discussion.

A number of residents were in attendance to highlight their concerns about the proposed development of a childcare nursery at the eastern end of Falcon Terrace. Prior to them doing so Councillor T Appleby declared a personal and interest in the matter and left the meeting during the consideration of this business.

It was reported that an initial survey of opinion on the proposed application suggested that there was no support for it. The residents then went on to outline the main areas of concern which were:

- a. Taking access from Falcon Terrace would increase traffic leading to increased noise, nuisance, pollution and road safety issues. Falcon Terrace already had problems as a result of the caravan site and access onto the main road at the Fox and Hounds was difficult.
- b. Children crossing Falcon Terrace going to and from school would face increased danger from vehicles.
- c. The area identified for parking was in the green belt.
- d. Removal of mature trees would be detrimental to the environment.
- e. More people may use the back lane at Falcon Terrace which was unadopted and unsuitable for increased vehicular traffic. There was also uncertainty about the ownership of the section of land that would need to be crossed to take access to the nursery.
- f. Falcon Terrace is currently a safe/quiet space, but this would not be the case with a nursery open 7am – 7pm.
- g. There may be a need for additional lighting which would lead to light pollution in this area.

Signed: Date:

Chairman of Meeting

- h. Safeguarding may be an issue with the adjacent caravan/camp site.
- i. The walking bus proposal was not considered practical for a number of reasons e.g. inclement weather, people running late etc. may stop people using this option. It may be popular initially, but usage may decline.
- j. The construction phase would be difficult in terms of getting materials to the site.

After thanking the residents for attending the meeting Councillor J Joures indicated that the Parish Council would, in due course, be consulted formally by the County Council on the application but that its views did not hold any greater weight than other consultees. In commenting upon the application, the Council would need to be balanced in its view but such a view was likely to include concerns about the application.

He stressed that residents' comments would be vitally important in bringing facts to the attention of the County Council that they may not be aware of. That said, comments should be linked to planning policies as well as including more general information about the nature of the area. He also encouraged the residents to write to the Parish Council setting out their concerns.

Finally, Councillor K Quinn outlined the process for determining local planning applications which could include a referral to the Tynedale Area Committee for a controversial application. This would provide local residents with an opportunity to speak on the application.

Resolved that:

- i. Residents concerns be taken into consideration by the Council during the formal consultation process, and
- ii. Councillor K Quinn be copied into any comments received from residents.

At this point Councillor T Appleby returned to the meeting.

2. Report from County Councillor K Quinn

Neil Snowdon from the County Council's Highways Department was due to visit the village to look at issues of concern but no date had yet been set.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from A Francis, J Martin and L Bray (Tree Warden)

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

None declared.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th June 2019 and their signature by the Chairman

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to 'J Joures' being amended to 'J Martin' against production of the Globe in Minute 10i.

6. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following:

- a. **Mental Health Awareness Event** – contact has been made with Rebecca Campbell, Associate Director, North Access Services, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust with regard to this. The Parish Council would host the event in the

Signed: Date:

Chairman of Meeting

village and would issue the invitations to groups and individuals interested in being involved.

- b. **Empowering Communities Project** - Jude Deeks, Locality Coordinator, Empowering Communities Project, West Northumberland area had asked to attend a meeting of the Council to talk about her role and how she might be able to work alongside the local community.
- c. **Training** – She had attended a new clerk’s event, organised by the Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and the SLCC Northumberland Branch meeting. Both had proved very valuable.
- d. **Hagg Bank Play Area** – an accompanied inspection of the play area has been booked with Wicksteed. Once this had taken place and the report, regarding any improvements required, was received this would be brought back to the Council for further discussion. The broken sign has been removed and quotes would be obtained for a new one.
- e. **Nature Reserve** – strimming had been carried out.
- f. **Ivy Removal at 3-4 Laburnum Terrace** – the contractor had been instructed to carry out the work as soon as all birds have fledged.

Resolved that the report be received and updates be obtained from the County Council regarding the request for a dog poo bin on Holeyn Hall Road and also cyclists on Wylam Bridge.

7. Parish Council Vacancies

Resolved that the process to fill the vacancies be started with the advertising of the vacancies for 14 days.

8. Allotment Lease Renewal

The Clerk reported that as yet she had not been able to obtain a model agreement between a parish council and an allotment association but that she would pursue this with other councils. It would also be necessary to obtain up to date information from the Allotment Association to include in the agreement.

Membership of the National Allotment Society, at £55 per annum, would enable us to use its model document but it was felt that as the Council only had one allotment site in its ownership and was looking to reduce annual subscriptions, membership should not be taken up.

Resolved that:

- i. Wylam Allotment Association be contacted for up to date information regarding the site
- ii. Further attempts be made to obtain a model management agreement.

9. Feedback from Summer Fair

A list of the comments made by local residents was circulated. In the main these centred on highways, road safety, rights of way and the environment.

With regard to the suggestion of using the telephone box as a ‘theme box’ a demonstration of what could be done would happen in the near future.

Resolved:

- i. The comments be received
- ii. Where appropriate, comments be forwarded to the County Council for consideration and action, and

Signed: Date:

Chairman of Meeting

- iii. Tim Fish, The County Council's Rights of Way Officer be asked to provide details of local schemes.

10. Notes of meeting with A Reece

Resolved that the notes of the meeting with A Reece, of the Reece Foundation, regarding 3-4 Laburnum Terrace (Former Post Office) held on 25th June 2019 be received.

11. Celebrating Points Bridge Project

S Robinson was in attendance to provide an update on the project and the public events due to take place on 18th June 2019 which would now include a photographic exhibition.

Although the production would be available online and via DVD there had been requests for the production to be put on again as some people were unable to get tickets. This was to be looked at.

Finally, it had been suggested that at the evening performance a glass of prosecco should be offered to those wishing to take part. The Clerk confirmed that the Council's grant could not be used to purchase alcohol and members were minded not to support this. An alternative would be for the organiser to purchase the alcohol from their own funds and recover the cost through a charge per glass.

Resolved that the update be received and the proposal to serve a glass of prosecco during the exhibition with a charge per glass be supported.

12. Summer Edition of the Globe

Resolved that:

- i. Articles for the next edition be finalised as a matter of urgency with the aim of going to print at the end of July.
- ii. Volunteers be sought to help with delivery around the village.
- iii. The kind offer from A Ferguson to deliver on Dene Road be gratefully accepted.

13. Financial Reports to 30th June 2019

Resolved that the financial reports to 30th June 2019 be approved.

14. Payments for Approval

Resolved that

- i. The payments detailed in appendix G be approved with the addition of the following:

General Community Account

Date	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
11.7.19	Tyne Valley Woodlands re strimming of Nature Reserve	90.00	18.00	108.00
9.7.19	SLCC re New Clerk Event	10.00	2.00	12.00

- ii. The sum of £10,000 be transferred from the Post Office Saver Account to the Post Office Current Account to meet future commitments.

15. Quotations Received

The Clerk reported that only one quote had been received for the cutting of the Holeyn Hall Road/Forster Gardens Hedge and because of this it was not possible to determine value for money.

Signed: Date:

Chairman of Meeting

Advance Northumberland Homes had been contacted re the 'gift' of the hedge to the front of Forster Gardens but had indicated that they were unlikely to accept this although would review the matter once the maintenance cost was known.

Resolved that

- i. Last year's quote be reviewed and, if found to be much lower, further quotes be obtained for the work, and
- ii. Advance Northumberland be asked to reconsider their position with regard to the ownership and maintenance of the hedge.

16. Planning Applications

It was noted that Northumberland County Council had refused the following application:

Ref: 17/04497/FUL

Proposal - Demolition of existing allotment shed and erection of allotment workshop, greenhouse and yurt for agricultural food production

Location - Land South West of Street Houses, Wylam, Northumberland

It was reported that the Parish Council had not submitted any comments or objections in relation to the following:

Ref: 19/01760/FUL

Proposal - Proposed sun-lounge and WC extension

Location 18 Algernon Terrace, Wylam, Northumberland NE41 8AX

Ref: 19/01611/FUL

Proposal - Demolition of an existing outbuilding and the construction of a new outbuilding and garden room

Location - High Croft, Elm Bank Road, Wylam, Northumberland NE41 8HS

Resolved that the report be received.

17. Correspondence received

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

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

- a. **Heritage Group** – leaflets were being updated and a meeting was to be arranged. There was a need to review the inventory for the museum. Informal links with the Stockton/Darlington Railway were being established.
- b. **Tree Warden update** – a report was circulated outlining current tree problems. The annual tree survey had started, the results of which would be discussed at the September meeting. Basal tree damage grass cutting would need to be reported to the County Council. **Resolved** that the Tree Warden's report be noted and the County Council be contacted about the tree damage.
- c. **WCPFA** – Feedback about the summer fair had been excellent with one criticism being disabled access. There was a need to discuss the approach to the organisation's grant

Signed: Date:

Chairman of Meeting

from the Parish Council. **Resolved** that J Henderson would be a rep in addition to J Jours.

- d. **ETP& TC Forum** – due to meet on 18th July. Invasive species was to be discussed and would be reported back to this Council in September. Thanks to D Peel for his work on this issue should be recorded.

19. Minor items & items for the Agenda of a future meeting

- a. There was a need to have a coordinated approach between J Henderson and J Martin with regard to posting items on the Council’s Facebook page. J Martin would be responsible for TTRO posts.
- b. C Percy was due to attend a meeting of the Crawcrook Quarry Liaison Meeting.
- c. M Hadden, Village Handyman should be asked to submit a report to be included as a standing item on the agenda for future Parish Council meetings.
- d. The format of the public participation section of the meeting be reviewed.
- e. The criteria for considering bids on 3-4 Laburnum Terrace be discussed at the next meeting.

20. Date of next meeting

Monday 9th September 2019

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

Signed: Date:
Chairman of Meeting