

# NEWTON ON THE MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting  
Meeting held at Swarland Village Hall at 7pm  
**Wednesday 25th May 2022**

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 22nd May 2019</b> – No Annual Parish Meeting was held in 2020 or in 2021 due to the Coronavirus restrictions on public meetings. The minutes were agreed.  |  |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting 22nd May 2019</b> – None.  |  |
| <b>3.</b> | <p><b>Chairman’s Report:</b></p> <p>Councillor David Francis presented his report for 2021/22. Cllr Francis summarised the characteristics of our Parish Council; the area covered, the role of the PC, budget of about £24,000 which comes mainly from the Council Tax precept, and the composition of the PC (10 Cllrs, Parish Clerk and numerous volunteers).</p> <p>The Parish Council owns Vyner Park and Swarland Village Hall, and supports the Jubilee Hall in Newton on the Moor. In addition it owns the bus shelters in the Parish, seats, notice boards and three defibrillators.</p> <p>In addition the PC has jointly owned/shared facilities such as Felton Cemetery, the Felton War memorial and Davison’s Obelisk.</p> <p>With regard to Planning, the Northumberland county-wide Local Plan has finally been adopted this year which gives a solid basis for the PC to base its formal comments on the numerous planning applications – including Tree preservation orders and Listed Building Consents – during the year. Major applications in the past year have been for the 60 Caravans at Percy Wood Golf Course, the Alexander Grove culvert, Swarland sewerage and flooding, and the quarrying application for Hare Crag.</p> <p>A major step forward has been the positive response from NCC to improving the state of Swarland’s unadopted back roads over the next 2-3 years.</p> <p>There are a variety of Community initiatives now taking place which had been kick-started by the PC. These include Swarland and Newton Action on Climate Change (SNAC) which has been surveying public rights of way, starting a tree planting initiative and carrying out a bus survey which, it is hoped, will give sufficient evidence to NCC to improve bus services in the Parish.</p> <p>The PC is supportive of the community Broadband initiative that Alncom are working on in the Parish. Roadshow events have been held but additional support from residents is needed to ensure new and faster broadband is installed.</p> <p>Finally Cllr Francis thanked Volunteers, Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their work this year, particularly Suzanne Stanley who is standing down from the PC.</p> |  |
| <b>4.</b> | <p><b>Public Questions, Comments or Resolutions:</b></p> <p><b>a. Caravan Park</b> – A resident said there was a rumour that a planning application was to be submitted for Park Homes on the site where the Bari Bar is now with permission for 16 houses. Cllr Stanley said that the original intention had been to sell to a developer to build houses but now Harrisons plan to keep the land and build Park Homes instead of houses which will be built and sold as ordinary homes. Purchasers would be permanent residents and pay Council Tax. A fresh Planning Application would be needed. The resident said she thought that this sort of development was not in keeping with the rest of the village.</p> <p><b>b. Road Naming</b> - A Swarland resident made a plea for the Parish Council</p>   |  |

to give greater consideration to the naming of new roads. She commented that NCC could have used a better name for Old Park Road, which has caused confusion. She also asked why had the roads in Swarland not been dealt with earlier as she had plans from 1948 showing improvements. At that time people who were bounding the roads were expected to pay for it and not enough people were willing to pay.

**c. Name Plates** – A resident suggested that for future meetings it would be useful to have nameplates for Cllrs so they could be identified easily.

**d. Bus stop at east end of Leamington Lane** – A Swarland resident asked why the PC is taking on the bus stop which is not in the Parish, and there is no bus service?

Cllr Francis said that the bus shelter was erected in 1972 to commemorate the Queens accession to the throne. Swarland Parish raised the money and a Whittle Colliery stonemason built it. The shelter is in Felton Parish but there is no evidence they own it. Only roof repairs are needed. Another resident joined in and said there was no reason to keep the shelter and it would be a waste of money. Another further resident commented that since the shelter had been built, traffic had increased on Leamington Lane and it was too dangerous to walk down it.

**e. Speed Limits** – A Swarland resident asked why the speed limit around the village was 30mph. She said she thought it ought to be 20mph. The speed limit around the school will be 20mph.

**f. Proposed School at Longframlington** – The Fram News has mentioned a proposal for a school to be built at Longframlington with the current Swarland School site being sold for housing development. This had been news to the Swarland School Governors, the School Head and parents. NCC have been approached and have confirmed that officers have assessed the proposal and presented their findings to County Cllr Thorne and County Cllrs. There is no immediate priority of funding to build a new school.

Another resident commented that the proposed new school is possibly on a restricted site in Longframlington and asked if it was “a done deal”? Councillor Thorne said that he had had a meeting with Swarland School Head and Governors about the proposal. He said he was looking at investing a large amount in building a school fit for purpose. About a month ago he had met with the Head and Board of Governors and they were supportive of the initiative. The site in Longframlington is still in NCC ownership. It is not an initiative to take the school away from Swarland, it's to get a fit for purpose school for children. If the decision was to build on the Swarland site he'd be just as happy.

A resident asked Cllr Thorne why there had been no consultation before he went to NCC?

Another resident asked if the current Swarland School site/fields were within the new settlement boundary. Cllr Francis said it was not.

Cllr Thorne said that he was not saying a new school would be funded entirely by the sale of land for housing. He was talking about a £7-£10 million investment.

Cllr Francis said there appeared to be a mismatch with the school saying it was not consulted and Cllr Thorne saying they were. The Parish Council would like to see a copy of the officer assessment of the proposal. Also questions have to be asked about how this has been

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|  | <p>handled. Cllr Thorne had come to the PC meeting in March and not mentioned the scheme. Cllr Francis said the process needs to be more transparent and inclusive. A brand new Local Plan has just been agreed and it is being ignored. How robust is the Plan? However it looks like NCC have vetoed the proposal.</p> <p>The discussion continued with a resident asking of Cllr Thorne was sacrificing children in Swarland? There needs to be broader consensus. They also asked why so much money had been spent on ground-source heating if a new school is planned. Cllr Thorne reiterated that there is a need for a school that is fit for purpose.</p> <p>One of the Swarland School Governors said that they had met with Cllr Thorne but this was after the proposal had been made and was at their request.</p> <p>Cllr Francis said the Parish Council will be investigating this matter further and would like to see the report made by NCC officers. He hoped that Cllr Thorne appreciated the strength of feeling from the meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meeting Finished at 20.30</b></p> |  |
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### DRAFT 2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Council

Meeting held at Swarland Village Hall immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting  
**Wednesday 25th May 2022**

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| <b>1.</b> | <p><b>Council make-up- Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman:</b><br/> Cllr Francis was proposed as Chairman and this was agreed. Cllr Clark was proposed as Vice-Chairman this was agreed.</p>  |  |
| <b>2.</b> | <p><b>Present:</b> Cllr D. Francis (Chair), Cllr S.Stanley, Cllr K. Howard-Row, Cllr D. Rixon, Cllr S. Woolfrey, Cllr L. Clark, Cllr J. Fallais, Cllr G. Anderson and Cllr C. Letts.<br/> County Councillor Trevor Thorne and the Clerk were in attendance.</p>   |  |
| <b>3.</b> | <p><b>Apologies for absence:</b> Cllrs N. Mansfield.</p>  |  |
| <b>4.</b> | <p><b>Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:</b> None.</p>  |  |
| <b>5.</b> | <p><b>Appointment of Committee Members and Representatives.</b><br/> The following appointments for 2022/23 were agreed.<br/> a.Vyner Park Charity Management Committee (NM,SW and K.H-R).<br/> b.Joint Cemetery Committee (GA and NM).<br/> c.Swarland Village Hall Representative (SW)<br/> d.Davison’s Obelisk Working Party (Chairman and Vice Chairman if required).<br/> e.Swarland Village action (NM)<br/> f.Swarland Show (GA)<br/> g.Complaints Committee (Membership of Cttee to be decided depending on/if complaint received).<br/> h.Finance Group (Chairman, LC, DR).<br/> i.Percy Wood Country Park Liaison (CL).<br/> j.Swarland School Governors (CL)</p> |  |
| <b>5.</b> | <p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2022:</b> These were agreed.</p>  |  |
| <b>6.</b> | <p><b>To consider matters arising from the meeting 27th April 2022.</b><br/> <b>a. Condition of Swarland Roads</b> – Cllr Francis said the most hopeful and positive signs have come from NCC to improve the roads but it isn’t a</p>   |  |

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|                  | <p>guarantee. NCC are getting legal advice. Some of the roads are incapable of being brought up to a modern adoptable standard. Cllr Clark suggested asking NCC what year the works will go into the Capital Programme – Agreed.</p> <p>On the subject of roads, the Clerk was asked to chase up with Neil Hodgson the NCC 20mph Policy which had been expected about now.</p> <p>The Clerk was also to ask about the recent works on the vicinity of the school where very long unsightly posts had been left – were more signs planned?</p> <p><b>b. Resilient Communities</b> – Update. Proposed meeting date 9th June.</p> <p><b>c. Percy Wood Planning application</b> – Drainage and S106 issues. Clerk to raise this issue with Planners (see item 6e 27/4/22). Cllr Thorne suggested writing to NCC Planning as there is still the dilemma of serious overflowing sewerage problems. Need something from N. Water. Cllr Francis said that N.Water have said in the past that they can't object to planning proposals, and NCC consult with N. Water and take their response as Gospel and the only valid comment on drainage ie NCC are not getting proper objective input on drainage. Cllr Thorne said that County Cllrs are aware of the situation and challenge N. Water comments.</p> <p>Cllr Rixon said that the system was installed for 72 houses. It was taken over by N. Water and has remained the same with 4" pipes. There is a national issue with raw sewage going into rivers. Cllr Rixon said he thought the PC should say 'enough is enough'. N. Water have said they would do something for 40 years and we still have sewage in gardens. Cllr Francis asked Cllr Thorne if the North Area Planning Committee would do something about this and Cllr Thorne said he was sure it is.</p> <p><b>d. Neighbourhood Plan</b> – Cllr Rixon said that the latest NCC Newsletter had an article on Neighbourhood Plans. He suggested that we ask for an Officer from NCC to speak to us. Neighbourhood Plans can be as wide or as narrow as the PC wants. Cllr Francis said he didn't think a Neighbourhood Plan would be able to do anything more than the current Local Plan. Cllr Thorne said that a Neighbourhood Plan has teeth and can include community aspirations. It was agreed the Clerk would contact David English at NCC to ask what added value a Neighbourhood Plan would give us. Just written guidance is requested at this stage.</p> <p><b>d. Mirrors to aid traffic at Newton on the Moor</b> – Clerk to contact NCC.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p><b>7.</b></p> | <p><b>Requested agenda items:</b></p> <p>a. <u>Vyner Park update</u> - Cllr Woolfrey said that the park continues to be well used. Football has finished for the season. Improvements to the bowling green have been priced up and work has begun on killing off moss. Repair/replacement work is being done on the MUGA lights. Site inspection has been done and one tree had to be cut down. The VPC is looking to replace some of the fencing on the playground this year.</p> <p>b. <u>Swarland and Newton on the Moor Action on Climate (SNAC) update</u> – Cllr Clark said the group had been working 5 months now. In April/May a survey of footpaths was carried out. A summary of condition/signage/accessibility was being pulled together and a meeting will be held with Tony Derbyshire the Footpaths Officer. There is a possibility that NCC will provide materials and the group will do the work necessary. Cllr Letts described the bus survey which SNAC had carried out. A summary had already been circulated and will be going in The Column. There had been close to 100 responses and all but 2 had been very keen to have a bus service. The survey gives good evidence to take to NCC for the reinstatement of a bus service in the Parish. Thanks were made</p>   |  |

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|                  | <p>to VPC for agreeing to the planting of 105 trees which are arriving in November, donated by the Woodland Trust. SNAC has expressed an interest in participating in a Climate Action Toolkit being piloted in the autumn, and with the PC have been successful in obtaining a Queens Jubilee Grant from NCC which will be spent on trees and bulbs in the Parish.</p> <p><b>At the point of the meeting it was 21.05. Cllrs agreed to suspend standing orders so the meeting could continue.</b></p> <p>The Jubilee Tree will be planted in Vyner Park on 4th June and the NotM tree about a month later.</p> <p>c. <u>Query from residents about PC taking over ownership of the Leamington Lane Bus Shelter.</u> – This matter had been discussed at length during the Annual Parish Meeting (Minute 4d above). Cllr Francis proposed that in the light of the strong feelings shown on this matter, that the PC abandon the idea of taking on the bus shelter. This was agreed. Clerk to advise Felton PC, and that if Felton PC wish to demolish the shelter, this PC would not stand in their way.</p> <p>d. <u>Proposed new school at Longframlington</u> – This had already been discussed during the Parish Meeting (Minute 4f above).</p> <p>e. <u>Traffic speeding in Swarland and NotM</u> (Cllr Rixon) – To next meeting.</p> <p>f. <u>Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2021/22</u> – Appendix B.</p> <p>I. To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the internal auditor (If any, to be provided at meeting). Cllr Francis thanked Patricia Foxton for carrying out the internal audit. The Clerk said the audit had taken about 8 hours and Mrs Foxton had recommended that the VPC Treasurer adopt the same sort of spreadsheet system as used by the PC. She had also recommended that the Clerk carry out a monthly bank reconciliation. Clerk to pass the internal auditors comments to the VPC Treasurer.</p> <p>I. To approve the Annual Governance Statement (Draft copy attached in Appendix B). The PC answered yes to all questions and agreed the statement.</p> <p>II. To approve the draft annual accounts for 2021/22 and Asset register (Draft copies attached in Appendix B). These were agreed.</p> <p>III. To approve the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances (Draft copies attached in Appendix B). These were agreed.</p> <p>IV. To confirm and approve the Certification of Exemption (draft copy attached in Appendix B). This was agreed.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p><b>8.</b></p> | <p><b>Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors:</b></p> <p>County Cllr Thorne said that he knew the school proposal would be controversial but he is going to pursue it. Cllr Thorne said that NCC had got a share of £168 Million to develop rural bus services especially in areas which don't have anything. £48 Million has been allotted towards building affordable homes.</p> <p>Cllr Francis asked if Harrisons had submitted an appeal – Cllr Thorne said he couldn't comment but hasn't heard anything about an appeal. Cllr Stanley said that she had been told by Harrisons that they are submitting an appeal. Cllr Thorne said that although the original application was submitted and decided before the Local Plan was agreed, the new Local Plan would apply to any appeal.</p> <p>Cllr Letts asked if anything could be done to improve the junction turning south from Swarland to make it safer for buses. Cllr Thorne said this was being looked at as part of the A1 dualling, but the PC didn't think this was the case. Cllr</p>   |  |

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|                   | <p>Thorne said that NCC has lobbied the Highways Agency about this and asked them to look at it.</p> <p>Councillor Rixon asked if Cllr Thorne could contact NCC Highways about the repainting of white lines in Newton on the Moor &amp; Swarland.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>9.</b></p>  | <p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p>a. Clerk's salary for May 2022 - £410.55<br/>         Payment to HM Revenues &amp; Customs PAYE<br/>             =       £82<br/>         Payment to Clerk = £410.55 plus expenses £6.35 + underpayments from 21/22 £24.50<br/>             - £82.00 = 359.40</p> <p>b. Other receipts and payments:</p> <p>i) Receipts: Queens Platinum Jubilee Fund Grant from NCC - £500</p> <p>ii) PC/VPC Insurance BHIB Insurance 2022/23 - £1,177.60<br/>         2022/23 Grant to The Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor - £2000.</p> <p>c. Account balance as at 20th May 2022: £36,893.62<br/>         All the above were agreed/noted. It was also agreed to reimburse Cllr Stanley for the purchase of trees and signs for the Jubilee. The Clerk said that the cost of insurance was slightly higher than the £1063.59 expected due to changes in tax applying to buildings. VPC to be advised.<br/>         Cllr Woolfrey said that Swarland Village Hall would like their grant now, but are planning works later in the year. He will speak to Cllr Francis about this to ensure most efficient VAT savings.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>10.</b></p> | <p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>a. <b>Decisions made by NCC</b><br/> <b>21/03288/SN</b> – Street Naming - Land North Of 3 Nelson Drive, Nelson Drive Swarland. Proposal for 1-7 Trafalgar Drive. The Parish Council did not object to the proposed name but did object to it being for 1-7 properties as this was objected to in application 21/04446/FUL. Applicant will use the name 'Trafalgar Drive' if 21/04446/FUL is approved.</p> <p>b. <b>Applications pending decision by NCC</b><br/> <b>20/02884/CCMEIA</b> - Land North Of Shiel Dykes, U3050 Swarland Junction To Stouphill Junction, Swarland, Northumberland. Phased extraction of approximately 5 million tonnes of hard rock and importation of inert material for use in restoration using overburden from site and imported inert materials over 30 year period . This application is not within the Parish but may impact on the area. The Parish Council did not object to the application subject to a range of comments. Cllrs Cutforth and Howard-Row objected to the development.<br/>         As at 20.5.22 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>21/02696/S106A</b> - Hawkshaw, Old Swarland, Swarland, Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9H. The Parish Council objected to this application to lift a s106 agreement condition to ensure the property was kept for local people. As at 20.5.22 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>21/04446/FUL</b> - Construction of 7no. detached bungalows and associated road and ground works on former grazing land. Land North Of 3 Nelson Drive, Nelson Drive, Swarland, Northumberland. The PC made a detailed objection to this application on several grounds including overdevelopment of the site. As at 20.5.22 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>21/04600/DISCON, 21/04601/DISCON and 21/04602/DISCON</b> - Drainage and the culvert at Alexander Grove, Swarland. The Parish Council objected to these applications on the grounds that sufficient evidence of an Engineering inspection had not been provided.</p> <p><b>22/00196/FUL</b> – Land south of Newton on the Moor. New field entrance and hard standing. The Parish Council objected to this application for a range of reasons including, no information had been provided as to the reason for the application, Highways safety, and errors on the application form. As at 20.5.22 decision still awaited.</p> <p>c. <b>Planning matters for Parish Council to consider</b></p> |  |

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|                   | <p><b>22/04972/FUL</b> - Tourism development comprising of 9no. timber lodges within woodland setting with associated access, hardstanding and landscaping. Garden And Rush Plantations, Newton-On-The-Moor, Northumberland. Comments invited until 28th April.</p> <p><b>22/01424/FUL</b> - Proposed construction of 3 bedroom dormer bungalow - Land South East of 4 Studley Drive, Studley Drive, Swarland, Northumberland. Comments invited until 27th May 2022.</p> <p><b>22/00292/REM</b> - Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout, scale, boundary treatment, car parking area and cycle parking relating to 1no 2 storey dwelling southern part of site (approved application 20/01037/OUT). Land South Of Bowling Green U3135 Swarland Village Loop Road, Swarland, Northumberland. Comments invited until 27th May 2022.</p> <p><b>22/01524/FUL</b> - Single storey front and rear extensions - 8 Kenmore Road, Swarland, Northumberland NE65 9JS. Comments invited until 31st May 2022.</p> |   |
| <p><b>11.</b></p> | <p><b>Complaints:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leamington Lane drain and manhole outside Swarland Primary school – blockage issues referred to NCC 5.2.2020. Being taken up by NCC/OpenReach.</li> <li>• ‘No footpath’ sign at entrance of The Springwood knocked down<br/>Footpath sign opposite Blue House NotM broken off.<br/>Footpath sign broken off east of PW main entrance, Leamington Lane<br/>Footpath sign broken off behind Douglas Crescent, Swarland.</li> <li>• Request for ‘No entry’ sign at Cherry Tree Drive due to Percy Wood visitors getting lost. - referred to NCC - 22.9.21.</li> <li>• Overhanging branches on C106 from Alnwick Fords to Glantlees turnoff</li> <li>• Two sites in Swarland where substantial structures are being built – referred to NCC Planning Enforcement 30.3.22.</li> </ul>  | <p>All signs reported to NCC and to be reinstated spring/summer 2022.</p> |
| <p><b>12.</b></p> | <p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queries from two residents about PC taking over the Leamington Lane bus shelter.</li> <li>• NCC Climate Change Website consultation until 8th July 2022.</li> <li>• National Highways A1 Morpeth to Ellingham dualling update.</li> <li>• Hadrians Wall Community Grants 1900.</li> </ul>   |   |
| <p><b>13.</b></p> | <p><b>Requests for next agenda;</b><br/>a. Traffic speeding in Swarland and NotM (Cllr Rixon) For discussion.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>14.</b></p> | <p><b>Urgent Items:</b> None.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>15.</b></p> | <p><b>Dates of Next Meetings:</b> 22/6/22 JH, 27/7/22 SVH, 24/8/22 JH.</p>   |   |