

NEWTON ON THE MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the electronic Parish Council Meeting held
Wednesday 28th October 2020 at 7.00pm online via ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/join>
DURING COVID 19 EMERGENCY

1.	Public Question Time (Max 15 minutes in total) – No members of the public present.	
2.	Present: Cllr D. Francis (Chair) Cllr Ms E. Clark, Cllr D. Rixon, Cllr G. Anderson, Cllr S. Cutforth, Cllr Mrs S. Stanley, Cllr Mrs K. Howard-Row, Cllr N. Mansfield, Cllr S. Woolfrey. The Clerk was in attendance.	
3.	Apologies for absence: None.	
4.	Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: None.	
5.	Minutes of the ‘virtual’ meeting held on 23rd September 2020: Agreed.	
6.	To consider matters arising from the ‘virtual’ meeting 23rd September 2020: a. <u>Speed monitoring strips north of NotM</u> – These were not installed by NCC or the Highways Agency. No further action to be taken. b. <u>Road Safety Issues around A1 Guyzance turnoff</u> (Cllr Clark) Cllr Clark said she had sent an email but no response had been received yet. c. <u>Grants from Cllr Thorne for Interactive Speed Monitoring signs</u> – Update from Clerk. Confirmation has been received for £5000 grant for sign or other traffic calming measures in NotM. Grant for sign at Swarland 1st School apparently dependent on consultation to be carried out in November on basket of speed control measures to be installed in vicinity of the school. Clerk to pursue. 19.09 At this point Cllr Mansfield joined the meeting. d. <u>Review of Clerk’s job description and terms/conditions of service</u> – Cllr Francis said that the Clerk’s job description, terms of service and the retrospective salary position (to 1.4.2020) had been reviewed and agreed by members in advance of the meeting via email. Will aim to do this on an annual basis. e. <u>LTP streetlight on the Avenue</u> – In the 20/21 LTP a request was made for a streetlight on the Avenue opposite Home Farm Cottages. The response from NCC was that this was to be costed and if possible would be included. The Clerk had checked with the Head of Service and a response was expected 29th October.	Cllr Clark Clerk
7.	Requested agenda items: a. <u>Vyner Park update</u> (Cllr Woolfrey) The annual review meeting had been held with Nelson’s. The Annual meeting of the Vyner Park Committee had been held (on 27.10.20) with Cllr Woolfrey as Chair, and Andy Ferguson as Treasurer. The Management Team is still trying to secure external funding for the outdoor gym, and will try NCC’s Community Fund but may need to come to the PC for a contribution. The north gate to VP had been replaced with work being done by volunteers, Steve Woolfrey, Stuart Cutforth, Greg Anderson and Bryan Fergie. The pedestrian gate had been temporarily removed but will go back when Covid restrictions lifted. The play park is busy, and a football team has been set up. A budget was decided on and a figure agreed for the annual ‘ask’ to the PC but the Management Team are also looking for a contribution towards resurfacing the tennis courts. b. <u>Public Interest Report received from External Auditor relating to invalid certificate of exemption for the year ended 31 March 2019.</u> Cllr Francis said he had written to the external auditors and hoped for a quick reply. However, the PC needed to make plans for the statutory meeting by 23rd	

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	<p>November which required a minimum of 8 days notice giving details of the purpose of the meeting and making the report available. The reason for this PC's error was very simple with a variance in the advice on the official return, and the guidance regarding whether to include VPC funds held by the PC (or not) in the return.</p> <p>Cllr Woolfrey asked who selected the external auditor. Cllr Francis said decision is made nationally. Theoretically could change from current auditors. He advised that we should stay with them. Cllr Rixon queried effect on PC's return if grants received from NCC. Cllr Francis said that if the PIR stands, the PC won't be able to claim an exemption for 2020/21, and will have to make a full return. There is a possibility that the time frame could be extended to permit combining PIR meeting with planned PC meeting. Cllr Francis will ask for this if it is needed.</p> <p>c. <u>Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020 arrangements at NotM and Felton.</u> – Felton Joint Cemetery Committee has decided that there will not be an organised ceremony at the Felton War memorial on 8th October but there will be an online service at 10.30am and a ticket only church service. Wreaths can be laid at any time. Cllr Francis said he was going on Sunday just before 11am. It was agreed to go ahead with the usual ceremony outside the Jubilee Hall war memorial, but maintain social distancing. Cllr Howard-Row asked if it was possible for her husband to lay a wreath obo the Army Cadets. Cllr Francis said this would be welcomed.</p> <p>d. <u>Percy Wood</u> -</p> <p>(i) Problems being caused by visitors to the site taking wrong turning onto private property – Residents have been putting up signs to help but these in turn have prompted complaint. It was agreed that Cllr Stanley and Clerk would meet with the Site Manager to raise all the issues. More brown tourists signs might help but these incur a cost.</p> <p>(ii) Felling of protected trees – Local resident got in touch with Cllr Woolfrey and given details of who to contact at NCC. The Enforcement Officer has since been in touch with the resident. It was agreed that Clerk would write to NCC expressing concern at the trees being cut down, obtaining confirmation that PW was a protected area, and encourage NCC to take action.</p> <p>Clerk will also gather data together showing what protections are in place in Parish.</p> <p>It was also agreed to put information (from PC article in the Column) on the PC website about protected trees and potential £20,000 fine per tree.</p> <p>e. <u>Environment Agency enforcement action at Aln View, Low Swarland</u> – Report on action. Cllr Francis said there had been an item in the Northumberland gazette about action taken by the Environment Agency. Cllr Stanley said she would circulate the article. Accumulations of rubbish still on site.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Francis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Stanley/ Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Stanley</p>
8.	<p>Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Anderson had attended the meeting of the Felton Joint Cemetery Committee on 1st October. This had already been covered earlier on the agenda (see 7c).</p>	
9.	<p>Finance:</p>	

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	<p>a. Clerk's salary £362.95 Clerks Expenses £ 58.88 Payment to HM Revenues & Customs PAYE = £72.60 Payment to Clerk = £362.95 + £58.88 - £72.60 = £349.23</p> <p>b. Other receipts and payments: i)Receipts: None.</p> <p>ii)Payments: Grant request from Great North Air Ambulance Service – amount to be decided. A donation of £50 was agreed.</p> <p>c. Account balance as at 22nd October 2020 - £35,896.93 All the above were noted/agreed.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Planning:</p> <p>a. To report on any planning decisions made by NCC: 20/00717/FUL – Construction of detached garage - The Old Pheasantry, 5 Home Farm Cottages Swarland NE65 9JH. The Parish Council had no objections. This application was withdrawn by the applicant on 14th October 2020.</p> <p>20/02455/FUL 8 Old Park Road, Swarland, Morpeth, Northumberland NE65 9HJ. Proposed single storey rear sunroom extension. The Parish Council had no objections to this application. Application withdrawn by applicant 14th October 2020.</p> <p>20/02399/FUL - Garage and garden room extension, enclosure of porch with windows and door.1 The Old Tweed Mill, Swarland NE65 9LX. The Parish Council had no objections to this application. Permission GRANTED 21st October 2020.</p> <p>20/01963/PRUTPO - Tree Preservation Order: works to 1no. Sycamore tree to cut back 3no. branches to the trunk. 1 Ferny Bank Swarland Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9BB. Parish Council objected because of lack of information provided. Application REFUSED 14th October 2020.</p> <p>20/02508/FUL - Pine Lodge, Old Swarland, Swarland, NE65 9HU. Proposed single storey side extension. The Parish Council supported this application. Permission GRANTED 16th October 2020.</p> <p>20/00176/OUT - Outline planning permission with all matters reserved, except for access, for the construction of up to 9No residential units - Land South Of Mereburn House, Low Wood, Swarland, Northumberland. The Parish Council objected to this application for a range of reasons including lack of justification of the need for the development, traffic concerns, and highways issues. Application WITHDRAWN by applicant 23rd September 2020.</p> <p>20/02390/TREECA – Works to Trees In A Conservation Area : Ash (T1) - Retrenchment pruning and removal of several lower limbs resulting in an overall 20% reduction in crown height and spread. 21 Newton on the Moor, Morpeth, Northumberland. The Parish Council had no objections to this application. Application APPROVED 23rd September 2020.</p> <p>b. Applications pending decision by NCC 19/01687/FUL - Change of use of land for the siting of up to 60 static caravans, along with associated infrastructure and hard and soft landscaping – Land north west of Springwood, Coast View, Swarland, Northumberland. The PC objected for a range of reasons including adverse visual impact, too close to existing buildings, sewerage and drainage capacity issues, and highways safety.</p> <p>19/05021/FUL - Proposed new detached dwelling - 5 Kenmore Road, Swarland NE65 9JS. The Parish Council objected to this application for a range of reasons including that there was insufficient room for the development, and that the proposed development is out of keeping with neighbouring properties. Cllr Francis said that checks on the current status of this application indicate that delegation of the decision has been made to a Planning Officer. No copy of this has been received by the PC.</p>	

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20/01079/FUL – Proposed four bedroom detached dormer bungalow with attached double garage - Land South West Of 2 The Orchard, Nelson Drive, Swarland, Northumberland. The Parish Council asked for a TPO'd tree to be protected, and for a contribution to the repair of Nelson Drive.

20/01191/REM - Reserved matters application for layout, scale, appearance and landscaping of approved planning application 16/04129/OUT. Land South Of Mereburn House, Low Wood, Swarland. The Parish Council objected to this application on grounds which included that the application was incomplete, highways safety issues etc.

20/02082/VARYCO – Removal of Condition 8 (Restrictions of types of flying) - to allow flying training, circuits, touch-and-go manoeuvres to take place at the site on a permanent basis, Variation to Condition 4 (Current Restriction is 120 days) - to allow the number of aircraft arrivals and departures to 150 days per year on a permanent basis, Variation to Condition 5 (Restriction on take offs and landings) - to increase daily aircraft movements to 50 movements in a 24 hour period to accommodate flying training and add 200 movements within a 24 hour period to support air rallies to take place at the site on a permanent basis and Variation to Condition 7 (no air rallies) - to allow the site to be used for up to 4 air rallies, festivals or similar charitable activities per year on a permanent basis on approved planning application 17/03436/VARYCO (revised description 05.08.2020). Poultry Farm, Atheys Moor, Longframlington, Morpeth. The Parish Council objected on the basis of the proposal for a number of festivals and similar events.

20/02067/FUL - Change of use of existing disused building and extensions to form dwelling. Land to The East Of Overgrass Mill Cottage, Longframlington, Morpeth, Northumberland. Comments invited until 6th August 2020. PC objected to this application with concerns about road access, and safety of building over old mine ventilation shaft.

20/02437/REM - Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale on approved planning application 17/03676/OUT. Woodside 1 Coast View Swarland NE65 9JE. The Parish Council objected to this application mainly on grounds of access.

20/02525/DISCON - Land South Of Mereburn House, Low Wood, Swarland, Northumberland. Discharge of Condition 6 (Highways) relating to planning permission 16/04129/OUT. The Parish Council strongly objected to this application as the culvert planned was a change from the bridge originally agreed in the outline planning permission.

20/02884/CCMEIA - 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.

20/02923/FELTPO - Tree Preservation Order: T8 (Horse Chestnut), T9 (dead stem), T10 (dead stem), T13 (Cupressaceae Spp), T14 (European Larch) - remove to ground level; T1 (Beech) - prune historic tree surgery limb removal back to main stem In accordance with BS3998: 2010; T2 (European Larch) - remove to ground; T3 (European Ash) - remove to ground level or habitat stump 3m; T4 (Beech) - remove hanging branch and deadwood; T5 (Beech) - remove broken top and deadwood. Reduce crown < 20% in order leave tree as decaying habitat; T6 (English Oak) - area surrounding buttress to be cleared and branches to lower main stem up to 1.8 m to be cut back in order to allow future inspection. T7 (Horse Chestnut) - remove to ground; T11 (Wych Elm) - 15% crown reduction, clear epicormic growth up to 1.8 m and surrounding area. Monitor as per valid policy; T12 (European Larch) - remove to ground; T15 (English Oak) - cut back broken branch and deadwood where required; T16 (Beech) - reduce roadside crown 15%; Tree Group G1 (4no. Acer Pseudoplatanus, Sycamore, 2no. European Ash) - remove to ground; Tree Group G2 (2no. Aesculus Hippocastanum, Horse Chestnut) - incremental removal to ground.

Land West Of The Woodlands The Avenue Swarland Northumberland. Comments invited until 22nd October 2020. Due to the contents of Tree Surgeon report, the Parish Council had no objections to this application but asked for replacement trees to be planted as soon as possible.

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	<p>C. Planning matters for Parish Council to consider.</p> <p>20/03077/FUL - Conversion of 2No. redundant farm buildings to 2No. dwellings. Land South East Of Whittle Farm, Felton, Northumberland, NE65 9LN. Comments invited until 2nd November 2020. Cllrs suggested if application approved, they would like to see slates on rooves rather than the proposed concrete also a window to the kitchen. This was essentially building in open countryside and the existing buildings are derelict.</p> <p>20/03241/CLEXIS - Certificate of Lawful Development of an Existing Use for vehicular access to Pine Lodge off B6345 (resubmission of 20/00570/CLEXIS) Pine Lodge Old Swarland, Swarland NE65 9HU. Comments to be made by 4th November 2020. Cllrs discussed this. Comments are needed to NCC asap.</p> <p>20/03365/FUL - Extension to rear of single storey property (sun room). 27 Kenmore Road, Swarland. Comments invited until 17th November 2020.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Complaints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leamington Lane drain and manhole outside Swarland Primary school – blockage issues referred to NCC 5.2.2020. Being taken up by NCC/OpenReach. • Worn road markings at NotM reported 10.3.2020. • Broken off directions footpath sign on Footpath No 35 (south end) reported to NCC 10.3.20 and photos sent in to Countryside Officer. • Accumulations and smoke problems from land at Old Swarland. (See item 7e above). • Overgrown Hawthorn bush Park Road, Swarland • Overgrown hedge to west of NotM. Sides now trimmed and top to be cut in October. • Emails about proposed Cussin's development at Low Wood. • Emails about visitors to Percy Wood Retreat making wrong turnings onto private property. • Emails about high fence obstructing view of Highway, Swarland. • Query about road re-surfacing of Kenmore Road. • No footpath sign at entrance of The Springwood knocked down. • Emailed complaint about no-show of Police Engagement van for a second time at NotM. Clerk advised letter to Police has been sent with copy to complainant. Thanks to Cllr Howard-Row for contact details. • Emailed complaint about signage issues in Swarland. • Protected trees being cut down (see item 7dii above). • A complaint has been received since the agendas were sent out about speeding through NotM. Complainant to be advised to contact Police when they visit NotM. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>FOI further request regarding current planning application in Swarland – This is being looked at by Cllrs Francis and Clark, and the draft response will be circulated to Cllrs for comment.</p> <p>Emails concerning objections to approved planning application 20/00176/OUT.</p> <p>NCC Northumberland Local Plan: Notification of Phase 2 Examination Hearings Oct/Nov.</p> <p>Cemetery Committee Minutes and Felton Remembrance Service details.</p> <p>CC'd Emailed complaint about a member of the Felton Joint Cemetery Committee.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Requests for Next Agenda:</p> <p>a. May need to include Public Interest Report (see item 7b above).</p> <p>b. Budget recommendations.</p>	
<p>14.</p>	<p>Urgent items:</p> <p>a. Internet Speed – Cllr Rixon said he was very concerned about internet speeds and has been in touch with BT about this who had claimed it was 36 megabits/sec today. He was unable to check himself as had insufficient speed! Cllr Clark suggested contacting iNorthumberland. Clerk to do this.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p>
<p>15.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Next meeting 23rd/25th November depending on the response from the auditor, no meeting Dec. 27/1/2021, 24/2/2021, 24/3/2021</p>	

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	Venues/meeting arrangements to be confirmed depending on Government advice.	
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Meeting finished at: 20.20