Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Jubilee Hall, NotM Wednesday 27th October 2021

1.	Public Question Time (Max 15 minutes in total) – One member of the public	
	present who had submitted the Complaint about condition of estate roads in	
	Swarland 'are we being taken for fools?' to County Cllr Trevor Thorne. The	
	member of the public thanked the PC for its response but was disappointed to	
	have received nothing from Cllr Thorne. He asked if the PC would confirm it	
	will continue to pursue the issue with NCC. Cllr Francis said that the road	
	condition had just been submitted to NCC as one of its priorities for the Local	
	Transport Plan 22/23 and the PC had also had dialogue with Rob Murfin, now	
	Director of Highways & Planning and was waiting to hear back from Mr Murfin	
	on this. The PC will continue to pursue this matter but can't guarantee the	
	outcome.	
	19.05 Cllr Mansfield joined the meeting.	
2.	Present: Cllr D. Francis (Chair) Cllr E. Clark, Cllr G. Anderson, Cllr D. Rixon,	
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	Cllr Stanley, Cllr C. Letts, Cllr K. Howard-Row, Cllr N. Mansfield.	
	The Clerk was in attendance.	
3.	Apologies for absence: Cllr S. Woolfrey and Cllr J. Fallais.	
4.	Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: None.	
5.	Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2021 – Agreed.	
6.	To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 22nd September	
	2021:	
	a. Alncom Fibre Broadband project – update. Cllr Letts said the school would	
	probably not wish to promote commercial information such as this project as it	
	might be seen as endorsement to possibly is not appropriate. She suggested	
	the PC could bear this in mind for the future.	
	Cllr Francis said he'd been in touch with Alncom and it looks like the project will	
	go ahead even if the target numbers are not met. Its unlikely that there will be	
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	any action until May 2022.	
	b. <u>Level of input to PC from County Councillor Thorne</u> – Cllr Francis said that	
	this was included in the item he wrote for The Column but there has been no	
	response from Cllr Thorne. Cllrs felt that this was unacceptable.	
	MOTION 1	
	Cllr Rixon proposed and Cllr Howard-Row seconded, that a letter be sent to	
	Northumberland County Council stating that the Parish Council wishes to	
	express that it has no confidence in Trevor Thorne as representing its area. This	
	was agreed unanimously.	Clerk
	It was further agreed that this letter should go to the Chief Executive, the Leader	
	of the Council and the Deputy Leader.	
	c. Alexander Grove site and culvert issues - The Clerk reported that the	
	background information had been sent to Cllr Woolfrey to deliver to occupied	Clerk
	houses, and an email asking for a response had been sent to Cussins but no	CIEIK
	reply had been received. Cllrs asked if there had been any progress on the	
	DISCON application – Clerk to check with NCC	
	d. Remote meeting/training session/feedback on drainage and other issues with	
	NCC Director of Planning 14th Sept 2021 – The promised response had not	Clerk
	been provided by Mr Murfin despite a reminder from the Clerk. The Clerk to	
	chase up again.	
	e. <u>Traffic calming measures around Swarland School</u> – update on latest	
	consultation. The Clerk had had a Teams meeting with Neil Snowden and	

asked for a copy of NCC policy on introducing 20mph limits. NS had said that this was out of date and was currently being reviewed. It will be issued in time for LTP requests in 2022.

A large scale hard copy of the proposed traffic calming around the school had been provided and is displayed in the VP Pavilion until 30th October for consultation. This was advertised via the Community Facebook page and there have been a lot of responses. Residents supportive but asking for additional speed reductions along The Avenue and Park Road. NS to arrange traffic speed monitoring in vicinity of the Square after school holiday. NS also to check up on availability of grant for interactive speed monitoring sign. Cllr Stanley pointed out that the school scheme was part of a county wide scheme introducing a 20mph limit in the vicinity of schools. Cllrs were concerned that monitoring was carried out at a suitable location so as not to produce artificially low results. Repeat monitoring on Park Road is also needed due to increase in housing since last survey (2019?).

Clerk

Cllr Francis

f. <u>Parish Plan Review</u> – Cllr Francis said an article had gone into the last edition of The Column but no responses have been received. Cllr Francis to put post on Facebook and that he thought an updated Parish Plan was still worth pursuing The Clerk said she'd been able to get the demographic date from ONS for 2021.Cllr Clark asked how the review would be carried forward and Cllr Francis suggested waiting for responses from residents and then considering this in the next few months.

7. Requested agenda items

- a. <u>Vyner Park Update Cllr Woolfrey</u> had supplied an email saying that not a lot has happened over the last month. The Park continues to be used and routine maintenance activities are ongoing i.e leaf removal. The Clerk added that the Nelsons review meeting was to be held shortly chaired by Cllr Rixon.
- b. <u>Parish Council Planning consultation process</u> for discussion and decision on Draft procedure attached as Appendix 1. Cllr Francis thanked Cllr Clark and Woolfrey for their work on updating the procedure. The Procedure was agreed. Cllr Francis referred to a suggestion made recently that in the case of bigger or more contentious plans, that the PC have a designated volunteer to keep an eye on the development and provide updates to the PC.

Current applications in these categories:

19/01687/FUL - Change of use of land for the siting of up to 60 static caravans- Cllr Stanley. **20/02884/CCMEIA** — Quarry north of NotM— Cllr Francis.

Alexander Grove, Swarland — Cllr Woolfrey or Fallais.

Cllr Stanley said that in connection with her role as Percy Wood Liaison, this arrangement may need to change. Currently all queries coming to her and it would be better for queries to be circulated to the whole PC and to obtain a joint PC response or to pass back to the individual.

- c. <u>Preparing PC Budget 22/23</u> Group will meet with Clerk to review the year and come up with a budget for 22/23. An article went in The Column asking for ideas but none received except for the request for the normal grant for SVH.
- d. <u>Declaration of a Climate Emergency</u> This issue was discussed. Cllr Clark said that a response was sent to NCC on Climate Change survey recently but the PC hadn't previously considered making a declaration. NCC has done things to address climate change including producing a plan, appointing Champions and toolkits for community use. Cllr Letts said that if agreed this

would fit in with the NCC Climate Champion Scheme April cohort and NCC can offer training, support, advice on funding and links to other groups. There was a brief discussion about some of the actions that could be taken to address climate change and Cllr Rixon referred to the possible use and cost of heat pumps. Cllr Mansfield suggested that the PC could ask for housing plans to be to a defined standard for water and insulation etc.

- i. That the Parish Council declare a Climate Emergency Agreed.
- ii. How the issue of climate change and biodiversity could be improved within the Parish. It was agreed that Cllrs Clark, Letts and Francis will discuss how to take this forward when they meet to discuss the Parish Plan. Post to go on community Facebook saying the PC is looking at this and inviting interested community reps.
- e. <u>Changes to PC Risk Assessment 2021</u> (Cllr Woolfrey) proposal for discussion and agreement.
 - i. Current text Key passwords for email/bank/website etc to be given to Chair and Vice Chair annually.

Chairman to organise temporary cover for minute taking at meetings. Clerk's spouse to forward incoming post to the Chairman and check incoming emails and forward them to the Chairman for dealing with in an appropriate manner. In the event that the Clerk and spouse are incapacitated or unavailable, the Parish Council to seek access to the Clerk's residence to retrieve paperwork, and PC laptop by arrangement with relative.

Working Instructions compiled to provide step by step instructions for key actions in case of Clerks absence

ii. Proposed text - Key passwords for email/bank/website etc to be given to Chair and Vice Chair annually.

With the agreement of a majority of the Parish Council, Chairman to organise temporary cover for minute taking at meetings. Clerk's spouse to forward incoming post to the Chairman and/or Clerks temporary replacement and check incoming emails and forward them to the Chairman and/or Clerks temporary replacement for dealing with in an appropriate manner. In the event that the Clerk and spouse are incapacitated or unavailable, the Parish Council to seek access to the Clerk's residence to retrieve paperwork, and PC laptop by arrangement with relative. Working Instructions compiled to provide step by step instructions for key actions in case of Clerks absence.

In the absence of Cllr Woolfrey it was agreed that when the Finance group meet they will also look at possible amendments to the Risk Assessment.

Clerk

8. Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors: a.Cemetery Committee – Cllr Anderson had attended a meeting the previous

week. Memorial to be cleaned ahead of Remembrance Day. The finance request for 22/23 will be broadly similar to this year. Figures will be sent to the Clerk.

Cllr Francis said he'd spoken with the new Chairman of Felton PC who said they are thinking of reviewing the governance arrangements for the Cemetery. The current joint arrangement is with Felton, Thirston and our PC but Felton PC does most of the administration. Possible changes may include the Obelisk.

b. NALC AGM – This was attended by Cllr Francis. It was the 75th anniversary of NALC, and Cllr Francis will forward information to the PC on the history of

PC's in Northumberland.

9. Finance

a. Clerk's salary £395.50

Payment to HM Revenues & Customs PAYE = £79.20 Payment to Clerk = £395.5 plus expenses £29.48 - £79.20 = £334.78

b. Other receipts and payments:

i)Receipts: None.

ii)Payments: Request for grant funding from the Great North Air Ambulance.

c. Account balance as at 20th October 2021: £32,703.97

All the above were noted/agreed. A £50 donation was agreed for the GNAA.

10. Planning

a. Decisions made by NCC

21/02065/CCD Swarland Primary School, Learnington Lane, Swarland, Morpeth, Northumberland NE65 9JP. The PC had no objections but made some suggestions regarding site safety. Application GRANTED 12th October 2021.

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. Archaeological report received 09.2.2021 and amended site location plan received 26.02.21. Land North West of Springwood, Coast View, Swarland, Northumberland. The PC originally objected to this application for a range of reasons including adverse visual impact, too close to existing buildings, sewerage and drainage capacity issues, and highways safety.

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.

21/02359/FUL – One, one and a half storey dwelling - Plot 4 to rear of Kenmore Road, Swarland. The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

21/02696/S106A - 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.

21/02986/FUL – Construction of single storey conservatory - Old Stable, Hartlaw, Acklington, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9AR. The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

c. Planning matters for Parish Council to consider

21/04028/FUL - Land To North Of Kiln Cottage, Newton-On-The-Moor, Northumberland. Comments invited until 4th November 2021. The Clerk has asked for more information to clarify this application.

21/04103/FUL - Demolish existing rear conservatory and porch and replace with new extension. Replace existing white PVC double glazed windows, fasica boards and rainwater goods with new grey PVC double glazed windows, fasica boards and rainwater goods. Replace existing front porch - footprint, height and width will be like1for-like - colour to be grey to match windows etc.1 Beechcroft Swarland NE65 9HA. Comments invited until 8th November 2021.

11. Complaints:

- Leamington Lane drain and manhole outside Swarland Primary school blockage issues referred to NCC 5.2.2020.Being taken up by NCC/OpenReach.
- 'No footpath' sign at entrance of The Springwood knocked down.
- Overhanging branches on C106 from Alnwick Fords to Glantlees turnoff.
- Pothole in Coast View near Swarland Club.
- Pothole complaints A697 and Longframlington Road (Cllr Mansfield).
- Pothole on Longframlington Road (Cllr Francis).
- Footpath sign opposite Blue House NotM broken off referred to NCC.

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	 Condition of unadopted roads in Swarland. 	
	 Weeds not being treated on footpath to south of The Square. 	
	Water mains leak outside Cook & Barker, NotM.	
	Damage to road north of NotM leading to A1.	
	Soil and other material in Bari Bar Car Park, Coast View, Swarland.	
	 Request for 'No entry' sign at Cherry Tree Drive due to Percy Wood visitors getting lost referred to NCC. 	
	 Footpath sign broken off east of PW main entrance, Learnington Lane - referred to NCC. 	
	 Complaint about condition of estate roads in Swarland 'are we being taken for fools?' 	
	 Pothole repairs aggravating drainage problems to field on Leamington Lane – referred to NCC & Felton PC. 	
	Cllr Rixon asked if any of these complaints could be removed. The Clerk said	
	the latest one has been dealt with (Leamington Lance) but its difficult to get	
	responses from NCC on these matters and also to find out if the works have	
	been done. Cllr Clark asked if the dates the complaints came in could be	Clerk
	added.	
	Clerk to contact NCC about footpath signs as these have been outstanding for	
	some time – do NCC have a policy of non replacement?	
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	Cllr Anderson said the Coast View pothole could come off as residents had	
40	carried out temporary repairs.	
12.	Correspondence	
	NCC large scale plans of traffic calming measures proposed around Swarland school – consultation until 30th October 2021.	
	Healthwatch Northumberland AGM and Review of the Year- To be held online 4th November	
	2021.	
	Google analytics – Report on PC website usage for September.	
13.	Requests for next agenda:	
	a. Parking on main C106 through NotM (Cllr H-R).	
	b. PC Budget 22/23.	
	c. Risk Assessment Review.	
	d. Next steps towards dealing with Climate Emergency.	
14.	Urgent Items:	
	a.Hazon – Cllr Clark said that with the a partial closure of the A1 more traffic	
	than usual had been using the Hazon roads. An articulated lorry had jack	
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	knifed across the road near the burn. She has contacted NCC to ask for a sign	
	stating the road is not suitable for long vehicles. On the same road a large	
	branch beside the road needs attention – this has also been passed to NCC.	
	b. Remembrance Sunday – Clerk to contact Rev Helen O'Sullivan about	
	arrangements for Remembrance Sunday 14th November. Press to be advised	
	of arrangements and posters to go up on PC noticeboards.	
15.	Dates of Next Meetings: 24/11/21 JH. No meeting in December, 26/1/22 SVH	
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Meeting finished: 21:30