

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00pm
on **Wednesday 25th February 2015** in Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor.

		Action
1.	<p>Presentation - NCC Planning - how planning applications are handled and approved by officers.</p> <p>A presentation was given by Julie Seaton - Major Development & Delivery Manager and Julie Lawson - Acting Urban & Rural Manager with Northumberland County Councils (NCC) Planning Services. The presentation was based around a number of written questions which Parish Councillors had submitted. The questions covered such matters as definitions of what major and minor applications were, to the consultation process when applications are in neighbouring parishes but impacting on NotM & Swarland Parish. In addition Julie Seaton described the thinking behind the current review of Planning Services with a view to speeding up the planning process. Currently NCC has a 'scheme of delegations' for deciding whether a Planning application is considered at a Planning Committee or by the relevant case officer which is faster. Currently around 90% of applications are decided by officers but in other Authorities this figure is between 95-97%. In the past, training has been provided for Parish Councils by NCC Planning on 'material planning considerations', to help improve the quality of the comments being submitted by Parish Councils. The Parish Cllrs expressed their support for further training to be offered but after 6pm so working Councillors can attend. It was also suggested by Councillors that if NCC could provide feedback on applications, this would help improve future quality of comments.</p> <p>With regard to planning applications within neighbouring parishes, Julie Seaton said that NCC had a system where the PC can register interest in particular areas so they would be informed automatically when an application was submitted. She agreed to ask the relevant officer to provide information on how this can be done. She also agreed to check whether the Parish Council could appoint a 'proxy' to speak on their behalf at NCC Planning meetings, and to provide a written response to any unanswered questions that had been submitted.</p>	
2.	<p>Public questions and Reports (including Police Updates) (Max 15 minutes in total)</p> <p>Ken Walters described the current infrastructure problems in Swarland and asked - in the light of recent fatal accidents on the A1 - if the number of vehicles accessing the A1 resulting from developments was taken into consideration as part of the planning consent. Julie Seaton responded that Planners are reliant on the technical advice of experts such as Northumbrian Water, Environment Agency and Highways and assured Mr Waters that Planners do listen to what residents say. Mr Waters asked if the Percy Wood Country Park caravan site residents are considered as being part of the population of the area, and Ms Seaton said she would check this.</p> <p>Mrs Vaggs commented on the number of planning applications made for housing in Swarland which were new or pending. She felt that the Parish Councils were the 'eyes on the ground' and asked whether, if the planning process became more centralised, more notice might be given to what Parish Councils had to say.</p> <p>David Rixon said that in his view the proposal to abolish area planning committees would 'wipe out' Parish Councils, and wouldn't work because of the numbers of applications to be considered. Ms Seaton responded that the proposal under consideration involves two planning committees plus increasing the number of applications delegated to officers to decide. She did recognise the input that Parish Councils had to make and that they had a lot of local knowledge. There was a need for Parish Councils and NCC to work together to communicate better.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Ms Seaton and Ms Lawson for their presentation.</p> <p>Cllr Handyside asked a question on behalf of Mr Rooney - in connection with the NCC's proposals for the restructuring of schools in north Northumberland which sets out three models for the future. One would be no change to the current arrangement of schools in the area. Another sees the amalgamation of the Duke's and Lindisfarne Middle Schools on the Lindisfarne site from September 2015, meaning the closure of Lindisfarne Middle School in August. The third option would see the closure of Lindisfarne, the Duke's and Seahouses Middle Schools in August 2016; the extension of the age ranges at Swansfield Park, Branton, Hipsburn, Seahouses, Shilbottle and Swarland First Schools to age 3/4 to 11 primary schools; and the extension of the age range of the Duchess's Community High School to an age 11-18 secondary school from September 2016. Mr Rooney says there is a further option that could be considered, with Swarland 1st School coming out of the Alnwick group of schools and joining with Morpeth/Rothbury. He asked if the Parish Council would submit comments in support to the NCC website. The Parish Councillors felt they needed more</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Handyside</p>

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

	information on this and Cllr Handyside agreed to circulate this.	
3.	Apologies - Cllr Brotherton, Councillor Heal and Councillor Mrs Sells.	
4.	Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda – None.	
5.	Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2015 – Agreed.	
6.	<p>To consider matters arising from the meeting on 28th January 2015</p> <p>(a) Repairs to B6345 from Old Swarland to Felton, Potholes at crossroads near school, Blackhouse Bank pothole - The Clerk advised there had been no progress on any of these matters.</p> <p>(b) Extension of yellow lines outside Swarland 1st School – NCC contacted and they still have to do decision report and formally advertise works. These could now take until May/June to complete. The Clerk has been advised informally that finance for the works from Cllr Thorne’s Small Grants scheme can be carried forward.</p> <p>(c) Coast View update – The Clerk reported that she had contacted NCC re possibility of access only signs and NCC had said no. She had also contacted Northern Powergrid re: road condition after works completed and understood from Mr Styring that they had been in contact with him.</p> <p>(d) Update on Superfast Broadband – The Clerk had not received a response back from Simon Roberson at BT, but iNorthumberland had sent an email saying that although it was hoped that NotM would be supplied with Superfast Broadband capability by the end of 2015, this had not yet been confirmed.</p> <p>(e) Replacement Flagpole for The Square – The Clerk had obtained quotes for a flagpole ranging from 99p to just over £5000. Cllr Anderson offered to check the length and socket size needed. Internal halyard required to reduce noise – to next meeting.</p> <p>(e) British Gas – Charges introduced for unmetered supply in The Square, Swarland – The Clerk has spoken to the NCC Locality Team who have offered to help sort out this situation regarding liability for electricity bills.</p> <p>(f) Complaint from local resident about Percy Wood signs on lampposts – Liaison meeting with Percy Wood Country Park has not yet taken place.</p> <p>(g) Follow up from Northumbrian Water on Swarland Sewerage system – A copy of the report on the condition of the sewerage system in Swarland had been requested but not yet supplied. Cllrs asked the Clerk to advise NW that if the report was not forthcoming by 13th March, that the matter would be referred to OFWAT.</p> <p>(h) Budget 2015/16 – This was agreed.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Anderson</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p>
7.	<p>Requested agenda items</p> <p>a. Update on Vyner Park Charity (VPC) including;</p> <p>i. Insurance decision – The Clerk advised this was due to expire on 28th February and she had been speaking with Brokers about cost to extend to 1st June at which time the PC insurance would become due and give the opportunity to combine the insurances hopefully making savings. Currently £86.61 / month. It was agreed that if an extension wasn’t possible the insurance for Vyner Park with current Insurers should be renewed for a year.</p> <p>ii. Commercial Proposal – in the absence of Cllr Brotherton this was postponed to the following meeting.</p> <p>iii. Lease update – Councillor Stanley has made arrangements to meet with Norman Luke (Adam Douglas Solicitors) who drew up the original PC/Sports Club Lease and is meeting with him on 10th March to talk through.</p> <p>iv. Decision on replacement Parish Councillor on Vyner Park Charity Management Committee – Cllr Ryan volunteered – Agreed.</p> <p>b. Review of Parish Council policies – Councillor Stanley – Deferred to next meeting.</p> <p>c. Decision needed on replacement representative for Cllr Preston on Complaints Committee - Councillor Anderson volunteered – Agreed.</p> <p>d. Planning meetings – membership & timing – Proposal to consideration and agree on process to be followed by Parish Council to discuss & comment on Planning Applications - deferred to next meeting.</p> <p>e. Review of Parish Boundary (item requested by Mrs Vera Vaggs) – Mrs Vaggs had brought in a large scale plan of the Parish which greatly facilitated discussion. The recent application for planning permission in Leamington Lane had highlighted the need for a review of the Parish Boundaries. Cllrs suggested Clerk could find work done on this some time ago. There would need to be public consultation and discussions with neighbouring Parish Councils. Legal arrangements were the responsibility of NCC following formal request by PC.</p> <p>f. Review of Planning Service - comments by 1.3.2015 Details previously circulated.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p>

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>Cllr Francis explained that NCC is under pressure to speed up the planning process. Three reports have been done including Planning Officers Society Enterprise (POSE), and Deloittes. There were concerns that the role of PCs would be removed altogether with comments having to be made through the relevant County Councillor. POSE have suggested a review panel to check PC comments. Cllr Francis felt it would be worth the Parish Council making a response, and agreed to share information he had for comment.</p>	Cllr Francis
8.	Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors – None.	
9.	<p>Finance</p> <p>a. Bank statements – Lloyds Treasurers Account £9,162.98 & Lloyds Instant Access £863.28. Reserve £15,000.</p> <p>b. Clerks’ salary (£322.25) + extra payment (£18.71) = £340.96 Clerk’s expenses £51.21 Payment to Clerk = £340.09 + £51.21 - £68.00 = £324.17 – Agreed. HM Revenues & Customs PAYE - £68.00 – Agreed Donation to Swarland Village Hall £1800 – Agreed. The Clerk requested making £500 payment to Vyner Park Charity to enable the setting up of direct debits for electricity & water in 2015/16 which would save 5% on annual cost – Agreed.</p> <p>c. Other receipts and payments:</p> <p>i) Receipts: £173.10 Get Going Grant for January 2015 Bus Service NCC.</p> <p>ii) Payments: Upper Coquetdale Community Transport Dial a Ride Balance to 1/1/2015 - £375.00 - Agreed Northumberland & Newcastle Society Group subscription for 2015 - £25.00 – Agreed.</p>	
10.	<p>Planning</p> <p>a. To report on any planning decisions:</p> <p>14/00648/LBC - Newton Hall - convert existing outbuildings into flats and houses – Application PERMITTED 18/2/2015.</p> <p>14/02284/OUT - Residential development of detached houses with access road and turning area to enable vehicles to enter and leave onto Percy Drive in a forward facing direction. Provision of widened vehicle access to improve vehicle passing on Percy Drive. – Objections made by PC. Pending consideration (as at 18/2/2015).</p> <p>14/02535/FUL Restoration/conversion of existing plotting [sic] sheds, greenhouses, outbuildings into new single dwelling. Newton Hall, Newton on the Moor, Morpeth NE65 9JU later amended to Rebuilding of greenhouses and potting sheds with new build pavilion extension to create a single private dwellinghouse, construction of associated garage block, new sewage treatment plant and access route, and renovation of the walled garden – Pending consideration (as at 18/2/2015).</p> <p>14/02536/LBC Listed Building consent for restoration/conservation of existing plotting [sic] sheds, greenhouses, outbuildings into new single dwelling. Newton Hall, Newton on the Moor, Morpeth NE65 9JU – Pending Consideration (as at 18/2/2015).</p> <p>14/03513/FUL – Construction of single storey dwelling at 3 Studley Drive, Swarland – GRANTED 3.2.15.</p> <p>14/03452/BT – Removal of BT Phone Box opposite The Square, Swarland. (Pending consideration as at 20.1.2015 but further consultation invited).</p> <p>14/03340/FUL – Development of 20 houses, Leamington Lane, Swarland – A site visit was to take place on Friday 27th February to be attended by Cllrs Francis and Cunningham as observers only as this application is in Felton Parish. Pending Consideration as at 18/2/2015.</p> <p>14/04109/FUL Proposed development for 1 dwelling. Land South West 8 Park Road, Coast View, Swarland – pending consideration as at 18/2/2015.</p> <p>13/00105/FUL - Application for prior notification for constriction of proposed road Land East of Swarland East House, Swarland – GRANTED 5/2/2015.</p> <p>15/00082/VARYCO – Non material variation to approved application 14/00541/FUL 11 Low Wood – GRANTED 13/2/2015</p> <p>b. To consider any planning matters</p> <p>14/03797/FUL – New dwelling Land south of Quarry House, Newton on the Moor. Amendments submitted – Comments have been submitted to NCC from the PC.</p> <p>15/00400/FUL Proposed conservatory to rear. 3 Douglas Crescent, Swarland NE65 9JB – it was noted that contrary to the application details, the conservatory was visible from Footpath 17.</p>	
11.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Great North Air Ambulance – Request for donation. A donation of £25.00 was agreed.</p> <p>Alnwick Playhouse – Request for donation. A donation of £25.00 was agreed.</p>	Clerk
12.	Urgent items	

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>Parish Council website – As mentioned at the previous meeting by the Clerk, there continued to be problems with the PC website. Various options were available to replace the current site. The Chairman suggested this should be delegated to the Clerk to decide within current budget – Agreed.</p> <p>With regard to the name of the website, it was agreed that name suggestions would be circulated to Cllrs for comment before confirming.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>Requests for next agenda</p> <p>Investigation into determining which roads were adopted/not adopted within the Parish with a view to improving overall standards – It was proposed that the possibility of a working group to look into this subject further should be considered at the next meeting.</p>	Clerk
14.	<p>Date of Next Meeting to be held on 25 March 2015 at 7.00pm in Swarland Village Hall.</p> <p>Future Meetings; 22/4/2015 JH. 27/5/15 SVH, 24/6/14 JH, 22/7/2015 SVH, 26/8/15 JH.</p> <p>Meeting finished 21.45</p>	