

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 25 June 2014 in Swarland Village Hall, Swarland

Present: Cllrs G.R. Anderson, R Brotherton, D Francis, N Mansfield, Mrs C. Preston, Mrs S. Richardson, Mrs S Stanley.
The Parish Clerk in attendance.

		ACTIONS
1.	<u>APOLOGIES</u> - Cllrs L Fahy, H Handyside, D. Lewney and E Sells. Resignation received from Cllr A. Lisle.	
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA</u> Cllr Brotherton – Planning Application - 14/01464/FUL Land north of Swarland Equestrian Centre. Cllr Mansfield - Planning application - 14/01321/FUL Land adjacent to 38 Park Road. Cllr Francis – Payment of invoice to Northumberland Association of Local Councils.	
3.	<p>Public questions and Reports (including Police Updates) (Max 15 minutes)</p> <p>Mr Keith Walker raised issue of speeding on the Avenue and Park Road, Swarland getting progressively worse. On 17th June he witnessed local business vehicle narrowly miss a girl on a horse leaving around 30 yards of skid marks on the road. He pointed out there were 12 junctions on the Avenue some of which are difficult to see and that he felt a serious accident was very likely to occur. Mr Walker suggested checks by Police, flashing road signs or installation of a speed camera. Cllr Brotherton said he'd rung the company in question and discussed the matter. Cllr Stanley advised that this issue had been reported over and over again, and various traffic calming measures discussed, but cost and practicalities made these inappropriate. A regional scheme is being proposed by the Northumberland & Newcastle Society for 20mph limit through all villages but this is not definitely to be implemented. It was agreed that a firm letter would be sent to the Company concerned copied into the Police. To be circulated to all Councillors for comment before sending.</p> <p>Mr Ken Walters complained about the dangerous situation being caused by the height of grass on the central reservation on the A1. To be reported to AOne for action asap.</p> <p>Mr Walters asked if now that the drainage works in Studley Drive were being completed, are any other drainage works planned by Northumbrian Water? Cllr Stanley advised that she had received a letter from N. Water that there was to be a future programme of increasing sewerage capacity in the village but with dates unspecified. Contact person is Dave Groark, Project Manager. Mr Walters pointed out that more houses are being built in village and that although residents were grateful for the work done, they needed to have details of what was being planned for the future i.e. overall plan, scale, as a number of houses have been affected by sewage contaminated flooding. N. Water to be contacted.</p> <p>Mr Fergie raised the issue of the letter from 4 Swarland residents read out at the previous PC meeting, which had been later found to contain untruths. He asked what the Parish Council was going to do to ensure this doesn't happen again. Cllr Stanley explained that generally correspondence from public is read out at meetings and this particular problem has not arisen before. There is an item on the current agenda to discuss procedures to be followed in future. Mr Fergie asked if all references to the letter could be struck from the public record. This will need to be raised with NCC Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Mrs Vaggs asked for an update on NCC providing planings for Overgrass Farm. The Clerk had been in touch with NCC in the past week and been told it was a question of waiting for planings that were not toxic and were within reasonable distance of Overgrass becoming available. The Clerk would be contacted when these were available. Mrs Vaggs went on to ask if the urgent need for a footpath on Park Road could be added to Parish list for Local Transport Plan – Agreed this would be put on next agenda.</p>	<p>Cllr Brotherton/Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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	<p>Coquetdale Community Message from Northumbria Police Relevant parts of the update were read out by the Clerk covering damage to a lodge at Percy Wood, and speeding monitoring.</p>											
4.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 2014</u> – were agreed as a true record.</p>											
5.	<p><u>TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING ON 28 MAY 2014</u></p> <p>a. Pot holes at Overgrass – The Clerk has contacted NCC but has not received a response. Cllrs have heard of damage to vehicles on this road. Standing orders suspended to allow Mrs Vaggs to speak and she had also heard of this damage.</p> <p>b. Repairs to B6345 from Old Swarland to Felton – The Clerk has lodged this as a complaint again with NCC but has not had a response.</p> <p>c. Coast View – request to NCC for costs to making this up to an adoptable standard – The Clerk has been in contact with NCC and been advised the matter is progressing and is now with Development Control.</p> <p>d. Funding suggestions for Newton on the Moor from CC Thorne’s Members Scheme – A request has been received asking for a handrail and railing around Jubilee Hall at a cost of a few thousand pounds. Cllr Francis put the case for a bell for Jubilee Hall which he felt could be considered as capital expenditure as the bell has to be remade. It was agreed that the priority should be a handrail. Clerk to advise NCC Councillor Thorne.</p> <p>e. Planning 14/00960/FUL query on hedging condition - The Clerk read out the conditions applying to hedging which had been included in the Planning approval.</p> <p>f. Response to letter from four residents. Cllr Stanley read letters from Elaine Murphy apologising and Kirsty Fergie who wished to point out she hadn’t worked for Cllr Thorne as claimed in letter and that in any case she objected to her name being used in this way. It was agreed that the Parish Council needed to focus on producing a policy for dealing with public letters in future to address issues raised by these letters. Response has already been made to Ms Murphy’s letter from Cllr Stanley and will draft letter to Ms Fergie.</p> <p>g. Extension of double yellow lines outside Swarland 1st School - The Clerk has contacted NCC but has not heard back from the officer dealing with the issue.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Stanley</p> <p>Clerk</p>										
6.	<p><u>REQUESTED AGENDA ITEMS</u></p> <p>a. Parish Council Representative for Listed Buildings It was agreed that having a Rep would be a good idea but no-one volunteered for this. The question of the cattle shelters was raised by Cllr Brotherton who said Percy Wood had agreed to Parish Council meeting with Heritage Lottery fund in connection with shelters but Cllr Brotherton was unable to do this because of time issues. Clerk agreed to contact and meet with Heritage Lottery. Cllr Francis suggested that the Clerk could take on role of Listed Buildings Rep as her expertise in this area increased.</p> <p>b. Vyner Park Update Cllr Brotherton went over draft budget figures as follows;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="326 1413 1305 1572"> <thead> <tr> <th>COST AREA</th> <th>£ COST FOR CURRENT YEAR</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pavilion and games playing areas</td> <td>£5,755</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grounds</td> <td>£7,610</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Play Area</td> <td>£1,205</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="right">TOTAL</td> <td>£14,570</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Cllr Brotherton pointed out that most of the the high cost maintenance works were one-off costs, and there would also be an income stream from subscriptions, the firework display, children parties etc which will offset costs. He went on to thank everyone who had come to the launch event on Sunday 22nd June and who took part and supported the event.</p> <p>c. Vyner Park Drainage Quotes Three quotes had been received and discussed by the Vyner Park Charity Management Committee who had agreed to select the lowest quote. The Parish Council ratified this decision.</p> <p>d. Speedwatch feedback (Cllr Brotherton) An update on Speedwatch had been provided by the Clerk earlier on the Agenda</p>	COST AREA	£ COST FOR CURRENT YEAR	Pavilion and games playing areas	£5,755	Grounds	£7,610	Play Area	£1,205	TOTAL	£14,570	<p>Clerk</p>
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	<p>but Cllr Brotherton wished to raise his concern that he had been contacted by a resident shocked that someone had jumped out from behind bushes and pointed what appeared to be a gun at them (at corner near Vyner Park Crossroads/North Lodge). He asked that this be fed back to the Police.</p> <p>e. Playground Issues (from Cllr Anderson) This had been discussed in detail at the Vyner Park Charity meeting. Cllr Anderson reported some vandalism to playground equipment perhaps caused by overuse (by adults). It was agreed an item would be put in the next [August] edition of 'The Column' pointing out the play equipment was designed for children only.</p> <p>f. Painting the fence of the school (Cllr Stanley) Cllr Stanley and others had sounded out random residents. Though the project to paint the inside of the fence was felt to be good, concerns were raised that a multi-coloured outside fence could be a distraction for drivers and continued maintenance issues could be a problem. A vote was taken: 5 – leave as is, 2 – for painting fence. Cllr Stanley agreed to advise school of the Parish Councils feelings on this issue.</p> <p>g. Policy re treatment at PC meetings of letters from the public. (Cllr Stanley) Discussed suggestion to ask for letters to be submitted at least 48 hrs before meeting to enable Cllrs to make decision on whether letter to be returned, read out, redacted or edited, so that information can be verified, names checked etc. As a result there could be no guarantee that Parish Council would read letter out. This was agreed. People always have option of coming to meetings personally and reading letters out. Clerk to draw up flow chart / form of words.</p> <p>h. Membership of Finance and Vyner Park committees. (Cllr Stanley) Cllr Stanley pointed out that the membership of these two committees was identical, which wasn't healthy. Cllr Brotherton agreed with this and resigned from Finance Committee with immediate effect. The Parish Council discussed whether there was still a need for a Finance Committee and it was agreed that this should be dissolved, with an ad hoc group to be set up when needed. Membership of Vyner Park Charity Management Committee agreed as follows: Cllr R. Brotherton Cllr L Fahy Cllr H Handyside Cllr C Preston Cllr S Stanley</p> <p>i. 20mph speed limit at approaches to Swarland School. (Cllr Stanley) A request had been received from Barry White, Chesterhill, as to whether a 20mph speed limit could be put in place around the 1st School. With the Local Transport Plan priorities being due, this could be included on the list. Priorities would be discussed in August. Cllr Stanley agreed to respond to Mr White.</p> <p>j. Process for dealing with Planning application feedback (Cllr Handyside) A reminder to all Parish Councillors whether receiving planning applications on line or in hardcopy format – that all comments should be made electronically circulating to all other Parish Councillors and the Clerk.</p> <p>k. Timing of Vyner Park Charity Meetings (Cllr Stanley) It was suggested that there should be four meetings a year of which one would be the AGM. Cllr Brotherton agreed to discuss with other members of the management Committee and come back to the next meeting. Meetings could be held in the Pavilion, possibly a week before the main Parish Council meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Anderson</p> <p>Cllr Stanley</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk & Cllr Stanley</p> <p>All Parish Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Brotherton</p>
7.	REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR – None received.	
8.	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a. Bank statements – Lloyds Current, £5,582.30, Lloyds Instant Access £3,863.28. Treasury Figure not available but is around £15,000.</p> <p>b. Outgoing Clerks' salary and expenses to 13 June 2014: £181.09 plus expenses £33.81 = £215.90 Incoming Clerks' salary and expenses: £202.70 (0.75 of month 22.5hrs) plus expenses £3.60 = £206.30</p> <p>c. Other receipts and payments:</p> <p>i) Receipts: £30.00 for keys from Swarland Pre-School (for Vyner Park Charity), £73 Compensation from Lloyds Bank, NCC Get Going Grant for May 2014 £288.50. £62.50 from Swarland Village Action.</p>	

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	<p>ii) Payments: Mr Hobson for Playground raking etc £88.80 & Sports Club strimming and cutting etc £50.00. Northumberland Community Enterprises Ltd for The Column £75.00. NALC Annual subscription + new Councillor course attendance £159.49. npower electricity bill for Vyner Park Pavilion £86.75.</p>	
9.	<p><u>PLANNING</u></p> <p>a. To report on any planning decisions: 14/00648/LBC - Newton Hall - convert existing outbuildings into flats and houses – Pending consideration. 14/01027/FUL - 1 Studley Drive - Dormer bungalow with detached single garage – Approved. 14/01302/FUL - Spencer Joinery - New dwelling as a live work unit, office and workshop – Approved. 14/01321/FUL - Land Adj 38 Park Road - New dormered dwelling with attached garage – Pending consideration.</p> <p>b. To consider any planning matters: 14/01263/VARYCO Old School NotM, variation to condition 4– No objections 14/01464/FUL – Land North of Equestrian Centre, detached house and garage – Various comments made and submitted to NCC, however following queries about measurements amended plans were submitted on 23rd June for further comment. 14/01687/OUT - Erection of a bungalow to the East of 8 Kenmore Road and a further dutch bungalow to the north east of 8 Kenmore Road – in circulation</p>	
10.	<p><u>CORRESPONDANCE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters from Elaine Murphy and Kirsty Fergie – Discussed at Agenda Item (g) above. • Email from Steve Shaw of Local Works requesting Parish Council submit a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act asking for the government to give all parish and town councils the right to sell electricity that they generate from local schemes – to be circulated to Cllrs. • NFU Mutual invitation for nominations to Country Crime Fighters Awards 2014 – to be circulated to Cllrs. • Invitation from Barry Rowland Corporate Director of Local Services at NCC inviting a Parish Councillor accompanied by Clerk to one of a series of meetings being held to improve local services – nearest to our Parish being at the Village Hall, Rennington on 8th July, 5pm for a 6pm start. Cllr Brotherton to attend with Clerk. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Brotherton & Clerk</p>
11.	<p><u>URGENT ITEMS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about potholes at crossroads near school, the surface water drain below appears to be causing problem. To be referred to NCC. • Central reservation markings at Guyzance turnoff on A1 very faded. To be referred to AOne. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
12.	<p><u>REQUESTS FOR NEXT AGENDA</u> Presentation by Mr Haig, General Manager Percy Wood Country Park.</p>	
13.	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> To be held on 23 July 2014 at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor. The Meeting closed at 9.30pm Future Meetings: 27/08/14 SVH, 24/09/14 JH, 22/10/14 SVH, 26/11/14 JH</p>	