

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00pm
on **Wednesday 25th March 2015** in Swarland Village Hall.

| | Present Cllr Mrs S. Stanley, Cllr Mrs S. Richardson, Cllr G. Cunningham, Cllr R. Brotherton. Cllr D. Francis, Cllr N. Mansfield, Cllr B. Ryan, Cllr Mrs E. Sells, Cllr G. Anderson. | Action |
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| 1. | <p>Public questions and Reports (including Police Updates) (Max 15 minutes in total)</p> <p>i. Mr Rixon cited the 20% rise in the Parish precept for 2015/16 and asked what the benefit would be to parish residents outside Swarland. Cllr Stanley responded increase was for cemetery charges, the clerks salary and for Vyner Park. Mr Rixon felt too much emphasis was on Swarland and that Vyner Park could be paid for via grants. He asked further, if Vyner Park was a success, whether the precept would be reduced. In response Cllr Francis said that when Swarland Sports & Recreation Club was established the precept was raised for three years and then reduced – the same thing could happen here.</p> <p>ii. Mr Walters pointed out that when the precept was determined there was no business plan for Vyner Park agreed or any income from the facility. He suggested putting an explanation in the next edition of the Column which the Chairman agreed to. She also suggested that if Vyner Park turns out not to be viable the Parish Council will have to rethink the situation.</p> <p>iii. Mrs Vaggs asked about the new Planning procedure being followed by Northumberland County Council (NCC), and whether this was a national or NCC initiative. Cllr Francis explained that in response to underperformance in determining planning applications, three reports had been commissioned by NCC which made interesting reading. One report highlighted problems where Parish Council comments opposed those of the officer. If PC made objections the application would automatically go to Planning Committee instead of being decided by officers (which is quicker). The NCC response to the reports seems to have been to get rid of the three local planning Committees, and PC's no longer automatically get applications considered by Planning Committee. Other authorities have the PC mechanism and 3 Committees and are performing really well.</p> <p>iv. Mr Henderson asked about the drainage report from Northumbrian Water (NW) and what the PC's response to this was – on Agenda.</p> <p>v. Mr Walters asked if the Chairman would consider suspending standing orders at the appropriate time so that the public could participate in the discussion about the drainage report. This was agreed.</p> | Clerk |
| 2 | <p>Apologies Cllr Ms S. Spurling, Cllr C. Heal, Cllr Mrs H. Handyside.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda Cllr Brotherton declared an interest re: Drainage report. Cllrs Sells and Stanley declared an interest in Planning item 15/00616/LBC Cllr Richardson declared an interest in connection with Planning item 15/00568/FELTPO</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2015 – these were agreed as a true record.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>To consider matters arising from the meeting on 25th February 2015</p> <p>i. Repairs to B6345 from Old Swarland to Felton, - The Clerk had received a letter from NCC, the road had been surveyed in March and 33 potholes filled, no plans to resurface road.</p> <p>ii. Potholes at crossroads near school – no action.</p> <p>iii. Blackhouse bank potholes – The Clerk reported these had been filled again following PC complaint.</p> <p>iv. Extension of yellow lines outside Swarland 1st School – Clerk advised it has been confirmed that the small grant provided by County Cllr Thorne for works to extend and re-do double yellow lines can be carried over to the next financial year. Delay is due to NCC need to advertise scheme. Cllrs were concerned that the lines were so faded there was an additional safety issue now and Cllr Richardson reported a near miss. Cllrs requested Clerk to contact Cllr Thorne, Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Barry Rowland (NCC) and Mrs Fletcher, School headmistress to try to get things moving.</p> <p>v. Update on Superfast Broadband – None received.</p> <p>vi. Replacement Flagpole for The Square – Cllr Anderson had examined site and found suitable pole for £71.00 + delivery & VAT or a more robust version for £114 + VAT. Cllrs</p> | Clerk Clerk Cllr Anderson |

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| | <p>agreed on the more robust version which will also need some excavation, sand, cement and gravel.</p> <p>vii. British Gas – Charges introduced for unmetered supply in The Square, Swarland – no action.</p> <p>viii. Complaint from local resident about Percy Wood signs on lampposts – Cllr Brotherton reported he, and Cllrs Richardson and Heal had met with Adam Hague who has taken over from his brother as Manager. They have reviewed their procedure regarding posters and will get advice as needed from NCC. Also at meeting Percy Wood offered use of their facilities at a discount for residents and indicated that they would support the firework show later this year, as well as support the PC’s concerns with Northumbrian Water/Drainage in area.</p> <p>ix. Follow up from Northumbrian Water on Swarland Sewerage system - report provided by NW and previously circulated.</p> <p><i>Cllr Brotherton left the meeting</i> – The promised report had been provided by Northumbrian Water but Cllr Stanley said she was disappointed it was just a list of actions rather than a comprehensive report looking at the bigger picture. Mr Henderson had provided the Parish Council with very detailed comments on the report. Mr Henderson and Mr Walters had met with NW contractors during a survey by the allotments and provided them with additional information. Soakaways have been suggested for draining surface water in Percy Drive but previous planning advice was that soakaways are not workable due to ground conditions in Swarland. Cllr Stanley said it was appreciated that a new sewer had been installed in Studley Drive to tackle flooding there, but there are no plans for the rest of the village and at present provision is inadequate. Cllr Ryan proposed sending letter to Planning Officer (with copies to NW and OFWAT) asking for dwelling approvals to be stopped until sewerage is sorted. Cllr Stanley agreed to draft the letter.</p> <p><i>Standing orders were suspended at 19.50</i></p> <p>Mr Henderson commented on NW not giving Percy Drive development a mains sewerage outlet for surface water but that land drains had been blocked nearby which affects ground drainage. Problems are being caused by new developments and allegedly, people not playing by the rules. Mr Walters said NW plans of the sewerage system don’t show where pipes go. Mr Rixon said similar problems were being experienced in Shilbottle and could the PC’s join up about this. Mr Walters suggested the PC should take a lead on this issue and put pressure on County Councillor. Mrs Vaggs asked if the county-wide Cluster Groups were still meeting – Cllr Stanley responded that there were now only the area meetings which didn’t have quite the same function. Mr Henderson said he would keep the PC updated with any information he received from NW and was thanked along with Mr Walters for his help with survey work.</p> <p><i>Standing orders were reinstated and Cllr Brotherton returned at 8.10pm.</i></p> <p>x. Review of Parish Boundary – The Clerk has made contact with Democratic Services at NCC for advice but (as Cllr Francis had suggested) has not yet checked PC archive material from around 2000 when this matter was last raised involving NotM&S, Felton, Shilbottle, Acklington and Denwick.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Stanley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> | <p>Requested agenda items</p> <p>a. Update on Vyner Park Charity (VPC) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cllr Brotherton thanked everyone who had turned up on Sunday 22nd to help tidy up at Vyner Park. He was acutely aware of the need to get people using Vyner Park to make it viable, At present there was a large input from the PC but there had been around £2,000 income in 2014/15. The priority now was to get people using VP and Cllr Stanley pointed out that VP had to run like the Village Hall, with activities being run by local people, and the community finding uses for it. ii. Lease: Cllr Stanley is working on the lease between the PC and the VPC. A Solicitor is needed to do the deed of transfer. Will need to have two holding trustees and Cllrs Brotherton and Francis have volunteered to do this. Governance: The VPC Constitution has been completed although changes might be required by the Charity Commissioners. The terms of reference have been amended and the amendments have been agreed with the members of the VPC Management Committee. Details have been circulated to the Parish Council – these were agreed subject to Cllrs Heal and Handyside also agreeing. | |

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| | <p>iii. Commercial Proposal – Cllr Brotherton said a confidential written commercial proposal had now been submitted which he would circulate to Parish Councillors and the VPC Management Committee (VPCMC) for comments. It is hoped that the VPCMC will be able to agree the proposal in principle at its next meeting on 1st April. Cllr Francis said for legal purposes the PC need to look over the proposal but it's up to the VPCMC to decide. Broader details should be published. The meeting is open to the public.</p> <p>The VPC could apply for grant funding for changes to the kitchen area etc, and needs to look at this closely. Cllr Brotherton said he was meeting with NCC's Tony Kirsop and asked if any other Cllrs would consider helping with grant applications. Cllr Cunningham suggested funding might be available from NCC LEADER programme because of job creation element.</p> <p><i>Cllr B. Ryan left the meeting at 8.30pm</i></p> <p>b. Review of Parish Council policies – Councillor Stanley had updated PC Policies and circulated them prior to the meeting for comments.</p> <p><u>Complaints Policy</u> – Cllr Cunningham suggested the Policy should be clearer on its scope and had suggested an additional clause. It was agreed that the number of Councillors on the Complaints Committee would be three, and also that responses should still be given within 7 days of the Complaints Cttee reaching a conclusion. Also, correction of minor typo at para 8.4. The Complaints Policy was agreed subject to integration of comments.</p> <p><u>Risk Assessment Policy</u> - Cllr Richardson suggested including the closure of The Square when the flag is lowered. The Risk Assessment Policy was agreed with that addition.</p> <p><u>Equality Policy</u> – Need to add “and volunteers” to each mention of employees – Policy agreed with that amendment.</p> <p><u>Publications Policy</u> – still to do.</p> <p><u>Safeguarding Policy</u> – Cllr Stanley has received relevant documents from CAN and will revise draft policy in light of these. When complete it will be used for VPC also.</p> <p>c. Planning meetings – membership & timing – Proposal to consider and agree on process to be followed by Parish Council to discuss & comment on Planning Applications – As Cllr Handyside had been unable to make this meeting, this would be postponed. Cllr Stanley said she would contact Cllr Handyside to help try to ensure this item was definitely discussed at next meeting.</p> <p>d. Coast View – next steps re condition of road – There was some discussion about legal status of Coast View. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact NCC for meeting to discuss best way to deal with the poor condition of the road.</p> | <p>Cllr Stanley</p> <p>Cllr Stanley</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 7 | Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors – None. | |
| 8 | <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 Clerk's expenses £21.69 HM Revenues & Customs PAYE - £64.40. Payment to Clerk = £322.25 + £21.69 - £64.40 = £279.54 – Agreed. Payment to HM Revenues & Customs PAYE - £64.40 - Agreed.</p> <p>c. Other receipts and payments:</p> <p>i) Receipts: £50.00 Compensation from Lloyds Bank. In addition, a repayment of £567.04 was being made by NCC in connection with Cemeteries overcharging countywide. It was agreed that this would be added to the reserve account and ring-fenced.</p> <p>ii) Payments: A quote had been received to replace a broken window at Vyner Park for which an insurance payment was being made to VPC of £299.20 (Less £50.00 excess). However, the Glaziers recommended that the glass be replaced with toughened glass at a cost of £335.46 (inc VAT). It was agreed the order for replacement with toughened glass would be made.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 9 | <p>Planning</p> <p>a. To report on any planning decisions: 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</p> | |

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| | <p>forward facing direction. Provision of widened vehicle access to improve vehicle passing on Percy Drive. – Objections made by PC. Pending consideration (as at 18/3/2015).</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 18/3/2015).</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 18/3/2015).</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. This application is in Felton Parish. Pending Consideration as at 18/3/2015.</p> <p>14/04109/FUL Proposed development for 1 dwelling. Land South West 8 Park Road, Coast View, Swarland – PERMITTED 10.3.2015</p> <p>14/03797/FUL – New dwelling Land south of Quarry House, Newton on the Moor. Amendments submitted. – PERMITTED 19.3.2015.</p> <p>15/00400/FUL Proposed conservatory to rear. 3 Douglas Crescent, Swarland NE65 9JB – GRANTED 12.3.2015</p> <p>15/00568/FELTPO Tree preservation order: Propose to fell 1 Ash tree and prune 1 beech tree, 2 Low Chesters Swarland Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9ND – PC comments submitted 20.3.2015.</p> <p>b. To consider any planning matters</p> <p>15/00435/SN Street naming request for three houses on land north of The Larches, Nelson Drive, Swarland – Comments required by 29.3.2015.</p> <p>15/00888/OUT Outline permission for demolition of existing garage and construction of detached three bedroom dormer bungalow with integral garage, Land North Of 6 Kenmore Road The Larches Swarland, Northumberland .</p> <p>15/00616/LBC Listed building consent to replace existing wooden frames on double glazed windows. 4 Nelson Drive Swarland Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9JR</p> | |
| <p>10</p> | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>NALC Regional Event 28th March 2015 Durham County Hall – previously circulated.</p> <p>NCC refund from NCC from parish cemetery double charging (£567.04) – previously circulated.</p> <p>Sir Alan Beith MP – letter about proposed changes to planning in NCC and Information about neighbourhood planning – previously circulated.</p> <p>Mr L. Binks – FOI query on number of dwellings in Swarland – response sent.</p> <p>Letter from NCC about LEADER programme – previously circulated.</p> | |
| <p>11</p> | <p>Urgent items</p> <p>Cllr Mansfield had circulated comments about changes that NCC has proposed about bus routes in the County. Cllr Francis asked if a comment could be added about rerouting buses coming down A1 into NotM and that the PC had had to pay for a weekly bus to be provided. Clerk to submit comments – Agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Brotherton asked the Clerk about PC website progress – some work still to do with a choice between ParishNet and local company. Costs and some details awaited. Clerk asked for Cllrs to contribute photographs of Parish to liven up site.</p> | |
| <p>12</p> | <p>Requests for next agenda</p> <p>The Chairman suggested in response to Mr Rixon’s concerns that the Agenda could include an item on the needs of Newton on the Moor and invited Mr Rixon to send her an appropriate statement on this issue.</p> <p>The meeting finished at 9.10pm</p> | |
| <p>13</p> | <p>Date of Next Meeting: to be held on 22nd April 2015 at 7.00pm in Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor.</p> <p>Future Meetings; 27/5/15 SVH, 24/6/14 JH, 22/7/2015 SVH, 26/8/15 JH, 23/9/2015 SVH.</p> | |