

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council

Meeting held at 7.00pm on **Wednesday 22nd October 2014** in Swarland Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs G.R. Anderson, R. Brotherton, D. Francis (Chair), Mrs H. Handyside, N. Mansfield, Mrs C.Preston, Mrs S.Richardson, Mrs E. Sells, Ms S. Spurling

Apologies: Mrs S. Stanley and Bob Ryan.

The Clerk was in attendance.

1. **Presentation: Steve Robson and Les Hall from Northumbrian Water** gave a short presentation on the future programme of drainage works in Swarland, and answered questions. A scheme has recently been completed in Kenmore Road, Swarland to prevent properties being flooded internally due to 'hydraulic incapacity'. NW is aware that there are still properties in Percy Drive which are affected. There is also an issue with odours in the Country Park, and excessive surface water in the combined sewer in Percy Drive it is thought due to field drainage being connected to the system which becomes overloaded in rainy weather. Mr Henderson raised his concerns about flooding/odour issues which were thought to arise from the Country Park. The discussion moved on to NW's role in planning. Les Hall's team deal with planning working with NCC regarding strategic housing but don't see applications relating to infill sites. However, developments of 6 houses+ are significant and there is a need for NCC to consult with NW on smaller application. If NW feel they have insufficient information to comment on plans they ask for a flood risk assessment, and if there is insufficient detail provided they would object. Mr Waters said that foul sewage had also surfaced at Vyner Park and other places and urged NW to speak to NCC to say that this is a serious issue. Mr Waters said he felt the system was not fit for purpose. Cllr Francis said that the Northumberland Local Plan is currently being put together by NCC, allowing blocks of residential development. He asked if NW would be consulted. Les Hall said that NW had been consulted and said he would send a copy of NW's response to the Parish Council and that he was happy for the PC to share the document. NW is beginning survey work in Percy Drive in the next couple of weeks and will come back to the Parish Council when they have the information (they will advise Mr Henderson separately). They also stated that there would be able to let the PC have a full report on the condition of all drains in Swarland within six weeks.
2. **Applications for co-option to Parish Council** – Gary Cunningham, Colin Heal, Jim Henderson, Robert Ryan. The Chairman explained the decision on the two co-optees to the Parish Council would be discussed in Closed Session at the end of the meeting and asked the applicants present if they would introduce themselves which they did.
3. **Public questions and Reports (including Police Updates)** (Max 15 minutes)
Northumbria Police Coquetdale community message – previously circulated.
 - a. A member of the public said that they felt there was a need to timetable planning in to Parish Council meetings.
 - b. Mr Walters raised his concerns about the process – by email - used by the Parish Council on commenting on NCC planning applications. The Chairman replied that the PC couldn't guarantee that every application could be considered at a public PC meeting because of the volume of applications and other issues. Councillor Handyside is preparing a report on possible changes to the process to be followed by the PC which will be at the November meeting. Copy of current process to be sent to Mr Walters.
 - c. **Settlement Boundary** – An issue was raised about the current Swarland settlement boundary. The Chairman responded that this has not been debated but his feeling is that Parish Councillors do support it. Presumably the current boundary will be up for review by NCC and residents will be able to have their say. For the time being, it is part of the preserved planning policy from Alnwick District Council which has to be referred to in considering planning applications.
 - d. A question was asked about the Parish Councils response to **14/03340/FUL** – which is a development of 20 houses, Leamington Lane, Swarland which is in Felton Parish. The formal application has now been made to NCC and the Clerk has asked for a copy for the PC. The member of the public said that the PC should arrange a public meeting to discuss the application. The Chairman said that as the application related to Felton Parish, the PC would have to contact Felton PC on this

Clerk

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

and ask that they take cognizance of the feelings of NotM&S PC feelings.

Clerk

- e. A resident said he was aware that the Vyner Park Charity and the Percy Wood Country Park have got together to raise funds but that he was concerned that Vyner Park might be used for caravans and for horses. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council had accepted the offer of sponsorship for fireworks from Percy Wood for November 7th. Under charity law, the premises can't be turned over to a business and it will continue to be used for charitable purposes. The member of the public urged the PC not to use the football pitch for caravans and claimed people were dead against it. Although it was recognised that there was a need to raise money, there was a need to think carefully about what is done.
- f. Mrs Vaggs said it was useful for Northumbrian Water to attend tonight's meeting to answer questions. However, she had calculated that there were plans of between 40 – 50 houses in the village submitted or being thought about, and in view of this would it be possible for the PC to invite NCC Planning to answer questions at a PC meeting?
- g. **14/03340/FUL** - Mrs Vaggs also said that this application for 20 houses doesn't affect Felton. The application for the grain dryer nearby had prompted a well attended public meeting and that a public meeting should be held for the current application.
- h. **Superfast Broadband** - Mr Rixon asked what the PC was doing about getting Superfast Broadband supplied to Newton on the Moor. The Chairman responded that Simon Robson (BT) and John Cooper (NCC) came to PC meeting in September, and there is some optimism that NotM may be put on the current programme. There is a need for everyone on Parish to continue to make a noise. The Clerk reported speaking with John Cooper last week who says he is pushing the case for NotM at each of his weekly meetings with BT.
- i. **Hill beside the Cook & Barker NotM** – Mr Rixon said that vehicles are continually trying to squeeze past each other on this hill, and hitting the wall which borders his property. He thinks there could be a major accident and met with Officers at NCC e before the last election to discuss one way system in village but nothing happened.
- j. **Vyner Park Charity Management** – Jeanette Spicer raised her concerns that the Management Committee of the Vyner Park Charity wouldn't have any teeth because it is dominated by the PC. Cllr Brotherton responded to explain that the management arrangements will be clarified at the public meeting on 19th November. Currently the PC is heavily involved because of there is a list of matters that need resolving such as setting up the charity, getting a bank account, drainage works etc. Once complete there will be a handover to the Management Committee. The Management Committee consists of 5 Parish Councillors and co-opted (non-voting) members. The Chairman said that co-optees could be given voting rights by amending the Constitution of the Charity. Mrs Spicer had circulated a document summarising the position and asking some questions to a few Cllrs, Cllr Brotherton indicated that he had replied to Mrs Spicers comments. It was concluded that the governance of the VPC needed further clarification. The Clerk will send a copy of the original question and response to all the Cllrs for information.

Clerk

4. **Declarations of Interest in items of the agenda** – declarations of interest were declared by Cllr Mrs Handyside re: **14/03123/FUL** in Coast Road, Cllr Mrs Richardson re: Swarland Club **14/02880/FUL**, and Cllr Francis re: **14/02644/FUL**
5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 27 August 2014** – Were agreed as a true record.
6. **Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2014** - Were agreed as a true record.
7. **To consider matters arising from the meeting on 24 September 2014**

a. Pot holes at Overgrass, Repairs to B6345 from Old Swarland to Felton, Potholes at crossroads near school, Blackhouse Bank pothole, Extension of yellow lines outside Swarland 1st School. – Clerk reported no works done yet by NCC on Overgrass or B6345. No report back re cause of potholes at crossroads near school. Blackhouse Bank pothole repaired but this is a temporary repair which is already sinking. Redrawn plans and consultation letter have been received from NCC re: double yellow lines outside 1st School. Cost is expected to be in the region of £2500 which is considerably more than £1600 previously allowed in PC budget. – This was discussed and agreed in principle. Clerk to ask for formal quote with a breakdown of costs before making formal order. Clerk suggested advising Felton PC about double yellow lines being planned, as this borders the parish boundary.

Clerk

b. Coast View – for costs to making this up to an adoptable standard – Clerk reported

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

estimate asked for but no figures received as yet.

c.CC Thorne's Members Scheme – Three quotes are needed for railing at Vyner Park Pavilion, Cllr Anderson to seek another two quotes and forward direct to County Cllr Thorne.

Cllr
Anderson

8. Requested agenda items

- a. Update on Vyner Park Charity including;
 - i. Public Meeting (Cllr Brotherton) –The Public Meeting is on Wednesday 19th November 7.30pm in Swarland Village Hall. This has been advertised in The Gazette and leaflets are going out. Aim of the meeting is to pull in as many ideas as we can for sifting by the Parish Council and Management Committee to form an draft outline plan by the end of January that can then go out for wider consultation.
 - ii. Frequency of meetings – Cllr Brotherton said the VP Charity Management Team (5 Cllrs) would be meeting monthly for the time being with quarterly formal meetings. However, it was recognised that in the short term more frequent meetings would be required.

Cllr Brotherton stressed the need to get things moving as we needed to have a plan in place for next year.

- iii. Approval of Cllr Handyside as Vyner Park Charity Treasurer – This was agreed.

- iv. Progress setting up Vyner Park Charity/lease – The Chairman reported that the VP Charity was formed when the Constitution was adopted, and this has brought benefits such as the 100% rate relief awarded by NCC. Registration as a Charity b can't be completed until the bank account is in place. Work will have to be done on providing a lease from PC to VP Charity which would need to be done through Solicitors.

- v. Financial report (Cllr Handyside and Clerk) – Cllr Handyside responded that work was in progress and the report would be ready for the public meeting on 19th November.

- vi. Fireworks – Cllr Brotherton reported that plans were going well. Fireworks were on their way, risk assessments were completed. Cllr Handyside made an appeal for raffle prizes.

- b. Parish Council email addresses. Cllr Brotherton suggested it would be a good idea for Parish Cllrs to have separate email addresses for PC business which were easily identifiable as being connected to the PC. Cllr Handyside offered to help set these up. Agreed that this should be considered.

Clerk/Cllr
Handyside

- c. Parish Councillors social event - Email to be sent round to Cllrs.

Cllr
Brotherton

- d. Public Questions and Standing Orders – Discussion and decision on the place of Public Questions on the agenda and their incorporation or otherwise into Order of Business in the standing Orders. Cllr Stanley

- e. Request from Mrs Vera Vaggs for Notice Board in Old Swarland – The Clerk advised that a simple board would cost in the region of £300. It was decided to put an item in the next issue of 'The Column' to see if this was needed by residents. Mrs Vaggs said she would be happy to withdraw her suggestion if there was no support.

Clerk

- f. New PC representative on Swarland Village Hall Committee following resignation of Cllr Lewney. SVH meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month except June, August and December. – Agreed to wait until after co-option of new Cllrs. To next meeting.

Clerk

- g. Speed Monitoring by Northumbria Police – a suggestion had been received from Longframlington PC that Parish Councils in the area combine to make a joint request for mobile speed cameras in villages on a monthly basis. Coincidentally figures had just been received about vehicles found speeding in Swarland recently. It was agreed to support the suggestion.

Clerk

- h. Planning meetings – membership & timing – Consideration of report from Cllr Handyside on process to be followed by Parish Council to discuss & comment on Planning Applications – To next meeting.

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

- i. Priorities for Parish Council in 2015/16 – Discussion to inform budget. Suggestions were; potential support for the continuation of the Bus Service, and Vyner Park, additional costs of Felton Cemetery Joint Committee due to drop in income from burials. Information on the Joint Committee costs from Cttee minutes to be circulated.

Cllr.
Anderson

- j. Arrangements for Remembrance Day Service to be held – A ceremony will be held outside Jubilee Hall, NotM on Sunday 9th November at Noon.

In Swarland, a Service will commence at 10.00 am at the URC with an Act of Remembrance at 10.45 at the Felton War Memorial. Mrs Vaggs said there would be a small congregation in The Square, Swarland on Tuesday 11th November where the flag will be lowered. Clerk had received details of the two wreaths usually purchased at £25 each from The Royal British Legion – The purchase was agreed.

- k. Christmas Tree for the Square - The Clerk advised that it was time to order the Christmas tree for The Square and that last year the tree had cost £145. It was agreed that an order should be placed, not to exceed £150.

Clerk

9. Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors

- a. Report back on First Annual Town & Parish Councils Conference 25th September 2014, County Hall.(Councillor Stanley)
- b. Report back on Joint Northumberland CC and Town and Parish Council Meetings Wednesday 15th October Choppington. (Clerk)
- c. Report back on NALC AGM, Storey Park, Morpeth 18th October 2014 - Not attended

It was agreed that the notes from these meetings would be circulated to Cllrs. No report from Councillor Thorne.

Clerk

10. Finance

- a. Bank statements – Lloyds Treasurers Account, & Lloyds Instant Access – Figures to be provided. Treasury £15,000.
- b. Clerks' salary and expenses (£270.27 - £54): £216.27 plus expenses £41.68 = £257.95
HM Revenues & Customs PAYE £54.00 – Agreed.
- c. Other receipts and payments:
i) Receipts: £288.50 Get Going Grant for September 2014 Bus Service NCC confirmation not yet received.
Precept Balance from NCC - £8000 received. Lloyds Bank Interest £22.68 SVA for 'The Column' £62.50.
ii) Payment: Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd Issue 73 'The Column' - £75.00 – Agreed.
Sean McWilliam Posts for playground and repair to kissing gate at Vyner park - £165.00 - Agreed.
NCC Invoice 102253 Fortnightly cutting of Swarland Playing field and extra grass cutting at Vyner Park £1,204 inc VAT – Agreed.
Christmas Tree to be ordered maximum £150 – Agreed.

At this point it was 9.05pm and the Chairman proposed suspending standing orders so that the meeting could continue – agreed.

11. Planning

a.To report on any planning decisions:

14/00648/LBC - Newton Hall - convert existing outbuildings into flats and houses – Pending Consideration (as at 16.10.14).

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 16.10.14).

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 16.10.14).

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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 16.10.14).

14/02644/FUL Single storey detached dwelling, single storey detached garage/scooter store, off street parking and turning head to brown field site forming part of garden to current residence. Site Adjoining Field House Newton-On-The-Moor Morpeth Northumberland Pending Consideration (as at 16.10.14).

14/02880/FUL Rear Extention [sic] for use as pool room. Swarland Working Mens Club High View Swarland Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9JF. Pending consideration (as at 16/10/14).

b. To consider any planning matters

14/01464/FUL – Land North of Equestrian Centre, detached house and garage – Pending consideration. Closing date for comments to NCC 4 November 2014

14/02692/COU Retrospective - Change of use of extension (granted under 14/00541/FUL) from domestic/residential to home office 11 Low Wood Swarland Morpeth NE65 9PB. Closing date for comments to NCC 7 November 2014

14/03340/FUL – Development of 20 houses, Leamington Lane, Swarland. This application is in Felton Parish.

It was agreed that consultation would be carried out by Parish Councillors using the current email based procedure. All

12. Correspondence

NCC Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy Update and notification of consultation process/dates.

FOI Request received from Mr C. Howarth – Response sent and circulated to Cllrs previously.

Northumbrian Citizens Advice Bureau Alnwick's request for a donation – Donation of £50 agreed. Clerk

Legacare, Newcastle Upon Tyne, request for donation - Clerk to circulate details to Cllrs.

North Air Ambulance request for donation - Clerk to circulate details to Cllrs.

Alnwick Playhouse request for donation – Clerk to circulate details

NCC Rough Sleeper estimate 23.10.14 – previously circulated.

Headstone Guide – request to put link on PC website – Clerk to circulate details to Cllrs.

Felton Cemetery Joint Committee – Notification of increase in annual levy. NotM& S contribution for 2015 being £1,701.20 – To budget.

Invitation to Silverlinks event, 10am Wooler 5th November 2014 – Introduction of a new housing & social care project from AgeUK.

Changes to Services 418, X15 and X18 for implementation 9/11/14 consultation from Arriva/Northumberland County Council (NCC)

NCC Local Hero Scheme – invitation for nominations (previously circulated).

Minutes from NCC Parishes meeting, Rennington 8th July (previously circulated).

13. Urgent items - None

14. Requests for next agenda

Planning Consultation proposal from Cllr Handyside. Clerk

14. Date of Next Meeting to be held on **26 November 2014** at **7.00pm** in Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor.

Future Meetings; 28/1/2015 SVH, 25/2/2015 JH, 25/3/2015 SVH, 22/4/2015 JH.

The open meeting closed at 9.20pm

15. A resolution to exclude the public and the press was then agreed. The main meeting was closed to the public at 9.30pm to enable the Parish Council to discuss item 2 on the agenda - the applications for co-option to the Parish Council.

Applications for co-option to Parish Council – Gary Cunningham, Colin Heal, Jim Henderson, Robert Ryan. The Councillors were unanimous in agreeing that that they would appreciate the opportunity to work with any of them. After some discussion, a vote was taken for each of the vacancies in turn, with the result that Gary Cunningham and Colin Heal were selected

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact each of the applicants to let them know the outcome.

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

16. Urgent items

Councillor Mansfield had discussed an item with Cllr Stanley which he has wished to put on the Agenda for the meeting, and members agreed it could be discussed on the closed agenda.

He currently has two trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders overhanging his back garden which NCC Tree Officer has said are at risk. Cllr Mansfield would like to PC to look at the trees in situ before he makes his application to have the trees removed to avoid the necessity of repeat applications being necessary. It was agreed to meet on site and Cllr Mansfield will set up a date (at a weekend) and advise. He would declare an interest when the matter comes to the PC for comment.

The meeting closed at 9.45