

NEWTON on the MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council

Meeting held at 7pm on **Wednesday 24th September 2014** in Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor.

Present: Cllrs G.R. Anderson, R. Brotherton, D. Francis, N. Mansfield, Mrs C. Preston, Mrs S. Richardson, Mrs E. Sells, Ms S. Spurling, Mrs S. Stanley

The Clerk was in attendance.

1.	<p>Public questions and Reports (including Police Updates) (Max 15 minutes)</p> <p>a. Proposed new Housing development, Leamington Lane - Mrs Susan Monaghan and her Architect Daniel Kirk described a development of 20 dwellings she was intending to submit for planning permission. The proposal is north of Leamington Lane and within Felton Parish, although Newton on the Moor & Swarland PC would be invited to comment on the application. Mr Kirk explained that it was intended that the development would be well planned and contribute positively to Swarland. Input from the PC was therefore invited before the planning application was submitted and suggestions for the S.106 agreement invited to benefit the area. 30% of the development would be affordable homes (six dwellings) and the price range would be agreed with the Planning authority. Cllr Mrs Stanley pointed out the development was outside the village envelope, and the PC would see the plans when submitted.</p> <p>b. Questions about Vyner Park Charity – Mrs Jeannette Blakesley-Spicer, a local resident was representing about 20 other people including the Head, and teachers at Swarland 1st School, plus governors and parents, and other people using Vyner Park. They were concerned that people had great ideas that they wanted to put into practice regarding the Park but hadn't any way of getting these ideas across to the management committee. A short paper had been prepared which she would give to the Clerk to distribute to the PC. Questions had been submitted before the meeting and Cllr Brotherton said he would cover these in his update later on the Agenda but that he was delighted to hear that so many were interested in making a positive contribution and invited them to join the 'Walk in the Park' which the Management Team was having on Saturday 27th September at 5pm, to see what needed to be done in the area. The next formal meeting to which the public will be invited is provisionally Wednesday 19th November at 7.30 in Swarland Village Hall.</p> <p>c. Blackhouse Bank, Swarland Pothole – Mrs Vera Vaggs asked if there had been any progress on the filling of this pothole. The Clerk had checked it and it hadn't been filled.</p> <p>d. Rumour of Percy Wood taking over Vyner Park – Mrs Vaggs said that she'd heard that the Percy Wood Country Park was paying for the fireworks this year, and that people were becoming concerned in the village that they were taking over Vyner Park. Mrs Vaggs was advised by the Chair that there was an item on the Agenda about the fireworks sponsorship but there was no cause to worry about a takeover!</p> <p>e. Northumbria Police Update – Sgt Graham Vickers normally composes the Community Message which is sent Parish Councils locally. He apologised for the Community Message not being sent out recently but said they would restart in October. He was able to report that within our area there had been very little crime in the last 6-8 weeks. In Swarland there had been a car stopped for dangerous driving which had been stolen in Newcastle, and in Felton there had been an incident of criminal damage. There had been 3 related crimes in the Percy Wood Country Park, with a caravan and two cars being damaged. In the summer however, there had been a crime wave due to the activities of a team from Stockton –on –Tees involving quadbikes. He thanked Andrew Keeble (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator) who has moved south recently, for his work. Community Speedwatch had been expanded by 7 people in Lesbury. Sgt Vickers encouraged residents to report seeing anything suspicious on 999, and undertook to ensure that they would receive feedback on actions taken as a result of their reports. Cllr Sells asked about speeding in Leamington Lane in Swarland, and Sgt Vickers suggested that probably the best solution would be 'engineering' through the narrowing of the road, precedence changes or the introduction of a speed camera. The Chair thanked Sgt Vickers for his attendance, and invited residents to volunteer as a replacement Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the area.</p>	ACTION
		Clerk
		Clerk

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2.	Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs H. Handyside, and from Mrs D. Lewney who had submitted her resignation to the Chair.	
3.	Declarations of Interest in items of the agenda – Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Francis in connection with item 10 b 14/02644/FUL, from Cllr Richardson in connection with item 10b 14/02880/FUL and from Cllr Mansfield in connection with item 10a 14/02294/FELTPO.	
4.	<p>Presentation from Inorthumberland on the Superfast Broadband project with John Cooper and Dave Colwell from NCC, and Simon Robeson from BT. Mr Cooper explained the history of the project which began with NCC securing the funding to roll out Superfast Broadband with the infrastructure being put in place by BT. The aim of the project is to 'fill in the gaps' where it is not commercially feasible for a service to be provided normally and it is being rolled out on a value for money basis to get maximum coverage in the county.</p> <p>Currently there are about 20,000 dwellings that won't get anything in this phase but Swarland residents now had superfast broadband available. He emphasised that access wasn't automatic, and that it was necessary for individuals to upgrade to a fibre band broadband package to access the system. He encouraged residents to visit the inorthumberland website (http://www.inorthumberland.org.uk/) where they can compare provider costs and said that some people have found that they can have the faster service at no extra cost and some have even found it to be cheaper. Further funding is coming in and NCC will need to prioritise further areas to add to the scheme.</p> <p>NotM has not been included in the current scheme and its situation is a bit more complex than for Swarland as its supply cabinet (which has not been upgraded yet but may be in the next round of funding) is to the east of the A1, too far for the village to access superfast broadband. However, there is a cabinet in NotM but it's the wrong type of cabinet but has the potential to be upgraded which would be quite a simple process and relatively cheap but the funding is not there at present. Cllr Francis said that BT had said that NotM was getting superfast broadband in Spring 2014 and it was disappointing to find this was not the case. He asked what the PC could do to make sure NotM was a priority and included in the next round of funding. Mr Robeson apologised for the confusion which was due to a quirk of postcodes. He said that to ensure inclusion on the next round the PC should keep making a 'noise'. There is a small list of communities where there is high demand including NotM, and it's quite possible that even in the current round, if some areas drop out because costs are too high – NotM could go in as a replacement. For the next round, this is in the lap of NCC so the PC needs to talk to its County Councillor to make sure the village is on the priority list. Mr Cooper agreed with this as plans would be submitted to County Councillors in the next month or two so the PC needs to make sure County Councillor Thorne knows that NotM has low speed AND high demand.</p>	
5.	Minutes of the meeting held on 27 August 2014 since the distribution of the draft minutes from the last meeting of the Parish Council, Cllr Francis had sent an email to the Clerk requesting some changes, and the Chair wanted to add to item 11b that her comments related to planning applications 14/02599/FUL and 14/02598/FUL. It was agreed that the draft minutes would be brought to the next meeting for approval.	Clerk
6.	<p>To consider matters arising from the meeting on 27 August 2014</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pot holes at Overgrass, Repairs to B6345 from Old Swarland to Felton, Potholes at crossroads near school, Extension of yellow lines outside Swarland 1st School – The Clerk reported no progress on these matters except potholes filled at School crossroads but still need investigating by NCC re: water/drainage issue in vicinity which causes the potholes. Cllr Brotherton and Clerk met with NCC re: double yellow lines. Likely cost to be around £2000. Hoping to have done in December subject to satisfactory consultation. b. Coast View – for costs levelling & surface dressing standard - Clerk has contacted local company for estimate of costs. c. CC Thorne's Members Scheme – Cllr Anderson reported he has met on site with local company and is waiting for quote for railing at Vyner Park Pavilion. d. Request from Mrs Vera Vaggs for Notice Board in Old Swarland – consideration of costs. Clerk reported she had obtained costs ranging from £280 excluding VAT and details were circulated at the meeting. It was agreed that a decision would be made at the next meeting. e. Defibrillator update – Cllr Stanley advised that we are to receive a defibrillator from Rothbury WI. Cllrs Preston and Spurling will be trained in the use of the equipment. It was agreed that they would follow up with Rothbury WI. f. Email on Planning conditions placed on developers re: making up roads – The Clerk reported she had traced a planning application which had conditions on it and discussed this with NCC Planning enforcement. It had been pointed out that if the structure were more than 10 yrs old, missing works couldn't be 	Clerk Cllrs Preston & Spurling.

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As per request made, Cllr Brotherton then went on to provide some figures on current performance, but stressed that these were still to be fully checked and should be taken as draft.

In terms of financial support given to the former Sports Club last year that was a total of around £970.

The figures below were the income and expenditure from March 1st 2014 till the end of September 2014

Expenditure	Income
£600 Insurance	£380 Lettings
£190 Water	£460 Membership
£83 Electricity	
£ 920 Alarm upgrade	
Total: £2050	Total:£ 840

This meant there was a deficit of approximately £1210 being met by the Parish Council. Considering we still had the Fireworks to come this was not a bad position to be in.

Children's parties seem to be particularly popular, a parent recently commented that this was a great venue, but nobody knew about it.

With regards to membership numbers;

In 2010 there were around 70 members.

2011 was the last proper membership list available and there were 75 members. It is not however possible to say all those on the list were fully paid up members.

There is no information available for 2012.

In 2013 there were 4 junior and 6 family (21 individuals) memberships and 1 adult = 26 total. These were mainly associated with children's tennis lessons.

2014 - 1 family membership, 10 juniors in tennis coaching sessions.

Bowling membership is currently 7 with 5 potentially on the way.

An informal meeting of the Management Committee had been held on 17th September and he was delighted that resident Jenny Volkens was now helping produce a marketing strategy. Various options on events were being looked at, and work has also begun on planning the budget for the overall park. Some income for the Park will need to come from the precept. Councillor Brotherton stressed that we now need to fully establish the Management Committee and very importantly find out what people want.

Fireworks Event

Cllr Brotherton is the Parish Council's liaison with Percy Wood Country Park and explained that a good relationship is needed with the Country Park as it plays such an important role in the Community. Cllr Brotherton got to know the current manager Thomas Hague through working with him on the woodland path. It turned out that the Country Park and Vyner Park were each running a firework event and it was thought this could be combined. In addition Mr Hague had heard about Vyner Park and was keen to help. There is no hint of a takeover. Out of a genuine desire to help an offer has been made to pay for the fireworks this year and to make it a joint event on Friday 7th November. Councillors agreed to accept the donation.

Replacement for Lynn Fahy on VP Management Committee

Cllr Brotherton explained that with the resignation of Lynn Fahy, another Parish Councillor was needed for the VPMC. Other people can be co-opted to the Management Committee but they would be non-voting. Cllr Brotherton proposed Cllr Anderson – This was agreed.

Cllr Stanley thanked Cllr Anderson for the repairs he had done to the see-saw in the play area, and for going to Cumbria to pick up new parts for repairing other items in the play area and for agreeing to fit them. The play area has been in place for 12 years now and now there is a need for parents to get together to do fundraising to help pay for new large pieces of equipment when necessary as the PC does not have funds to

Clerk

Cllr
Handyside

Clerk

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	<p>meet all the costs.</p> <p>Cllr Brotherton left the meeting at 8.50pm</p> <p>e. Speed Monitoring by Northumbria Police – Longframlington PC hasve asked that Parish Councils in the area combine to make a joint request for mobile speed cameras in villages on monthly basis. This item was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should meet with the Longframlington PC Clerk to get more details.</p> <p>f. Planning Application 14/01464/FUL – Land North of Equestrian Centre, detached house and garage – Request from applicant for Parish Council to withdraw its objections to this application. A verbal request had been received from Mr D Blackshaw on 27.8.14 with written confirmation being received and circulated on 23rd September 2014. The matter was discussed. Cllrs main objection was that application was outside village envelope, mainly on an old car park, and not related to a business. Cllr Francis said the new NCC county wide plan is being worked on now and this may just set a precedent and in the absence of a natural geographical constraint, the village could just expand and expand. Cllr Stanley summarised and took a vote which was 8/9 (with Cllr Mansfield abstaining) in favour of retaining the objection. Clerk to draft a letter to Mr Blackshaw for the Chair.</p> <p>At this point of the meeting it was 9.00pm. The Chairman suggested suspending Standing Orders so the meeting could continue – Agreed The Chairman further suggested that other matters following be referred to the next agenda except for Finance and consideration of Planning Application 14/02644/FULL– Agreed.</p> <p>g. Planning meetings – membership & timing – Consideration of report from Cllr Handyside on process to be followed by Parish Council to discuss & comment on Planning Applications – Postponed to October Meeting.</p> <p>h. Priorities for Parish Council in 2015/16 – Discussion to inform budget – Postponed to October meeting.</p>	
8.	Report by County Councillor - Postponed to October meeting.	Clerk
9.	<p>Finance</p> <p>a. Bank statements – Lloyds Treasurers Account, £7,674.45 Lloyds Instant Access – £886.44 (£3000 transferred to Treasurers Account 12/9/14), Treasury £15,000.</p> <p>b. Clerks’ salary and expenses (£270.27 - £54): £216.27 plus expenses £13.15 = £229.42 HM Revenues & Customs PAYE £54.00 – Agreed.</p> <p>c. Other receipts and payments: i) Receipts: £288.50 Get Going Grant for August 2014 Bus Service NCC. ii) Expenditure: Reimbursement to Cllr Anderson for timber for repairs to fencing at Vyner Park play area - £17.52 - Agreed Reimbursement to Cllr Brotherton for itemised range of costs associated with Vyner Park Charity - £467.17 - Agreed subject to receipts being checked by Clerk. Northumbria Water Bill for Vyner park - £63.39 – Agreed.</p>	Clerk
10.	<p>Planning</p> <p>a. To report on any planning decisions: 14/00648/LBC - Newton Hall - convert existing outbuildings into flats and houses – Pending consideration (as at 15.9.14). 14/01464/FUL – Land North of Equestrian Centre, detached house and garage – Pending consideration. 14/02294/FELTPO - Tree Preservation Order: Remove 3 trees, two Scots pine and a sycamore tree that overhang 14 Chesterwell Swarland Morpeth NE65 9NA - Objections made by PC. Permission granted for removal of 1 Scots Pine and the sycamore.</p> <p>4/02284/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. –</p>	

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	<p>Objections made by PC. Pending (as at 15.9.14).</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 dwelling house, construction of associated garage block, new sewage treatment plant and access route, and renovation of the walled garden - Under consideration</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 – Under consideration.</p> <p>b. To consider any planning matters</p> <p>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.</p> <p>At this point Cllr Francis left the meeting.</p> <p>The documents relating to the plan were circulated. Cllr Sells stated that two applications for this site had been refused previously. The Chair mentioned that an Appeal had also been rejected and also said that the application did not now refer to a brownfield site. Various comments were made about the extremely narrow access point and it was suggested that as the applicants own Field House, the garage could be demolished there and rebuilt, giving access on the road at this point, rather than beside the Old Post Office. The Chair asked for final comments to be emailed to the Clerk. Comments have to be collated by the Clerk, checked and submitted to NCC by Noon on Monday 29.9.14.</p> <p>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</p> <p>14/02880/FUL Rear Extention [sic] for use as pool room. Swarland Working Mens Club High View Swarland Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9JF.</p>	All
11.	<p>Correspondence – All items to the agenda for the October meeting.</p> <p>Northumbrian Citizens Advice Bureau Alnwick’s request for a donation.</p> <p>Felton Cemetery Joint Committee – Notification of increase in annual levy. NotM& S contribution for 2015 being £1,701.20.</p> <p>Invitation to Silverlinks event, 10am Wooler 5th November 2014 – Introduction of a new housing & social care project from AgeUK.</p> <p>Changes to Services 418, X15 and X18 for implementation 9/11/14 consultation from Arriva/Northumberland County Council (NCC)</p> <p>Public Transport Newsletter August 2014 from NCC. Invitation for applications for Get Going funding.</p> <p>Invitation to AGM of Community Action Northumberland Thursday 9th October 2014 at 2pm, Longhorsley Village Hall. Also enclosed CAN and NALC Annual Reports.</p>	Clerk
12.	<p>Urgent items</p> <p>a.Cllr Stanley said in her absence, Vice-Chairman Cllr Francis would chair the October Parish Council meeting.</p>	
13.	<p>Requests for next agenda</p> <p>a.N. Water future programme of drainage works in village – NW to attend next PC meeting details to be confirmed. Questions before meeting invited.</p> <p>b.Cllr Stanley asked for Public Questions / Standing Orders to go on the next agenda.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21.30pm</p>	All Clerk
14.	<p>Date of Next Meeting to be held on 22 October 2014 at 7.00pm in Swarland Village Hall.</p>	

Future Meetings; 26/11/14 JH, 28/1/2015 SVH, 25/2/2015 JH, 25/3/2015 SVH, 22/4/2015 JH.