At the meeting of the Parish Council at Felton Village Hall on Monday 1 December 2014.

Present: Cllrs E Blagburn, M Clark, B Dickson, B Forster, T Hood, L Lawley. J Marsden, S Walton and M Watson. County Councillor Thorne
The Parish Clerk in attendance – Mrs L Hamlin

95 Apologies for Absence – None

96 Declaration of interest on items on the agenda – Cllr Dickson – Planning Application 13/01521/RENE and 14/03756/FUL, and Cllr Watson – Planning Application 14/03756/FUL.

97 The minutes of the meeting on 3 November 2014 – the contents were agreed however the minutes required minor typographical amendments so were not signed as a true record, to be signed in the February meeting.

98 Public Questions and Police Report – None

99 Matters Arising therefrom:
   a. St Michaels Church Footpath – Works have now been completed on this footpath.
   b. Lights on All Weather Court – There was an issue with the cherry picker but this is now resolved and the remaining lights were to be fixed last week but rain did not allow for this. They should be completed this week.
   c. Repair to kerb stone on the bridge – This has been repaired.
   d. H bars in Felton – The H bar at Davison Avenue was raised with Bob Hodgson this morning who stated this should be referred direct to Graham Bucknell.
   e. Tree overgrowing Play Area – no action has been taken and it was agreed the Clerk write to Mr Thompson again.
   f. Tree branches outside Park View – This was raised with NCC this morning, the trees are now not overhanging since the leaves have come off however NCC did agree that there is some thinning and cutting back needed.
   g. Signage advertising business in the village – A letter has been sent however the signs have not been removed. It was agreed the Clerk write again and also suggest that the work shops may wish to put up a joint sign subject to planning permission.
   h. Sign post at Riverside – This was raised with NCC this morning and Clerk to pursue with Graham Bucknell.
   i. Volunteer Transport Group – The Clerk has advertised the existing groups who can provide transport in The Bridge and also asked if there are any residents who would be keen to set up a local group.
   j. Allotment update – No further issues to report and the sign for no swearing has been installed.
   k. Neighbourhood Plan – It was agreed that this should be progressed. Money has been allocated in the Budget and the Clerk is waiting to hear back from NCC on what support will be available from them next year.
   l. NCC – Northumberland Local Heroes deadline – There is no deadline, this is an ongoing initiative with Hero’s being recognised as appropriate.
   m. Superfast Broadband Drop In Session – this has been arranged for Wednesday 10 December from 2 – 4 in the Coquet Room. Notices have been put up around the villages and also in The Bridge.
   n. Mid-Coquet Cluster funds – All members have agreed to close the bank account and remaining funds have been issued to all parties.
   o. Parking area on Recreation Lane by the Old Bank Garage – The Clerk has drawn up an agreement to protect the Parish Council part of the land that is to be refurbished, to include a measured diagram of the area. The paperwork has been passed to the owner for signature but as yet has not been returned.
   p. Hedge at the Vicarage – The Clerk has contacted the PCC to ask that this work be undertaken. It is being investigated by the PCC to see if they are responsible for undertaking this work.

100 Report by County Councillor and other meetings –
CC Thorne reported that it was good news that the Government had today announced dualling of the A1. This is important news in terms of both road safety and encouraging business and industry into the County. It will also hopefully alleviate the issue of vehicles using alternative routes such as the A697 and smaller rural roads which are not really suitable for heavy vehicles.
FELTON PARISH COUNCIL

There has been criticism as to whether this is an election ploy but at least the commitment is here now and it should continue whoever is elected. The dualling is stopping at Ellingham however it is an improvement on the current A1.

NCC is looking at the budget and there is another tough year to come, further discussion will take place at the next Area Meeting on Monday 8 December.

CC Thorne was called out to look at flood defences at Bradley Brook Farm as it appeared the wall being built at Stable Cottage was too high and would shift the flooding problems onto neighbouring properties. It is hoped this issue is now resolved.

The question was raised as to what is happening in relation to the sale of County Hall. There are economic arguments taking place as it is felt this is not the right time due to ongoing cut backs in spending elsewhere. Also there are issues in relation to transport links to the proposed new site.

Cemetery Committee Meeting
Feedback from the Remembrance Day Service was good. There had been an issue with accessing the electricity supply and a sign is to be installed on this box to state 24 hour access required – no parking. Rev Harvey asked if there were servicemen who had died in more recent conflicts. It was thought not but Mr Skelton to investigate.

101 Services:
• Feedback from village walk around with NCC – most issues were covered above however NCC has agreed to clear out the gulley are Riverside to alleviate flooding around the War Memorial. NCC has been made aware of the issue of litter not being picked up before grass cutting takes place making the grass cutting look messy. Also the issue of grass being cut when wet and left lying was raised however NCC cannot easily reschedule grass cutting to fit in with the weather. Other issues were NCC to write to resident at Riverside to request they cut back overhanging vegetation, gulley completely blocked outside 10 Riverside, fence railings at Riverside need repairing, patching work on the footpath at the bottom of Victoria Terrace required, light at bottom of Church Bank is permanently illuminated and the white railings opposite Park View needs refurbishment.
• Felton in Bloom entry – the entry forms has been received and it was agreed the village would not enter as the entry money could be better spent on plants. The groups are still continuing to look after the tubs and planters.
• Burglaries – Cllr Dickson has been asked why the Community Police had not contacted neighbours in Dene Close where a recent break in had occurred in a garden shed. Neighbours were not aware of the break in until they read it in the press. Clerk to contact PC Liz Wilson to ascertain why this situation had occurred.

102 Planning:
To report on any planning decisions:
14/00488/VARYCO - 5 Low Close - Variation of cond 2 re 12/01706/FUL in relation to approving building plans – APPROVED
14/02923/LBC - Acton Hall - construct porch to west gable of house – APPROVED
14/03211/LBC - Back Burn Bridge – Repairs – APPROVED
Planning applications pending:
13/01521/RENE – Siting of 50m meteorologocial mast for further 12 months – No Objections
14/02073/FUL - Land north 11&13 Coquet Vale - resubmission two storey dwelling
14/02272/FUL - Felton Park Lodge - Change to existing plans – Objections Submitted
14/02408/LBC - Felton Park Lodge - Change to existing plans – Objections Submitted
14/03340/FUL - Leamington Lane - Construct 20 new houses – No objections but concerns raised re drainage issues
14/03606/FUL - East of 36 Benlaw Grove - demolish & rebuild garage & new dwelling – objections submitted and a copies of letters of objection from two neighbours has been received for information. One resident stated the deeds to their property state no buildings or sheds may be erected on the gardens bordering the estate road. It was agreed the Clerk ask the resident if they would be prepared to provide the Parish Council with a copy of this.
14/03756/FUL - Land SW of The Chesters - Erection of on dwelling for farm manager – No objections
14/03841/TREECA – St Michaels & All Angels – tree works – Objections to be submitted and also
the Clerk to contact the PCC to see if they have been consulted and also the Tree Officer at NCC to see if they have any comments.

14/03751/FUL – Land NW of 6 Prospect Close – Extension to existing double garage to form 2 bedroomed single storey cottage – on circulation

103 Environment:
   a) Sewage Outfall in Coquet Vale – No issues to report.
   b) Property Terrier and Risk Assessment – No issues
   c) Condition of Properties – Cllr Clark asked again what the situation was with regard to Charlie Dicks seat as part of it has been removed but part of it is lying beside the seat. Cllr Hood to investigate.

104 Requested Agenda Items:
   • **Budget** – The budget was discussed and the Parish Council agreed to the proposals and the setting of the 2014/15 Precept at £16,000.
   • **Welcome Booklet** – Councillors have forwarded amendments to the booklet and the Clerk is just waiting for any additions following a request in The Bridge for businesses who wish to be included. This should be finalised early January and Clerk to liaise with Cllr Walton re printing.
   • **Felton and Thirston Youth Club** – Following a second letter to the Charity Commission they eventually responded to state they cannot take up the complaint and the Parish Council has to make a complaint to the Charity direct. The Clerk responded to state this had not actually got the Parish Council anywhere and that Charity has not been forthcoming or helpful and the Trustees had refused to meet with the Parish Council hence the complaint to the Charity Commission. To date no response has been received to this email. Clerk to contact Estate Agents for an update.
   • **Electricity Contract** – The Clerk received quotes for the electricity supply which comes up for renewal in January 2015. It was agreed to sign up to a four year contract with Scottish and Southern Energy via Business Juice which was the most cost effective quote.
   • **Defibrillator** – The joint application for a defibrillator has been successful and training for this will take place in Felton Village Hall on Thursday 11 December. The Clerk cannot attend this training and tried to get the date changed however this was not possible. The Village Hall has been informed of the need to liaise with the electrician for installation and asked that members of the Committee attend the training. Notices of the training to be put around the villages.

105 Correspondence
   • NCC Local Plan Core Strategy consultation is from 12 December to 11 February. A number of drop in sessions have been arranged around the County and the Clerk has circulated these details to all Councillors.
   • NCC – Schedule of Town and Parish Council meetings. Rural areas will have meetings in May and November however dates and venues yet to be confirmed.
   • NCC – Winter Services leaflets, Policy and Information document, locations of grit bins and advice on grit bin purchase.
   • NCC – Notification of removal of weekly pdf planning lists with immediate effect. The Clerk did state that this has been discussed at the Parish Council Forum with Barry Rowland and his team and they were looking not to implement this so this needs to be investigated further.
   • NCC – Proposed Budget – to be discussed at Area Meetings next week. Details of times and dates have been circulated to Councillors.
   • Citizens Advice – Donation Request – it was agreed to donate £25.00
   • Northumberland Theatre Company – Donation Request – No donation to be made.
   • For Circulation – City and County, War Memorial bulletin, CPRE newsletter, Field Work, Countryside Voice, Archaeology in Northumberland.
106 Finance
(a) Financial Summary was reviewed – No questions were raised.

Summary of accounts - Current account £4,421.60, Deposit accounts £33,666.12 High Interest Account £20,000

(b) Payments - The following list was put before members and was approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payments for approval:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>000703 L Hamlin</td>
<td>390.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>000704 P Brown (incl War Memorial)</td>
<td>279.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>000705 Felton Village Hall – 4 Invoices</td>
<td>72.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>000706 John Hood Landscapes</td>
<td>515.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>000707 Royal Oak Landscapes (£240 Cemetery, £1,620 Rec Field)</td>
<td>1,860.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>000708 Citizens Advice Bureau</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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(c) Receipts

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income Received</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HMRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Interest from High Interest Account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Coquet Cluster</td>
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(d) Internet Banking - Paperwork is being progressed for this by the relevant signatories and should be completed by the new year.

107 Urgent Items
- Clerk to speak to NCC re Recreation Lane remedial repairs to the tarmac surface to seek their advice.

108 Items for next agenda
None

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 2 February 2015 at 7pm in Felton Village Hall