

WHALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 September 2017

in The Village Hall, Whalton

Present:

Councillors Mrs V Cassell, W Grix, Mrs S Richardson (Chairman in the chair), Mrs J Rushmer and S Trobe

Also present:

SE Rickitt – Clerk.

Two Members of the Public – who left after the discussion regarding The Beresford Arms

NB: In these minutes NCC means Northumberland County Council

1: Public Participation

- 1.1 A parishioner addressed the Council regarding the closure of The Beresford Arms, supported by the second parishioner.
- 1.2 The points made by the parishioners included
 - The turnover in tenants, ten in the previous ten years
 - Large rent increases after 12 months
 - Over 350 parishioners and others had signed a petition against the permanent closure
 - An application to list The Beresford Arms had been lodged with NCC
 - As a temporary measure, a group of residents were seeking to use the Village Hall as a not for profit social club and negotiations were underway with the Village Hall Committee
- 1.3 In debate, Councillors agreed to express their distress at the closure of The Beresford Arms and to advise NCC of this. **Action SER**
- 1.4 In the light of the negotiations between the Village Hall Committee and the organisers of the Social Club, the Council decided to take a neutral stance. Councillors Grix and Trobe declared interests as members of the Hall Committee.
- 1.5 The parishioners were advised that the clerk would be preparing a notice seeking volunteers for potential co-option to the Parish Council to fill the current vacancy. **Action SER**

2: Apologies for absence and grants of dispensations

2.1 Apologies were noted from County Councillor Mrs E Armstrong

3: Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2017

The minutes of the previous Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman with the correction of the following items

- Para. 1.1 at the end delete "Road" and insert "and Meldon Roads"
- Para 6.2 delete "Ogle" and insert "Shilvington"

4: Any matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

4.1 The clerk will chase up Northern Powergrid regarding the inspection the poles in the village. **Action SER**

4.2 Councillor Mrs Rushmer had requested that the Council give further thought to the letter regarding the footpath at Kiplaw Farm. The clerk reported that his research on-line did not reveal a formal public right of way. Councillors queried this as they believed there was a public right of way to the first corner and then to Riplington. Councillor Mrs Richardson offered to see if she retained any papers from circa 1999/2000 to pass to the clerk so that further research could be carried out. **Action SueR & SER**

4.3 Depending on the outcome of that research, the clerk will draft a reply and will circulate this amongst Councillors before dispatch. **Action SER**

5: Police and County Council reports

No reports were to hand.

6: Planning

6.1 The Council considered application 17/03012/VARYCO – *Land north of East Low House – amended building position* and raised no issues although noting that non-current photographs had been used

6.2 The Council were advised of the Conservation Officer's report on application 17/02148/FUL (19 houses south of Manor Close) and were pleased to see a robust recommendation for refusal. *For ease of reference, the report is available at*

https://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications/files/F360434A31FC81EA1F272A521035CC76/pdf/17_02148_FUL-CONSULTEE_COMMENT_SUBMITTED_ONLINE-916771.pdf

6.3 The clerk was asked to chase up the Article 4 leaflet from NCC. **Action SER**

7: Traffic and Highway Issues

7.1 Councillor Mrs Cassell reported the highway signs in Ogle were very dirty and she will ask the Parish Caretaker to clean them. **Action VC**

7.2 The Council agreed to repeat its 2016 LTPP bids for 2018/2019, namely

Item 1

The extension of the speed limits on Meldon Road and at the eastern end of Whalton, including Shilvington Road (given the new development at Manor House Dairy

Item 2

The introduction of speed reduction measures in Whalton and Ogle, such to the actual measures being agreed with the Parish Council. The Council believes that these could include chevrons and other appropriate forms of road marking

Item 3

The provision of further passing places on the Shilvington Road

7.3 The clerk will investigate the cost of new variable speed indicator signs. **Action SER**

8: Environmental Issues and Parish Caretaker

It was agreed to remind the Parish Caretaker to repair the chains on the village green, to look at the well by the school and also **to clean the phone box, check it is waterproof and secure on its foundations and to inform the council of any other issues.** **Action SueR**

10: Possible acquisition of a defibrillator

The school has acquired a defibrillator which Councillors understand is to be fitted externally, the acquisition of one for the centre of the village is therefore on hold.

11: Financial Matters

11.1 The Council noted the current accounts for 2017/2018 (A copy is attached to the signed minutes).

11.2 The Council approved the following payments, all to be made via BACS

- Gavin Christie – Parish Caretaker - £122.00
- BDO LLP – External Audit - £120.00
- HMRC- PAYE Q2 - £84.00

11.3 The Council did not consider any applications for grants

11.4 The clerk reported the successful conclusion of the external audit of the 2016/2017 accounts. The Council formally adopted the 2016/2017 accounts.

11.5 The Council reappointed Malcolm Wilkinson as the internal auditor.

12: The Village Show

Councillor Trobe, as the Show Chairman, was able to report another successful show despite adverse weather conditions. All Councillors reported positive feedback and thanked Councillor Trobe for his work.

13: Correspondence

The clerk reported on various items of correspondence.

15: Any other business

None

14: Time and date of next scheduled meetings

It was agreed to merge the November and December meetings with the calendar now being

- Tuesday 17 October 2017 – subject to sufficient business
- **Tuesday 28 November 2017**
- Tuesday 16 January 2018
- Tuesday 20 February 2018
- Tuesday 20 March 2018
- Tuesday 17 April 2018
- Tuesday 15 May 2018 – This will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting. The Council will start on the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

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Date