

DRAFT MINUTES OF KNARSDALE WITH KIRKHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.00P.M.

Present: Cllrs M Mennie (Chair), J Grieves ,T Moore, JJ Raine, J Reed, W Watson & I Hutchinson (NCC).

Apologies: Cllr S Makepeace (Vice Chair).

1. Public Question –Must be submitted in writing prior to Parish Council meetings to allow for a detailed and accurate response. None received.

2. Update – Heather Palmer, South Tyne Railway

Heather explained the planned work to bring the Railway down to Slaggyford Station is months behind time. The Society has had to engage new architects, who drew up new plans to facilitate reduced costs, then tenders were sought for the work. Chubby Construction were awarded the track bed work which they are busy with.

Of the remaining 12 miles of track bed STR have secured/leased 9 miles, with negotiations ongoing for the remain miles. The STR own and are responsible for all the bridges along the line.

The Peninne Way/Chapel Lonnen: Northumberland County Council are cutting down the overhanging trees and cleaning out ditches and the STR laying a sub base which will be suitable for walkers, cyclist and 4 x 4 vehicles used by farmers for access to their land. The SRT are laying the base out of courtesy and as a good will gesture, they will not be responsible for any future maintenance.

Widening of the road/utilising village green: STR have been working with NCC for the last 4 years and it think this has now been resolved. This was questioned by the Parish Council and copies of documentation to be forwarded to STR from the Clerk.

Cark Park drainage/surface water – plans have changed and instead of hard standing there will be gravel etc and this will allow for soak away.

There were various other points raised and discussed (toilet block/water supply/sewerage drains/footpath/gated level crossing).

Heather finished by saying that if anyone had and queries or wished to raise anything then please contact her direct – it was good if issues/concerns could be aired and addressed quickly for everybody, a good working partnership would be beneficial for all concerned.

M Mennie thanked Heather for attending and hoped that she would keep in touch with Parish Council.

3. Minutes of meeting held 11th July 2016 were agreed and signed.

4. Declaration of Interest:: Cllrs Moore, Reed & Watson Planning Application 16/02796/FUL Excavation and construction of pond - Land North West of Knarsdale Hall.

5. Matters Arising:

Highway Issues: Knarr bridge (road undermined), the cattle grid has been flushed out, cutting back of trees etc. – work still to be carried out.

Old School: Clerk contacted Mr J Webster, O’Neil Richards Law Firm, he is happy to contact the Charity Commissioner to try and sort out this matter and will be back in touch.

The Hearse House: Nothing further to report.

Enclosure Awards: Copy of Kirkhaugh documents still to be obtained from Woodhorn. Cllr Hutchinson to e-mail copy of documents he has been able to obtain to Cllr Raine and the Clerk.

South Tyne Trail: Re-instatement works by the Water Board is in progress then the barrier will be re-instated to stop access for vehicle traffic.

Rents Paid to Church: Cllr Mennie to speak/meet with A Sharp to ascertain whether or not there is some written documentation as where there these payments go to.

Play Park/Village Green: Council still looking into possible funding to purchase new play equipment. The Parish Council received a petition from some residents in respect of neglect of certain areas of the village green not being maintained in an appropriate manner, this was discussed and the Parish

Council agreed for the Clerk to send the following response, also for inclusion in the Local News:

1. Maintenance of village green (cutting/strimming): The Parish Council have no legal obligation; it was always for grazing, cut two times a year, never by Northumberland County Council. Latterly it is cut between 6-8 times a year, which is a considerable part of the precept when other areas are not being maintained at this standard within the parish (Ayle, Kirkhaugh, Knarsdale & Slaggyford).
There are some areas of the village green which are being maintained on a voluntary basis by community spirited individuals which is much appreciated.
2. If the Parish Council were to revert to the standard of maintenance carried out by Northumberland County Council no cutting would take place as they have never maintained the village green.

Also other residents have expressed that they would prefer to see more uncut areas to allow wild vegetation to attract insects and wildlife as more in keeping with AONB guidelines.
3. Cundy: There is a grill/grate, access is required for regular maintenance to prevent flooding. The Parish Council will erect signage 'caution deep hole'.
4. Public footpath across the area (obscured): Usage and footfall over public rights of way keep the paths clear, public rights of way are signposted – there is no requirement to cut vegetation back.
5. Children's play area: In the process of being demolished.

6. Parish Council's Projects:

Parish In Bloom Competition: Due to other commitments it was not possible for the gardens to be judged as in previous years. After discussion it was proposed by M Mennie, seconded by T Moore and agreed by all the Cllrs. to award the Parish In Bloom Cup Merrit Hall. When the Northumbria In Bloom judges visited in July they were very impressed with the overall impact and colourful display, not only the tending of the garden, which consisted of vegetable, lawn, flowers but also the road side.

7. Planning Applications:

16/01612?FUL Proposed track - Side House, Slaggyford, Brampton CA8 7PE - **NCC Granted permission.**

16/02796/FUL Excavation and construction of pond - Land North West of Knarsdale Hall, Slaggyford, Brampton. Cllrs Moore, Reed & Watson declared an interest - Cllrs Grieves, Mennie & Raine commented on the application - there are **no objections.**

8. Financial:

Monies: £296.39 + £3,898.97 = £4,195.36 LESS: Grass Cutting (Aug & Sept) £270, Community Action Northumberland £25, Clerk's 6 mth Salary + expenses £346.22, HMRC £75.00 = £3,479.14.

2015/16 Audit Report completed - no matters raised.

9. Transparency, Open-ness & Accountability:

Nothing further to report.

10. West Area Committee:

Wark Town Hall at 6.00p.m. on 13/9.

11. Correspondence:

Petition received from parishioners – see Item 5.

Mail Collections & Network Support – removal of old post box build into bus shelter at Burnstones.

NCC West Area Committee – Wark Town Hall – Tuesday 13/9 at 6.00p.m.

NCC Third Annual Town & Parish Council Conference – 13/10 at County Hall Morpeth 2-4 Or 6-8.

NCC Consultation The enforcement of unauthorised obstruction on the highway.

NCC Alternative Household Waste Recovery Centre Opening Arrangements - Proposal Approved and flyers of new opening times distributed.

NCC Public Spaces Protection Order for the Control of Dogs

Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner - Domestic & Sexual Violence & Abuse Poster
NHS Joining Up Care in Northumberland update booklet

12. Any Other Business:

Eals Signpost: It was agreed to try and restore the 'old signpost' within the Parish, NCC would probably remove the replace with a new style signpost.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 14th November 2016 at 7.30p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.40p.m.