

DRAFT MINUTES OF KNARSDALE WITH KIRKHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 11TH MAY 2015 AT 7.00p.m. IN KNARESDALE COMMUNITY HALL

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

Apologies: None

1. Kris Westerby, West Area Highways Manager, NCC

There was a frank and open discussion with Kris Westerby, Highways Northumberland County Council, who had brought along maps and highlighted the areas where issues /concerns were raised:

Road/ditches – Slate House to Aullis Hill

White lines – been reported and nothing done

Kirkhaugh drainage (A686)

Due to start a program to surface dress (including all white lining work) June 2015.

Routine maintenance not happening.

Camber of road, ditches full and water standing on road – dangerous (skidding) especially in cold weather.

Glendue – has a new crash barrier but chevrons missing on other side – new drain – winter very bad (icy).

Glendue to Lambley – road worn – water sitting on road (A689) a primary road

Gritting / snow clearing

List of grit heaps/bins has been obtained and these will be action appropriately next year.

Cumbria roads clear, Northumberland not why? Lack of resources, equipment, drivers hours etc. Outside contractors not utilised because of cost cuttings. The teams cover a wide area and normally work 3 shifts.

Normally salting/gritting is carried out morning and late afternoon (depending on forecasts).

NCC is to meet shortly with CCC to discuss working together but again costs will be a major factor.

Why just single track clearing – route devised for maximum coverage. Why after a week or more the road is still not opened up – this causes further damage to the roadsides/ditches etc.

Parish Council asked what was NCC's policy. Kris Westerby informed the Council that the priority was the main roads first, then primary roads but teams may be diverted from routes/jobs by the police or emergency services at any time. The Council were also informed that NCC have no legal obligations to do any snow clearing or gritting.

Cutting back trees, reported but nothing done, example south of caravan site, required traffic control so was not done – now destroying walls.

Potholes – Williamstone, massive potholes. Council informed potholes need to be 40mm x 300mm before they are deemed to require attention.

Ditches – Tows Bank – very dangerous in wintery conditions. Ditch passed Heatherlea still needs attention (reported in September).

Accident black spot (Thornhope) telephone cabinet on bend, road been dug out and repaired/rough out of kilter and causing accidents – not due to speeding.

In the past Highways may have carried out work which should have been the Landowner's responsibility and this will not happen now. If the work has not been done and NCC does the work then the landowner will be invoiced, i.e. blocked drains causing water on road.

The Clerk to send Kris Westerby copies of the maps showing ditches and gullies in the parish.

2. Chair & Vice Chair:

Chair: M Mennie - proposed by S Makepeace, seconded by J Grieves, there were no other nominations.

Vice Chair: S Makepeace – proposed by T Moore, seconded by J Grieves, there were no other nominations.

3. Minutes of meeting held 9 March 2015 were agreed and signed.

4. Declaration of Interest: None.

5. Matters Arising:

Highway Issues: Discussion with Kris Westerby as per Item 1.

Litter on Road Verges: Initial discussions with NCC have confirmed they would not be able to assist with traffic calming. There may be the possibility of equipment (gloves/grabbers etc), I Hutchinson to enquire.

Old School: NCC have been supplied with the wrong information which has triggered sending Council Tax statements for the last three years to the Parish Council as owners of the property. On checking if the transfer had gone through Clerk was informed that no transfer has been organised, or authorised, as more legal information is still being sourced by Assert Management, South Tyneside Council. In the meantime it has been established that only the Mineral Rights for the plot of land are registered with Featherstone Estate.

Static Litter (Wheelie) Bin beside Bottle Bank: NCC have agreed to provide a basic combination bike lock and a 2nd hand wheelie bin, which can be secured to the fence, although far from ideal it will be done at no cost to the Parish. However should anything go missing or be damaged then any replacement would be charged to the Parish. The situation will be reviewed later, if there are any problems it will be removed.

The Hearse House: Essential repairs have been carried out. Cllr Mennie has checked through back records and it appears that the responsibility was with the Parish Council. Once all the information has been collated and clarified then the plot of land needs to be registered with the Land Registry.

Enclosure Awards: Woodhorn has confirmed that the enclosure awards for Knaresdale are held there, which forms part of the Knaresdale St Jude parish chest. These were deposited in 1979 and would have been brought in following the 1978 Parochial Registers And Records Measure legislation coming into being. In the past all such documents would be held by the Church. If the Parish wished to withdraw them then there would be a cost for the storage from 1979 to present day. The question of where they would be housed in the parish, the safety/fire aspects and would it not be more sensible to leave them where they are, there is copies available, people can visit Woodhorn and look at the documents. The documents have been at Woodhorn for the past 36 years and it makes more sense to leave them there.

Dog Fouling: Cllr Hutchinson to contact NCC again for a supply of notices and request the Dog Warden visit the area but unless specific details, times etc. are supplied to the Warden this could prove pointless.

Chapel Lonning/Pennine Way: - Letter received from a parishioner following up from their contact with NCC, re overgrown bushes, NCC's response to queries. The letter was discussed and the Clerk was requested to reply ' *as a farmer using a vehicle to access his fields it would be beneficial for the person to cut back the bushes etc. themselves, the NCC maintain the footpath for foot access only. As an example, the responsibility for cutting back the trees/bushes on roadsides in some cases is now the adjacent landowners/farmers. The Parish Council are aware that there are other people with rights to vehicular access. There are plans for broadband cables to be brought down the Lonning and this may help to alleviate the issue. The Parish Council understanding is that NCC will be monitoring the situation and deal with the issues as and when they arise but do not wish to go into anything at the moment. Parish Council agreed not to contact the Land Registry*'.

6. Parish Council's Projects:

Notice Boards: Cllr Mennie to chase up quotes to carry out maintenance work on the notice boards beside the Community Hall.

Parish In Bloom Competition: Clerk to pass Judge's contact details to Cllr Makepeace who will arrange for the judging to take place end of July.

7. Planning Applications:

14/04256/FUL Proposed demolition of derelict lean to shed and replace with modern steel portal frame agricultural shed. – Aulis Hill, U7019 Knarsdale Junction to Hanging Shaw, Slaggyford CA8 7NP – NCC Granted Permission

14/04227/FUL Change of use of redundant agricultural building to residential use (single dwelling – High Luzley, Slaggyford CA8 7NW – NCC Granted Permission

14/02195/FUL Proposed development of Side House. Works to include demolition of dilapidated outbuilding to allow for new general purpose shed. New extension to rear of dwelling to form utility room and dormer to allow creation of first floor bathroom. Refurbishment of existing kennels and outbuilding to modern kennels and storage facilities. – Side House, Slaggyford CA8 7PE - NCC Granted Permission

14/03306/FUL: Provision of a car park to serve Slaggyford Station, changed from an agricultural field, with associated road improvements. No further update available.

8. Financial:

Monies: £296.14 + £2,065.98 = £2,362.12 PLUS £2,047.50 (Precept) = £4,409.62

LESS: Community Hall Payment £175.00, GR Sloan £270.00, AON Insurance £517.28, NALC £74.05
= £3,373.29

Risk Assessments: Financial & Management Risk Assessment document – no amendments – next review May, or earlier if necessary. Fidelity Guarantee it was agreed cover for £2,000 was adequate as cheques require 3 signatures Clerk's plus two cllrs and that any additional cost on insurance is disproportionate to the risk involved.

Freedom of Information Policy was reviewed and updated as necessary.

2014/15 Audit Report:– Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2015 and statement of assurance completed and signed as appropriate, accounts had been verified by Internal Auditor, all relevant paperwork will be displayed. Cllrs had previously reviewed internal audit procedure and the present Internal Auditor to be asked to continue for another year. The appointed independent Internal Audit, is completely unbiased and competent to carry out the audit. As part of the audit they had full access to all documentation, including BDO's briefing notes and discussion with Parish Clerk.

9. Transparency, Open-ness & Accountability:

Clerk gave details of issues as discussed at NALC Roadshow. All Parish Councils to have a website, which should have been up and running for 1/4/2015. Clerk to seek more information and keep Cllrs informed on the progress and review documents as needed.

10. West Area Committee:

Nothing to report.

11. Correspondence:

NCC Consultation – Street Trading Policy

Cumbria County Council – consultation – draft Cumbria Minerals & Waste Local Plan 2014-2029

Grace – Northumberland Rape Crisis advertising leaflets

Rural Housing documents

Community Action Northumberland

Tynedale Hospice at Home Spring Newslink

12. Any Other Business:

Broadband: An update on the Cyber Moor system was discussed.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13th July 2015 at 7.00p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.40p.m.