

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WHITTON AND TOSSON

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on the 3rd September 2019 at 6pm at the Parish Rooms, Rothbury

Present: Hilary Dunn (Chair), Alan Winlow (Vice Chair), Peter Henry (Councillor), Fran Tait (Councillor), Val Burwood (Councillor), Sarah Winlow (Clerk) and Tom Burwood (Web Master)

Also present: Alan Tait, Alex MacLennan (Forest England), Chris Madine (Forest England)

1. APOLOGIES for absence: There were no apologies for absence

2. MINUTES of the meeting held on the 18th of June 2019 were considered. FT proposed that the minute was a true record of the meeting and this was seconded by AW. The minute was signed by the Chair.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

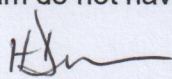
i. Highways and Footways: AW circulated the Highways and Footpaths report for NCC Highways and Technical Maintenance. *A copy of the Highways and Footpaths report can be found on the [WTPC website](#).* The report notes poor condition of the road surfaces in Tosson and highlights they are need of Highway's urgent attention. There was discussion about cleaning out of grips that drain the roads especially given problems experienced with flooding of roads at Carterside, to the east of Newtown and Tosson Mill in August. FT raised problem with drains at Tosson Mill being completely blocked with road grit that must have come from recent road repairs. **AW to arrange a meeting with Graham Bucknall to discuss need for regular programme of maintenance for road grips. FT expressed interest in attending.**

The request for priorities for the Local Transport Plan 2020/2021 has been received. All agreed that the two priorities that were not included in the LTP 2019/2020 should be resubmitted for next year's plan: i.e. (1) road from Tosson Glebe Farm to beyond Keeper's Cottage and (2) the road approaching Little Tosson from the east. The third priority is road signage and passing places for Silverton Lane to ensure its safe and efficient use at all times. This issue is pressing given increased use of this route when the Cow Haugh / Cemetery Brae road is closed.

SW to forward three priorities to Highways by deadline for 4th October.

4. MATTERS ARISING

i. Forest England Car Park at Simonside: AW has continued to monitor the rubbish left by users of the FE car park at Simonside and now has 9 months of data. The number of plastic dog waste bags is appalling. He has met with Alex MacLennan (FE Public Affairs Manager) and Cllr Bridgett at the site to discuss the problem and extended an invitation to AMcL and Chris Madine (FE Forester whose beat includes Simonside Forest) to the PC meeting. AMcL thanked AW for his help in clearing the waste and for the parish's interest in solving this problem. He was clear that introducing bins, particularly dog waste bins, would not solve the problem and outlined that Forest England's policy, in line with other organisations that promote responsible public access to the countryside, is for users to take their rubbish home. Due to wider budgetary pressures FE have reduced numbers of staff and Chris Madine's team do not have the resources to clear rubbish / empty bins from


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Simonside car park. AMcL stated FE would be supportive of any local parish councils and County Council initiatives to raise awareness of responsible dog ownership and how to deal with dog waste. There was discussion about whether it was appropriate to ask dog owners to take dog waste home with them rather than provide a bin for this purpose. AMcL explained that FE policy in woods such as Simonside was for 'Stick and Flick' to ensure dog waste disintegrated naturally in the undergrowth, away from the path. 'Stick and Flick' would obviously not be appropriate in the car park or picnic areas but on the woodland trails it was appropriate to flick the waste into the undergrowth. FT suggested an article in Over The Bridges could raise awareness and VB suggested a wider campaign timed to coincide with the publication of the article would be effective.

FT, AW and VB to co-ordinate an OTB article and possibly a wider campaign with support of Forest England

AW raised the issue of recreational fires and BBQs at Simonside Forest of which he has seen three examples in the car park recently. AMcL said he would check the signage at the car park.

As part of the ongoing 100 Years of Forestry celebrations, AMcL stated Forest England are to plant a tree in Rothbury to commemorate Jonathan Farris, the former beat Forester.

ii. Update from the Joint Burial Committee: HD did not attend the last JBC meeting however gave an update from the draft minute. Planned works at the cemetery comprise boundary improvements and tree surgery. There are plans to create a memorial wall for plaques for those who have been cremated.

iii. Flooding Contingency: August saw heavy rainfall and flash floods that threatened properties and severely impacted road users in the parish. It was agreed that more sandbags should be available in case of such an emergency in future. Martin Snaith has a small supply at Ryehill for use by parishioners however this may not be widely known. It was agreed that the stock of sandbags should be increased.
SW to contact Cllr Bridgett for contact details for ordering more sandbags for the parish.

iv. Clerk to stand down at end of year: Due to pressures of work and family, the clerk is to stand down at the end of 2019.
SW to draft job advert for Over the Bridges November edition.

5. FINANCE

i. Balance of accounts: Community Account **£4514.76** and Savers Account **£1403.58**.

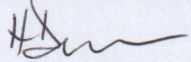
ii. 2nd payment to Joint Burial Committee £1766.39 Approved

iii. Hire of meeting room £12: Approved

iv. Clerk's honorarium £60: Approved

v. Clerk's expenses 12 2nd class stamps £7.32: Approved

vi. Replacement of Silverton Lane Bench £221.57: VB and Tom Burwood will kindly donate a bench to replace the seat. AW, PH and Alan Tait will provide


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additional materials (concrete, rubble) and labour. The bench will therefore be replaced without recourse to parish funds. Kevin Dawson (resident of Jubilee Crescent) has kindly offered to maintain the bench.

TB to respond to Kevin Dawson to take up this offer.

vii. Request for donation – Northumberland Age UK: Welfare Benefits Service:
Declined

6. PLANNING

i. 19/01965/FUL Extension to machine storage store, land at Whitton Dene Farm: Letter of support submitted 22nd July 2019

ii. 19/01344/VARYCO Coquetdale Caravan Park – alterations to allow reorganisation of site boundary and reduction in density of pitches. An objection was submitted on 25th July on the grounds of the harm to Sharps Folly (Grade II* Listed Building) and the Whitton Conservation Area. AW, VB and John Monaghan (resident of Whitton) met with NCC planners in mid-August to discuss the objection. NCC stated they would seek legal advice in regard to the issues raised by the objection. No further response has been heard from planning department and the application has yet to be determined.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

i. Letter from NCCG re the future of Rothbury Community Hospital: FT requested SW respond to this letter stating that the parish council would like both to receive a summary of the past discussion and ongoing notes of the new engagement group set up by the CCG, and to attend a separate briefing session for parish councils.

ii. Information for changes to Environment Agency Water Resource Licensing: HD considered parish businesses would already have this change in hand.

iii. Update from Hospice Care Northumberland: noted

iv. Information about waste and recycling from NCC: noted

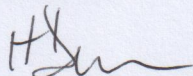
v. Deposit of parish council records to Northumberland Archives: SW to action deposition of archives

vi. Notification of 6th Annual Town and Parish Council Conference – 3rd October: FT expressed in attending

vii. Brain Tumour Research - Walk of Hope - North East Event – 28th September: noted

viii. Query from A Kell re Joint Burial Committee minutes: Legal advice has been sought as to whether the parish council are required to post the minutes of the Joint Burial Committee upon the Whitton and Tosson Parish Council website.

ix: Notification of The Healthwatch Northumberland Conference – 16th October: noted



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x. Email from Carers Northumberland re services and support: noted

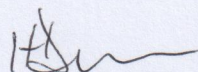
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

There was no additional business.

Date of next meeting: 26th of November, 2019.

All meetings to be held at the Parish Hall, Rothbury.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.



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