

## **MILFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

THE MEETING of MILFIELD PARISH COUNCIL was held on FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2019 at 7.30PM in THE READING ROOM, MILFIELD.

*NB: NCC means Northumberland County Council*

### **Present:**

- Parish Councillors Jean Adamson, Allan Colman, David Hughes (Chairman in the Chair) and Gillian Kozakiewicz
- Seven members of the public
- Stephen Rickitt – Parish Council Clerk

### **1: Apologies for absence**

- Parish Councillor John Fairburn
- County Councillor Anthony Murray
- PC Darren Moffat

### **2: Declaration of interests, grant of any dispensations and co-option**

The meeting was reminded of the dispensations given to allow Councillors to discuss the former school site and The Reading Room.

The Council agreed to extend Cllr Fairburn's leave of absence until the May 2021 elections.

### **3: Public Questions**

There were no public questions at this point although the Chairman did allow questions and comments during the meeting.

### **4: Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 September 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **5: Matters Arising from the Minutes (unless noted separately on the agenda)**

None

### **6: Speed Indicator Signs**

The work to stop water ingress remains to be carried out. **Action DH**

## 7: Police & Highway Issues

### 7.1 PC Moffat was unable to attend but had sent the following report

3 recorded crimes since 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

All three crimes are minor public order offences. Police have spoken to the parties involved, and police inquiries are now concluded.

We ask the public to continue to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

### 7.2 Several highway issues were raised

A: The Clerk had obtained the figures for vehicles caught by the camera van which are as follows

Date	From	To	Speed Offences
07/02/2019	13:45	15:45	7
01/03/2019	11:40	14:10	35
31/03/2019	11:45	14:45	34
11/04/2019	11:40	14:20	38
29/04/2019	14:00	16:30	10
12/05/2019	11:50	14:20	27
04/06/2019	08:30	11:00	19
25/06/2019	11:30	14:00	22
08/07/2019	15:25	18:10	8
16/07/2019	15:50	18:00	5
04/08/2019	11:40	14:30	40
28/08/2019	15:20	18:00	10
19/09/2019	15:25	18:00	17

B: Parishioners advised that a speed survey had been conducted in the village within the last few weeks and the clerk was asked to obtain the data

when reminding NCC of the Council's request for a meeting of the northern parishes on the A697. **Action SER**

C: Councillors and Parishioners noted the increasing use of average speed cameras on A-Roads throughout the UK, including on the A69 in Northumberland. This is an issue which the Council will continue to raise with NCC.

## **8: Environmental Issues**

8.1 The Chairman and clerk reported their meeting with a representative of Advance Northumberland where positive steps had been taken to progress a possible community asset transfer of the garages to the Parish Council. The Chairman and clerk were authorised to progress both potential transfers. **Action DH & SER**

8.2 There was considerable discussion about the disruption being caused to Wheatriggs residents by the building operations on the former first school site. The clerk reported a conversation with an NCC Director shortly before the meeting and it was agreed to write to NCC making the following points

- The school bus will no longer be able to collect children from the estate as its ability to drive through the estate was curtailed by inconsiderately parked contractors' vehicles. The effect is that children will have to be collected and dropped off on the A697
- The Council accepts that some of the issues are not caused by the developers, but by the utilities and the very poor ground conditions. The Parish Council wondered if cones could be supplied to deter inconsiderate parking.
- A parishioner was concerned that a taxi to collect their child was unable to get to the house which was very undesirable for their special circumstances.

8.3 The Chairman had been emailed by the developers as follows [matters unrelated to the site have been omitted]

Firstly I must thank the Parish Council and the villagers of Milfield for their patience and at times their support, especially during the infrastructure stage of the site in very challenging weather conditions.

We will continue to do our utmost to minimise the disruption to our neighbours at all times.

Thank you for your offer of being able to inform the village of any information regarding the works on site through the newsletter.

If possible, please can you include that the drainage works to the new site entrance will start week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> November and will be complete for Christmas. (Christmas shut down is 20<sup>th</sup> December for the roads contractors.) This will involve excavating in the road at the junction causing inconvenience on that corner. I have informed the coach driver of the situation and have asked that the works start and finish when possible before and after the school runs, however depending on the importance of the works it may not be possible to do that every day and the coach driver may have to collect the children from a different pick up point nearby.

We will also do a letter drop next week with information for the residents.

I am aware that the bin collection day is early on a Monday, so again we will avoid the start of the works until the bins have been collected.

I am still awaiting confirmation from my technical department as to a date for the electric mains diversion works which I think will start in the new year. The statutory authorities tend to be a law unto themselves as to when and how they carry out their works. I will revert back to you when I have more information.

8.4 Parishioners remain concerned about the extra capacity need for the water supply and electricity to the development. The clerk will write to the utility companies to seek assurances. **Action SER**

8.5 The Chairman reported that the play equipment needs some minor repairs, but he was concerned that the wooden posts may be approaching the end of their life. It was agreed that a future village workday should be held to lift and clean the rubber matting and carry out other work. It was agreed that the broken bench should be removed. **Action DH to organise.**

8.6 Parishioners had kindly provided bulbs for the planters, for which the community was very grateful. It is anticipated that some parishioners may sow wildflower seed on areas of verge which are not mown by NCC.

## **9: Finance and Audit**

9.1 The current accounts for 2019/2020 were noted – a copy is attached to the signed minutes.

9.2 The following payments were authorised

- David Hughes – plants for the planters - £29.90
- HMRC – PAYE Q3 - £39.00

9.3 The Council considered a report on the Budget and Precept – a copy is attached to the signed minutes. The following budget was agreed for 2020/2021

<b>Budget Head and Number</b>	<b>Budget for 2020/2021</b>
Clerks Salary & PAYE [1]	980.00
Misc. Expense & Fees [2]	300.00
Insurance [3]	600.00
Legal /Audit /Subscriptions [4]	200.00
S137 Support Payments & Wreaths [5]	50.00
Hall Hire [6]	50.00
Environment Work [7]	500.00
Contingency [8]	0.00
Speed Signs [9]	100.00
Community Engagement [10]	500.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3280.00</b>
Precept	2600.00
Balance from Reserves	(680.00)

9.4 The Council agreed to levy a precept of £2600.00 [Two thousand six hundred pounds] for 2020/2021, the rise of two pounds being due to the expected audit fee payable during 2020.

9.5 The Council noted the large sums currently held in the current account and authorised the Chairman and clerk to open an investment account with CCLA so that at least some interest be earned. **Action DH & SER**

## **10: Planning**

There were no current applications to consider and the Council noted the current Examination into the draft Northumberland Local Plan.

## **11: Public Transport**

Councillors were not aware of any proposed alterations in the current services but are concerned that if services are underused, then they will be lost.

*See also item 8.2 above*

## 12: Community Engagement

Councillors were delighted by the numbers attending the Remembrance Commemorations within the village, especially the number of children. The Council recorded their appreciation to Tony Finch for his organisation, Iain Burn for providing the refreshments and Alyssa Davidson for laying the wreath at The Henge. Jon Darlington, a descendant of two Hunter brothers killed in France during the First World War, laid the wreath at the new memorial. The Council was very grateful to the Taxi Drivers for their wreath.

## 13: The Henge

There was no further news to report on its future.

## 14: Correspondence

The Chairman was delighted to report the receipt of a very poignant work on the soldiers killed in the First World War produced by the Western Front Association. It is available to read by contacting the Chairman.

## 15: Report from the local County Councillor

Councillor Murray had presented his apologies

## 16: Any Other Business

16.1 The Chairman reported that the Gliding Club had contacted him regarding an event they were holding during 2020 and a wish to involve parishioners. It was agreed the Club should be invited to the next meeting on 17 January 2020 where the tugs flying over the village could also be raised. **Action SER**

16.2 The Reading Room would have limited opening for the next few weeks whilst renovation works were carried out.

## 17: Date of Next Meetings

- Friday 17 January 2020
- Friday 20 March 2020
- Friday 15 May 2020 – This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.

[Additional meetings may be called if urgent issues arise]

Confirmed as a true record by the Council on

2020

Signed.....

Chairman

Milfield Parish Council Minutes 15 Nov 2019 Chairman's Initials.....

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