

WOOLER PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council, Held on Monday 24th February 2020 at 7pm at the The Middle School, Wooler

Present: Councillor Angus Murray (Vice-Chair). Councillors: Caroline Cumming, Joyce Robertson, Robert Donkin, Mark Napier, Tom Armstrong, Mark Trotter, Kevan Curry

In Attendance: Kerren Rodgers (Clerk), Ian Smith (Press), Bob Snooks

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Anthony Murray, Cllr Mark Mather, PC Curtis Ritchie, Ruth Armstrong

2. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Cllr Murray read out an email received from Alison Lloyd Harris (WFM) asking to present to the Council. The meeting agreed to invite her to present at the next meeting on Monday 23rd March,

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Mark Napier item 13

4. PRESENTATION – LOCALITY CO-ORDINATOR, Ruth Armstrong – NHS funding REPORT

Apologies received from Ruth Armstrong as bad weather has prevented her attending. This talk will be postponed until the next meeting.

5. LOCAL SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT

Northumbria Police:-

1/ Theft of plant from Brewery Road. Enqs on going.

2/ A male was arrested and charged with firearm offences following an incident in Wooler. He was subsequently remanded in custody until a date later on this month. A swift response resulted in the male being arrested and both weapons that had been in possession of the offender were recovered.

3 and 4/ There has been damage to both the public toilets and a play park sign in the last month. Police are patrolling the areas when possible to try and prevent further incidents and any children seen are being engaged with to try and deter damage also.

5 and 6/ There was a burglary and in an unrelated incident a vehicle was stolen in the same street in the town centre. The persons believed responsible however are suspected of being known to the victims so there is not likely to be further offences committed by the suspects.

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

REVIEW & SIGN

To be signed as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 27/1/20.

Cllr Murray read out an email that had been received from Patrick Sheard concerning the minutes and pointing out that Bob Snooks had incorrectly been reported as representing the GGT. This has now been amended along with the note that there was nothing further to report regarding the Tory Site. The PC apologised for this error.

The Parish Council read through the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 27/1/20 were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

Cllr Curry proposed the minutes and Cllr Donkin seconded them. The Chair signed the minutes.

7. MATTERS ARISING

REVIEW & DISCUSSION

To consider matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council –

- Cllr Napier reported that he had now identified 3 unused grit bins around the Drs surgery and car park area and was in the process of getting the numbers for them with a view to relocating.

- Cllr Napier also reported that the GP's surgery is also happy to gravel the small raised area in the car park.

8. PARISH REPORT

UPDATE & DECISION

- **Bus Station Toilets; Vandalism** - The meeting was informed that sadly the toilets had been vandalised with damage caused to toilet roll holders, soap dispensers and toilet rolls thrown onto the roof of the toilets as well as being strewn around the bus station itself. The Clerk read an email from Judith Davis of NCC regarding the potential CCTV camera installation and also that this had now been escalated to the "Multi Agency Crime and Disorder Agenda" which will then hopefully allow all agencies to put this area on its watch list. Discussion followed regarding whether a more proactive response could be taken, or should the toilets be closed overnight. As travellers, coaches etc. all use these toilets the meeting agreed this should be avoided if possible. The costs of the recent spate of damage is to be calculated.
- **NCC Works** – The meeting was informed that the yellow lines had now been painted on The Peth but that following the meeting with Ruth Bendell of NCC, no further action had yet been taken regarding the COOP camera yet. The WPC is still awaiting the data protection information.
- **Fire Service letter (Meeting at Fire Station)** – Cllr Murray reported on the recent meeting held at the Fire station with Cllr Mather, the PC and himself attending. The meeting was considered to be very productive although a lot of suggestions cannot be actioned as the fire service operate a nationwide recruitment policy which in some instances has been agreed with unions. It was agreed that the 6 min rule could be relaxed in certain circumstances. The WPC agreed to promote the recruitment of retained fire fighters on its website and facebook pages and also to try and encourage local businesses to release staff for F/S duties. Training issues were discussed and previous recruits may be recalled. Cllr Murray was pleased to report that he had been told categorically that the Wooler Fire Station is not going to close.
- **Wildlife Map – Public Rights of Way.** The meeting were shown a Definitive Maps Modification Order which is to be kept alongside the Definitive Map and Statement. The meeting agreed that the acknowledgement of this document should be signed and returned.
- **MIND Thank you letter** – Further to the Carol service fund raising, a letter was read to the meeting from MIND thanking the WPC for their donation. Cllr Armstrong noted that he had been in a meeting with Steph from the Alnwick branch of MIND, who had sent special thanks as ordinarily, all donations get sent to headquarters for national use and the local areas do not see those donations.
- **Wooler Business Forum Meeting** – An email was read out inviting the WPC to attend this meeting on Thursday 27th Feb at 6pm at the Cheviot Centre. Cllrs Trotter, Robertson and Donkin to attend on behalf of the WPC.
- **Glendale Connect** – an email was read out inviting the WPC to attend a meeting of the Glendale Connect Tuesday 10th March at 4pm at the Wooler Warm Hub. Cllr Murray is already attending and Cllrs Curry and Cumming will also attend.
- **Open Public Meeting** – Report Cllr Murray informed the meeting of the items raised at the Open meeting which included The Peth double yellow lines & Ramseys Lane – both items having been addressed. The meeting noted a disappointing attendance from the public.
- **Dog Fouling** – The PC reported that a phone call had been received complaining again about dog fouling. Discussion followed regarding the issue and agreed to cost out fixed signs designed by children to see if this would be more eye catching. Cllr Cumming also informed meeting that despite a parishioner challenging a dog walker, they had refused to pick up their dogs waste.

9. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS

DISCUSSION & DECISION

The Chair reported that a request had been received regarding the above and whether the WPC wanted to apply for a PSPO in or around Wooler. Discussion followed and the meeting agreed that the PC should apply for PSPO for Scotts Park play area/skate park and also Brysons Park play area.

10. WOOLER NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

REPORT & DECISION

Cllr Napier informed meeting of progression of the WNP which has now moved on to NCC and will then be going to external independent examination. The meeting agreed that the notice should be published in the Glendale Live and Parish magazine.

11. BUS STATION EVENTS

DISCUSSION & DECISION

The meeting was informed that the WFM events had been brought up at the meeting with Ruth Bendell of NCC. She had confirmed that NCC had written to the WFM agreeing the dates with the condition as set by WPC of the disabled bays being kept free for use. No further communication had been received by NCC from WFM.

12. WOOLER SPING CLEAN

DISCUSSION & DECISION

An email received from Patrick Sheard GGT was read to the meeting asking if the WPC was to have a separate Spring Clean this year. Cllr Mather had been in communication with Mr Sheard and confirmed that no such arrangements had been made by the WPC but if he (Mr Sheard) wanted to step back from the organisation, then the WPC were happy to organise the event and would welcome the support of the GGT. The date of the Spring Clean to be decided at the next meeting.

13. SCHOOL FARM FIELD SITE

DISCUSSION & DECISION

The meeting was informed that the field had now been ploughed but bad weather had hampered any further works. The PC is to chase the solicitor again regarding the leases.

14. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

REPORT & DECISION

Nothing of note to report

15. SCOTTS PARK/BRYONS PARK

UPDATE & DECISION

Play equipment meeting - The meeting was informed that Cllr Donkin and the PC had met with a supplier of play equipment. The company had been asked to provide a design/quotation for disabled/fully inclusive equipment for Scotts Park and to this end a meeting date of Thursday 5th March at 6.30pm was agreed. Cllrs had also met with Playdale regarding the equipment and they had agreed to replace two swing seats that were perished, and refurbish the goal net but as yet nothing further had been received. Cllr Donkin informed the meeting that the only issue currently on the play park inspections report was the goal mouth. Inspection Renewal – Discussion followed as to whether either the play park inspections or grass cutting should be put out to tender this year. Cllr Napier proposed that this should not happen and Cllr Robertson seconded. The meeting agreed that no further quotes should be received but that Cllr Mather should continue with discussions regarding a reduction for previous “overcharges”. Also, a request to not spray as much will be made in order to comply with the ROSPA report.

16. PLANNING MATTERS

- Application 20/00266/ADE – Advertisement Consent: Notice Board (re-sired) display cabinet and fascia sign. Wooler Evangelical Church, Cheviot Street, Wooler

17. PLANNING DECISIONS

- Application 19/04522/FUL – Porch to side entrance door with glazing to three sides and fibreglass roof – 30 Common Road, Wooler, NE71 6PB – GRANTED
- Hedgerow removal notice – Land East of Livestock Market, Berwick Road, Wooler – GRANTED
- Erection of steel portal framed extension to existing building – Turvelaws Farmhouse, Wooler – GRANTED
- Erection of enclosure to house cooling equipment in relation to application 18/03870/FUL, Fergusons Transport, 30 South Rd, Wooler - GRANTED

18. OUTSIDE BODIES

REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION

- Ruth Bendell – NCC Meeting, Cllr Murray confirmed that this meeting had occurred the previous week with all Cllrs in attendance. Various topics were raised including transport issues, drains, Ramseys Lane, WFM, The Peth, The COOP camera, LTP Programme,, Gritting, Payroll, School Farm Field Site, Brysons Park handover, Footpaths (Berwick Road and A697). Ruth Bendell had also informed the meeting that she will be retiring in May 2020 but a replacement will be recruited.

- RVS Meeting – Cllr Murray reported that a meeting had been held with Rebecca Kennelly and Dave Stott of RVS who admitted mistakes had been made, The Wooler Men in the Shed are now working directly with the National Men in the Shed organisation and an email was read to the meeting confirming the amount of monies being returned to Wooler MIS. The tools previous uplifted by RVS are being returned.

19. COUNCILLOR’S TASKS/QUESTIONS

REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION

- Cllr Armstrong raised the issue of the mud/dirt on the A697 Northbound just past Cottage Farm and the pot hole being masked by it. The PC is to contact Highways to ask them to contact land owner.
- Cllr Curry informed the meeting that one of the photos used by the WPC website, may be subject to a copyright issue and was to be replaced asap.
- Cllr Napier reported on his attendance of the Haugh Head Ford meeting – all funding had been achieved and it was reported that planning should be approved as no real changes were being made. It had been reported that the Ford was to be kept steep to deter vehicles travelling at speed though the ford. The plantation which has suffered damage was to be removed.
- Cllr Robertson reported that the street lamp still was not working, although it appeared to have “changed number” as previously reported as 151 and it was now 171? The PC to again raise this with NCC.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 23rd March at 7pm.

21. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Insurance
- Spring Clean

22. FINANCE - Payments for authorisation – SEE TABLE BELOW

EE – WPC Phone	15.79	Transfer
Glendale Community School – Additional Meeting	19.20	Transfer
Donkin Eng – Sim Card Rental - Cancelled by Cllr Donkin at meeting	12.26	Transfer
Viking – Toner/Paper	56.57	Transfer
Viking – Toilet Rolls	95.95	Transfer
Glendale Community Middle School – Room Rental	19.20	Transfer
NCC – Jan 20 Payroll Costs	954.56	Transfer
BROXAP – Derby slimline wall bin	323.94	Transfer

Two signatories to authorise the above payments – the Parish Council agreed the payments and the Chair signed the invoices to authorise payment by clerk.

Signed:

Signed:

In CAMERA – Archbold Trust Meeting