

WOOLER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council, Held on Monday 27th January 2020 at 7pm at the The Middle School, Wooler

Present: Councillor Mark Mather (Chair). Councillors: Anthony Murray, 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 Angus Murray, PC Curtis Ritchie, Ruth Armstrong

2. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No questions submitted 7 days in advance.

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 illness has prevented her attending. This talk will be postponed until the next meeting.

5. LOCAL SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT

Northumbria Police:-

- 1/ Residential burglary on South Road – Enqs ongoing*
- 2/ Theft of alcohol from the CO-OP. Images were circulated and the offender hasn't yet been identified.*
- 3/ Theft of ladders from an address on Oliver Road. These have been recovered and returned to the owner.*
- 4/ and 5/ Damage and a public order offence in relation to a disorder in Wooler on Sat 11/1/20. A small group of youths were identified and the damage paid for and the youths were spoken to in the presence of their parents.*

Cllr Mather also reported that damage was caused to the defib. Sited at the bus station on the 11th. Thanks were given to Albert Fairnington who replaced the broken glass FOC. A name has been given to the police as suspected of causing the damage.

Tory Trees – Nothing further to report

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

REVIEW & SIGN

To be signed as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 16/12/19. The Parish Council read through the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16/12/19 were agreed to be a true and accurate record.
Cllr Mather proposed the minutes and Cllr Curry 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 –

- None

8. PARISH REPORT

UPDATE & DECISION

- Bus Station Toilets – Still awaiting works to be completed. The clerk to email again
- NCC Works – The meeting agreed that it was disappointing no replies had been received concerning the works. A further email is to be sent escalating the matter. Cllr Robertson raised the issue of lights out on Church Street – numbers to be passed on to Lynsey Sawyer.
- Suggestions boxes – One is at the PO and a further one is to be sited on South Road.

- Update on Employment Meeting – The Chair reported that despite emails sent and received from the NCC payroll department, the payrise requested had not been implemented.
- Litter Campaign – the meeting was shown posters received and already started to be distributed on the High St.
- Fergusons Donation – The Clerk confirmed that a donation of £100 had been received from Fergusons towards the bulbs. The meeting extended their thanks.
- Christmas Lights – The chair informed the meeting that 2 boxes of chocolates had been donate to the volunteers by way of thanks. The meeting agreed that the lights had been very well received and that now thought should be given to any new purchases for next year. The meeting suggested new lights on The Peth/Church St and it was noted that a wind rating would need to be obtained from NCC. Cllr Trotter raised the issue of H & S and the Chair proposed that 10 Hi-Vis jackets should be purchased with WPC written on the back, Cllr Curry seconded. Cllr Donkin gave the list of the lights now owned and was thanked by the Chair for all his hard work.
- WPC Phone – The Chair reminded the meeting that Cllr Donkin had kindly taken on the contract for the WPC over a year ago. It was agreed that the phone company was to be contacted to transfer the contract to the WPC. Thanks again to Cllr Donkin for providing it so far.
- Fire Service Letter – The Clerk read the reply to the FOI request, Cllr Mather made comment regarding the various items within the letter and also made note that the Wooler pump cannot currently turnout as does not have a crew of 4. It was also noted that 6 potential new recruits started the process but none finished it. The meeting agreed that NFRS may need to review their recruitment process. Discussion followed, in particular that if a serious incident happened the Wooler FS would not be notified as currently does not have a full complement of staff. Cllr Robertson asked the Chair what the WPC can do – It was agreed that WPC needs to support recruits and ask what help we could offer to help pass the course. The meeting agreed that it appeared the recruitment process could potentially be putting off recruits.
- Future Initiatives – Cllr Mather reported that he had been asked to speak at another area regarding gritting and that Jane Parnell of Glendale Connect had agreed to come and speak at the WPC meeting.

9. SNOW WARDENS

DISCUSSION & DECISION

The Chair reported that no one had come forward yet. Discussion followed regarding the requirements and Cllr Cumming suggested all Cllrs should actively recruit snow wardens. It was re-iterated that they would not be expected to shovel snow all day, rather react to those areas that were critical – i.e. dialysis patients, areas not covered by grit boxes etc. Cllr Napier stated that the grit box outside of the Drs surgery was unused. It was agreed that he would get the number and NCC will be contacted.

10. OPEN SURGERY – 4th February (3pm – 6pm)

DISCUSSION & DECISION

The meeting was informed that the open surgery was to be held at the Wooler Drop in as above. Normally Cllr Mather and Cllr Anthony Murray would be in attendance but all Cllrs are welcome. Northumbria Police are also attending. The event has been posted on Facebook. The drop in centre have asked for a donation – the meeting agreed £50.

11. WOOLER NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

REPORT & DECISION

The latest report was read to the meeting and it was agreed that the request was agreed to.

12. BUS STATION EVENTS

DISCUSSION & DECISION

The meeting was informed that an approach had been received from NCC regarding the Market. NCC had asked for approval for the dates submitted. Discussion followed regarding the previous markets and lack of disabled parking spaces and it was unanimously agreed that NCC were to be informed that the Market dates would be agreed to ONLY if disabled bays were left free. It was also suggested that NCC should be approached regarding street closure to allow the Market and local shops to benefit.

13. SCHOOL FARM FIELD SITE

DISCUSSION & DECISION

The meeting was informed that work had started by the allotment group. It was also informed that 300 trees had been acquired and plan were shown to the meeting regarding proposed planting. The plan was agreed.

14. DEFIBS – WOOLER COMMUNITY PUBLIC ACCESS

DISCUSSION & DECISION

Cllr Mather again made reference to the damage done to the WPC owned defib at the bus station. The meeting was informed that the defib sited at the School was also in need of repair and the school had been sent a bill for a set of pads and a new battery. The Chair proposed that the WPC take on the running costs of £74 for new pads (every 2 yrs) and a battery of a cost of £151 (every 5 yrs). The meeting agreed. Cllr Mather also put forward to the meeting that the WPC has £1250 towards a possible new difib to be sited at the top of the High Fair. Cllr Mather to email NCC regarding a possible electric supply. Also, contact to be made with Northumbrian Water (via the Fountain Group) to see if power is available at the reservoir.

15. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

REPORT & DECISION

Nothing of note to report

16. SCOTTS PARK/BRYONS PARK

UPDATE & DECISION

Cllr Donkin showed the meeting a photo of the damage done to the sign at Bryons Park. The meeting agreed this damage should be reported to the Police and also put on Social Media. Cllr Donkin was asked to source a stronger signage material to try and avoid this type of damage re-occurring.

It was also reported that a tree had fallen on Scotts Park and that Cllr Mather and Murray had instructed N.T.Walsh to make safe as it was deemed a H & S issue.

Cllr Mather reported that a site meeting had been arranged for the 31st January to discuss play equipment and particularly disabled play equipment. NCC had also provided names of companies recently asked for quotations and they had also been approached for details. Cllr Mather suggested that once information had been received, the proposals should be put forward to the local community for input. Cllr Robertson also suggested that the schoolchildren should also be consulted as to what they may want.

NCC quote for continued weekly playground equipment checks is £2200 + vat. Cllr Mather has contacted Frances Povey and requested a free year. This is being considered by Mike Jeffries.

17. PLANNING MATTERS

- Application 19/04522/FUL – Porch to side entrance door with glazing to three sides and fibreglass roof – 30 Common Road, Wooler, NE71 6PB

18. PLANNING DECISIONS

- Listed Building Consent for a two storey extension of existing care home to provide 8 no bedrooms, The Old Vicarage, 26 Cottage Rod, Wooler – WITHDRAWN
- Proposed Demolition of the existing single storey adjoining garage and utility area and form 2 storey ext on the s/e elevation etc. 20 Ryecroft Cres, Wooler – GRANTED
- Change of Use of the Upper two floors to create 2affordable flats, 19-21 High Street, Wooler – GGT GRANTED
- Proposed rear extension, 30 Weetwood Ave, Wooler, NE71 6AG – Mr K Thompson – GRANTED
- Proposed demolition of existing garage and replacement with annexed accommodation – 34 Common Road, Wooler Sharon Grey - REFUSED

19. OUTSIDE BODIES

REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION

- Men in the Shed – The Chair confirmed the meeting originally planned for the 15th Jan had been postponed by RVS until the 4th Feb. It was noted that the RVS were not coming out of all this very well, with the national Men In Shed group now involved. Rebecca Kennelly has now agreed to meet WMIS. It was also noted that WMIS were looking to develop storage containers in order to reduce rent.

20. COUNCILLOR'S TASKS/QUESTIONS

REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION

- Cllr Rob Donkin had received a request from Judith Park regarding blocked drains. Clerk to send another email to Graham Bucknall about the problem and requesting jetting/inspection cameras and also noting that the current infrastructure is not coping with increased housing.
- Cllr Tom Armstrong had been approached regarding an overgrown shrub/bush from a private garden that was encroaching on the path between Church Street and South Road. This is to be included in the email to Graham Bucknall.
- The meeting also noted that the grass outside Millers Shop is being used to park cars (possibly whilst visiting the co-op). The Chair suggested adding an additional bollard to the existing order to stop this problem and this was unanimously agreed.

- The car park at the Drs surgery has also a small piece of land that has been eroded and it was agreed that a quotation should be obtained for concrete/gravel to tidy the area.
- Cllr Tom Armstrong made note that the Paramedic had recently cause to visit a resident on Ramsey Lane and no parking was available. This had then caused traffic to back up immediately. The meeting made note of their concerns over increase in traffic when new houses are built and the fact that despite Cllrs Mather and Murray meeting with the planner and raising strong objections, these had been ignored. Further discussions followed.
- Cllr Cumming raised the issue of a loose paving slab outside of the Glendale Agricultural Society Office. This is to be noted on the NCC website.
- It was also noted that the surface at the top of Common Road was uneven and a request was to be put to Graham Bucknall for an inspection. The Clerk was also asked to follow up on the investigation into the road surface on Oilver Road.
- Cllr Cumming also raised the issue of speeding on the High Street and wondered if a 20 mile hr speed limit could be introduced. Discussion followed regarding this matter.
- Cllr Robertson raised the issue over parking, especially when a funeral is taking place. The traffic wardens are to be asked to visit Wooler again.
- Cllr Napier informed the meeting that he had written to Michael Brannan regarding the flyposting happening on the High Street. No answer had been received and the Clerk was requested to follow up on Cllr Napiers email.
- Cllr Donkin suggested that a meeting should be arranged with Ruth Bendell – The Clerk is to organise some suitable dates.
- A meeting is again to be requested with Mike Robbins, Estates, regarding the First School Site. This is to be held prior to the 24th February. Cllr Anthony Murray to also look into this matter.
- Cllr Napier asked for an update on the paperwork for the School Field – updated by Clerk.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 24th February at 7pm.

22. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Insurance

23. FINANCE - Payments for authorisation – SEE TABLE BELOW

NCC Summer Grass cuts of Wooler Play Parks	2445.83	Transfer
Donkin Eng- repairs to Arches etc Xmas Lights	72.77	Transfer
Donkin Eng – Sim Card Rental	12.26	Transfer
Clerk – Expenses	10.05	Transfer
NCC – Dec 19 Payroll Costs	729.56	Transfer
Glendale Community Middle School – Room Rental	19.20	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: