Draft Minutes of Ford Parish Council meeting.

Tuesday 13th July 2021 at 7pm in Lady Waterford Hall.

1. **Questions from members of the public -none**

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| 2. Members present |  |  |  |
| Cllr Baker | Chairman | Cllr. Mills |  |
| Cllr. Beattie | Vice chairman | Cllr. Musgrave |  |
| Cllr. Brian |  | Cllr. Watson |  |
| Steve Taylor | Clerk |  |  |

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|  |  | Action |
| 3. | **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs. Clark and Keating. |  |
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| 4. | **Declaration of interests with regards to items on the agenda** – None |  |
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| 5. | **Approve minutes of last council meeting held on 18th May 2021** – These were approved and signed by the chairman. |  |
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| 6. | **Matters arising from previous minutes.**   1. Cllr. Baker was pleased to report that the footpath in Crookham that had been a problem for many years has now been cleared. Cllr. Beattie confirmed this. There may be an ongoing problem if the bank starts to fall back onto the path but Cllr. Beattie will monitor this. 2. It was confirmed by Cllr. Musgrave that English Heritage still have Public Liability in place for the grounds of Etal Castle now that it is currently open to the public for free. 3. Cllr. Baker reported that ROSPA had completed their annual inspection of the play park and there are a couple of minor issues which he will ask the Estate if they can repair. Ford PC are happy to pay for any repairs. | Cllr. Beattie  Cllr. Baker |
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| 7. | **Police report**  In response to the clerk inviting the police to this meeting and mentioning Item 10a on the agenda, PC Hornsby replied to say there was nothing to report but that they will be carrying out some speed checks on Ford bank in the near future. She also suggested that the PC could ask NCC for speed monitoring strips to be installed. Councillors discussed the problem of cars travelling too quickly on Ford bank outside the school.   1. Cllr. Baker pointed out that speed monitoring strips were installed to gather information prior to the 20mph scheme back in May 2019 but is not aware of any action taken by the Camera Enforcement Unit or the Speed Monitoring Partnership. 2. Cllr. Watson reported that the lights seem to be working ok. 3. PC Hornsby had also suggested that incidents of speeding vehicles could be reported via the non-emergency 101 number or via the website [www.police.uk/101](http://www.police.uk/101) 4. Councillors agreed to wait to see if anything comes from the police speed checks |  |
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| 8. | **Great British Spring Clean – 28th May – 13th June - feedback**  Cllr. Baker said that he thought this had been a success with a number of volunteers taking part in some roadside and village litter picking. He thanked NCC for providing equipment. Some feedback was received from volunteers and they were generally happy to continue to pick litter in the future. It had been suggested that the PC could co-ordinate this but councillors agreed it would be better to suggest to volunteers that they just do it at their convenience. Cllr. Watson suggested that volunteers could try to recycle the litter that was collected.  The clerk will communicate with the volunteers and pass on this information. | Clerk |
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| 9. | **Etal Village**. Cllr. Musgrave made the following points :-   1. The yellow grit bins in Etal and Ford generally spoiled the look of both villages. He wondered if it was possible to have them moved during the months when they were not needed. 2. He proposed that the light posts outside the Black Bull were not in keeping with the look of the pub and village. The lights were very bright. 3. There was general rubbish and untidiness at the back of the pub next to the glass recycle bins and wondered if this could be cleared up.   Cllr. Colin Hardy had contacted the clerk to say that a resident had reported to him a damaged grit bin near the Old Post Office in Ford. On enquiry he had found that this was not a NCC grit bin so had asked the PC to look into finding out about it and whether it could be replaced.  Some discussion was had over the pros and cons of whether the grit bins could be moved, where they could be put, who would move them and whether they could be disguised by building a wood box around them. It was agreed that initially the clerk should try to contact someone at NCC who is responsible for grit bins and start a conversation with them about this matter.  Cllr. Brian will try to establish if the grit bin near the Old Post Office belongs to NCC or not.  With regards to the lights and rubbish it was agreed that the clerk should email Guy Sampson at Ford and Etal Estates to raise these matters. | Clerk  Cllr. Brian  Clerk |
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| 10. | **Highways.**   1. Speeding cars on Ford bank :- This was covered under item 7. 2. Drain cleaning – Cllr. Mills reported that the gully wagon had been to Ford Village and he had spoken to a representative from NCC about the drain blockage which was causing flooding problems. Cllr. Mills thinks there is more of an underlying problem with the drains. Cllr. Baker also asked the clerk to report blocked drains at the bottom of the Letham Hi;ll road and along towards the cricket pitch. 3. Pedestrian Lane on Ford Bridge.   So far nothing had been received back from NCC Highways on this subject   1. The clerk explained that he had received a report from a member of the public who had a scary experience on Ford bridge with a very large wagon eventually only stopping very close to her car. She had decided that it wasn’t a police matter but thought that the PC should know the incident happened. |  |
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| 11. | **Planning.**  One application - 21/01728/FUL  To view go to https://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications/ |  |
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| 12. | **Finance.**  Financial report and bank reconciliation   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | Expenditure | Income | Balance | | Bank balance | 12/05/21 |  |  |  | 3701.34 | | Expense | 02/06/21 | Norris and Fisher Insurance | 263.41 |  | 3115.98 | | Expense | 02/06/21 | ROSPA Playground inspection | 82.20 |  | 3033.78 | | Expense | 23/06/21 | First Rescue defib battery and pads | 347.99 |  | 2685.79 | | Bank Balance | 08/07/21 |  |  |  | 2685.79 | | Clerk |
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| 19. | Correspondence:- previously circulated via e-mail  a) CANNY News, NALC E-news, Rural Services Network e-news. |  |
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| 19. | **Any other business –**   1. Cllr. Baker explained that Mac Bell has decided not to continue on the Parish Council. He explained that Mac has been a Parish Councillor since 1981 and over the years has been a fount of knowledge for many local issues in the Parish. Cllr. Baker proposed a vote of thanks to Mac Bell for his long service and commitment to the parish. Councillors agreed that the chairman should write to him and thank him for his many years of service on the Council. 2. The clerk informed councillors that Mac was the PC representative on Etal Village Hall Committee. As he is no longer on the PC the position is now open if any other councillor would be interested in the position. Cllr. Musgrave said that he would be willing to take the position and councillors agreed to this. The clerk will inform Etal Hall committee. 3. Cllr. Mills reported that since the new battery and pads were purchased for the defibrillator in Ford, it was now working. He also said that Graham in Ford Shop has taken over monitoring the defib. 4. Cllr. Musgrave said he would inform Lord Joicey that his request for the SLOW sign on the northbound side of the road at Heatherslaw to be repainted had been passed to NCC by the Clerk. 5. Cllr. Mills gave notice that in October he would be moving from the area and so would be resigning from the PC at the next meeting in September. | Chairman and clerk  Clerk  Cllr. Musgrave |
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| 20. | **Date of next meeting**  Date of next meeting - Bi-monthly meeting – 7th September 2021 at 7pm, in Crookham Village Hall. Clerk to book. | Clerk |