

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Warden Parish Council held on Monday 7th November 2022 commencing at 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall

Those Present: Cllrs S Robson (Chairman), Cllr SJ Heminsley, Cllr WJ Foot, Cllr L Kay, Cllr D Liddle, Cllr D Bowman, Cllr J Martin, County Cllr N Morphet, C Miller (Clerk), four member of the public (three for part of the meeting)

2022/89 Apologies for Absence

Cllr G Charlton

2022/90 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllrs S Robson & SJ Heminsley declared an interest in the Railway Inn. Cllr SJ Heminsley declared an interest in Newbrough School matters.

2022/91 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter

Janice Bayliss of the Stanegate Magazine present. There had been an increase in the cost of printing of the Stanegate due to the Haltwhistle Methodist Church printing facilities no longer being used, with the magazine now being printed by the Hextol Foundation in Hexham. This is a speedy and quality job but significantly more expensive. Annual printing costs were currently £2800, £1,000 more than the advertising income. There would be a shortfall of £200 by the end of 2023 which would put the future of the magazine at risk after 60 years. Personal donations could be requested via an article in the publication, however a subscription service would be logistically difficult. The magazine was a valuable asset to parishioners and should continue, but preferably be self-sustaining. The Parish Council had supported the Stanegate previously, it was felt the shortfall was relatively small and should be split between Newbrough Parish Council. It was resolved £100 would be granted.

Newbrough School Headteacher Jo Trotter and School Governor Barbara Mansfield present. The School had begun a process of consultation with all stakeholders within the local community on whether the school should join the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust (DNDLT). Governors had been discussing the possibility of joining an academy trust for several years but in the past had not considered it to be the right decision for the school. However the most recent white paper proposed that all schools should be part of a strong academy trust or in the process of conversion by 2030. There were increasing concerns about the possibility of ongoing cuts to local authority budgets which may impact on the ability of local authorities to support schools. Visits had been carried out to schools in different multi-academy trusts and a visit to a small school in County Durham, who were part of the DNDLT, had been hugely positive. An opportunity had arisen to join the DNDLT, and Governors were now actively exploring this. Parents at the Durham school had not seen any real changes with joining the trust, a really important factor. The school would continue to work with the Haydon Bridge geographical group, and keep their unique curriculum with a lot of shared services in the background. The consultation runs until the middle of November and is available on the school website. There would be a subsequent governors' meeting with all responses taken into account, and a decision made by the beginning of December. Any changes would commence at the new financial year.

There were currently two vacancies for school governors, and it is felt a governor with a link to the Parish Council(s) is of importance.

Jo Trotter and Barbara Mansfield left the meeting.

As a retiring governor, Cllr SJ Heminsley reported there would be changes to autonomy, the Parish Council are not fully aware of the proposals and the changes made would not be straightforward. It was resolved to thank the school for the information provided, and offer support to the proposals, stating it is important the school can control its curriculum and retain local governors. **ACTION: Cllr L Kay to draft official response.**

Parishioner wished it minuted that a great job had been done with the volunteers who had carried out footpath clearance works.

Janice Bayliss left the meeting.

2022/92 Minutes of previous meeting held on Monday 5th September 2022

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 5th September 2022 be accepted as a true record.

2022/93 Allotments

2022/93/01 To receive update on pump for well

Pump had been purchased and tested. **ACTION: Cllr's D Liddle & D Bowman to arrange pump installation by March 2023.**

2022/94 Litter pick

Litter pick had been held with little refuse to be collected. Next event likely to be held March 2023.

2022/95 Roads/footpaths/village maintenance

One dip reported in the road by fire hydrant/crossroads had been attended to. Speeding monitoring strips had been placed at East Fourstones Farm.

2022/95/01 Progress regarding the reduction in speeding traffic through the villages

Nothing to report.

2022/95/02 Footpath clearance works/hedgerow obstructions

Volunteers had actioned clearance works. A further session to be organised, with article to be circulated seeking assistance. The road at bottom of Mossy had been rebuilt and tarmacked several years ago, however part of it is starting to break up again. **ACTION: County Cllr to flag up with County Council.** Drains were blocked at Stanegate. The County Council only have three gully sucking machines county wide, and aim to visit the parish annually. A lump of rebar had been identified opposite Frankham junction. **ACTION: Cllr D Bowman to make safe.**

2022/95/03 To receive update on proposed village signage/planters

Stainless steel bars had been acquired which would go through the signage to make stable. Planters to be installed at Warden Bridge and East Fourstones. **ACTION: Cllr D Bowman and D Spearman to organise planters.**

2022/95/04 To receive update on recycled seating at Crossgates

Site meeting had been held to consider exact siting, installation spikes should be sufficient however a quote is to be submitted for a concrete base.

2022/95/05 To receive update on Dog Fouling Warning signage at Crossgates

Cllr D Liddle had organised dog fouling warning signage.

2022/95/06 To receive update on play area repairs

The installer had supplied parts with repair to be actioned when temporary oil tanks removed. **ACTION: Cllr J Martin to liaise with pub tenant.**

2022/95/07 To consider issues with refuse burning in St Aidan's Yard

Further to complaint about smells at limeworks, Cllr D Bowman had spoken to the tenants who were aware of materials that cannot be burned. County Cllr had been given exact dates of strong smelling refuse, and the problem had not gone away. **ACTION: As the landlord, Cllr D Bowman to write to the tenants. If problems continue the matter would need referred to Environmental Health.**

2022/96 Planning

2022/96/01 Planning Applications received

- 22/03350/VARYCO: Hillside, Fourstones – Variation of conditions 4 & 7 on 20/002263/FUL – no objections.

2022/96/02 To consider issues relating to Prudham Quarry Planning Proposals

County Cllr had visited the site but could see no sign of any caterpillar tracks (reported at a previous Parish Council meeting). The applicant had not yet signed the highways agreement, therefore planning officers had been unable to sign the decision notice.

2022/97 Reports

2022/97/01 Town Hall

Nothing to report.

2022/97/02 Northumberland County Council

County Council Highways Inspector had inspected drainage problem on Stanegate between petrol station and Butt bank, which were the result of Northumbrian Water cutting through a cundy and restricted water flow. Repair would need actioned by Northumbrian Water, with drainage pipes leading into fields to the south to be jetted. The new 1825pm Hexham to Newbrough bus service had begun running 31/10/22. Pavement/parking problems had been reported by the fuel station. Pavement parking is illegal but tolerated unless a vehicle is on single or double yellow lines, and it is difficult to enforce. The police had advised it was NCC's responsibility to monitor the situation. The overgrown area by Warden Bridge had been fenced off. The land belonged to a private landowner and was thought to be part of a land management agreement with Defra for land to grow wild. Cllr D Liddle advised it could be related to the installation of a septic tank.

ACTION: County D Bowman to speak to tenant farmer. Many second generation smart meters in Fourstones do not work due to lack of signal, with County Council Cabinet Member for I.T. to contact the installer. The trees and woodland strategy was to go to scrutiny committee 11/1/23, and include a section on managing ash die back. The locality co-ordinator, a relatively new County Council position, aimed to bring communities together and would like to meet Parish Council's. **ACTION: County Cllr to invite Co-Ordinator to a future Parish Council meeting, and request further information on the role.** The level of Section 106 contributions still available for the parish to be confirmed in due course. Community resilience workshop to be held 7pm 21/11/22 at Newbrough Town Hall, with Newbrough Parish Council and other stakeholders invited. Town and Parish Council conference to be held at Hexham Mart, 5pm 24/1/23. Climate Change collaboration event to be held in Hexham January 2023. Improved broadband service available in the parish.

2022/97/03 Sportsfield Association

Humshaugh cricket club had nominated Newbrough Cricket Club as club of the year for a Sport Tynedale award.

2022/98 Financial Matters

2022/98/01 Payments to be authorised: Border Stone Quarries – 2 No name signs - £634.80; C Miller – September, October Salary - £406.64; Expenses - £36.67; D H Charlton - £352; B Gustard – gardening - £352; S Robson – British Legion wreath - £50.00; Mijan Ltd – accounts package until 31/3/23 - £30

It was resolved to approve the payments.

2022/98/02 To consider grant requests from the following:

- Sport Tynedale - it was resolved to grant £60.00
- Tynedale Hospice at Home - it was resolved to grant £120
- Stanegate Magazine – it was resolved to grant £100.
- **Newbrough First School – Repair to MUGA steel fencing - to consider setting up a working group of two Councillors from Warden and Newbrough Parish Council's and representative(s) from the school, to explore how to establish the MUGA as a sustainable community / school facility, and agree the scope of works for the required repairs.** The MUGA had originally been funded via the National Lottery as a community facility. However it had evolved to be used largely by the school, with local children using occasionally. The fencing repair would cost £2500 but could not be funded by the Parish Council unless there was a sustainable group set up on

the basis of it becoming a community facility. Section 106 fundings could not be accessed for maintenance reasons, only new projects. It was agreed an initial meeting would be held with Newbrough Parish Council and school representatives, with a public meeting of interested local people to then be organised. Wind farm funding could be available for maintenance of such items. **ACTION: Cllr WJ Foot to send link to wind farm fund to Cllr SJ Robson. Cllr' S Robson, S Heminsley, D Liddle & WJ Foot to attend initial meeting. Clerk to contact Newbrough Parish Council and School to arrange date.**

2022/98/03 To approve application for on-line banking and amendments to Parish Council Standing Orders

It was resolved to amend the Standing Orders to permit on-line banking.

2022/98/04 To consider budget 2023-2024

First draft of budget 2023-2024 considered, and would be confirmed at next Parish Council meeting 9/1/23.

2022/98/05 To consider precept requirements 2023-2024

First draft of precept requirements for 2023-2024 considered. A discussion followed regarding raising the precept to cover the current higher level of inflation. Precept to be confirmed at next Parish Council meeting 9/1/23.

2022/99 The Railway Inn

County Council had advised the Asset of Community Value listing would continue and the same obligations would be in place for the full period of the five years.

2022/100 To receive update from Climate Change Group

Meeting to be held 8/11/22.

2022/101 To consider Crises Management for the parish

Resilience event to be held 21/11/22.

2022/102 Northumberland County Council - Notice of Consultation to extend the duration of a Public Spaces Protection Order for the control of dogs

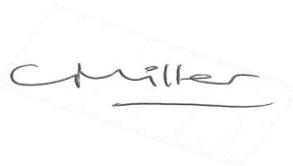
The Public Spaces Protection Order had been made until 30/1/23 with the County Council wishing to extend this for a further three years until 30/1/26. Further information available on County Council web-site.

2022/103 To receive items for next meeting

King Charles coronation to be added to next agenda.

2022/104 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Warden Parish Council will be held on Monday 9th January 2023 commencing 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall.



Claire Miller, Clerk to Warden Parish Council

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
Allotments	Cllr's D Bowman and D Liddle to install water pump by March 2023
Replacement village signage	Cllr D Bowman and D Spearman to organise planters in due course.
Rubbish being burnt at Limeworks	As the landlord, D Bowman to contact tenants. If problems persist, Environmental Health to be informed
School consultation	Cllr Kay to draft supportive response
Road breaking up at Mossy	County Cllr to inform County Council
Rebar opposite Frankham junction	Cllr D Bowman to make safe
Play area repairs	Cllr J Taylor to liaise with pub tenant
Overgrown area at Warden bridge	Cllr D Bowman to speak to tenant farmer
County Council Locality Co-ordinator	County Cllr to invite to a future Parish Council meeting
MUGA	Cllr WJ Foot to send link to wind farm fund to Cllr SJ Robson. Cllr' S Robson, S Heminsley, D Liddle & WJ Foot to attend initial meeting. Clerk to contact Newbrough Parish Council and School to arrange date for initial meeting.