

**Minutes of ordinary meeting of Warden Parish Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 commencing at 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall**

**Those Present:** Cllrs S Robson (Chairman), G Charlton, Cllr SJ Heminsley, WJ Foot, Cllr D Bowman, Cllr J Martin, County Cllr N Morphet, H Hinds (County Council), C Miller (Clerk), two members of the public

**2022/73 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr's D Liddle, L Kay

**2022/74 Declaration of Members Interests**

Cllr's S Robson & SJ Heminsley declared an interest in the Railway Inn.

**2022/75 Meeting with Helen Hinds, Northumberland County Council Resilience & Emergency Planning Lead**

H Hinds welcomed to the meeting. Northumberland County Council classed as a Category One responder under the Civil Contingencies Act, with duties revolving around working in partnership, identifying risks, and planning for major incidents. The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) are a set of partners across the Northumbria patch, with County Council obligated to work within the LRF structure, identifying well over 100 different risks, including severe weather. During a major incident partners come together with a Strategic co-ordinating group, quite often chaired by the police, and a tactical co-ordinating group, which met several times a day during Storm Arwen. Communication with Parish Council's an important element, with the Storm Arwen review indicating the importance of community response. Relations had developed between community groups and County Council organisation Northumberland Together during the Covid pandemic. County Council supported an asset-based approach by talking to communities about what is already available, and for communities to understand what they need to do during a crises. Community hubs to be identified where people can receive information, keep warm etc, however a one size fits all is not being proposed, with tailored arrangements required for individual communities. A template Town & Parish plan is available to assist. The consequences of emergencies – ie people losing homes, highways disruption could be considered, as opposed to a list of emergency situations, or a mixture of both. For issues such as chemical warfare, if this were a malicious act, the police would come in and take over. A National Risk Register available publicly. An event is scheduled for 29/9/22 at the Newbiggin Hub, which will be an opportunity for communities to attend as a learning event.

It was agreed a workshop would be held and stakeholders within the parish invited to attend, with a view to then creating a Resilience Planning Committee. Northern Powergrid currently have a "soft launch" funding pot to assist communities in times of crises, ahead of a charitable organisation which is to be set up in the near future. A consolidated bid through Community Action Northumberland had been considered, along with a bid from a third sector radio specialist organisation. The funding would mostly cover generators and alternative energy to improve buildings to be more user friendly. The project is different to the Warm Hubs initiative, but should be mapped together. **ACTION: Workshop with stakeholders to be organised, Resilience Planning Committee to then be set up, initiative to be driven by H Hinds & N Morphet.**

**2022/76 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter**

Lack of public transport of concern – County Cllr to report further down agenda.

**2022/77 Minutes of previous meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be accepted as a true record.

**2022/78 Allotments – to consider issues relating to water supply**

**2021/78/01 To receive update on pump for well**

Pump had been purchased. Holes to be drilled in manhole cover to secure pump, and possibly secure manhole cover to surround. **ACTION: Cllr's D Liddle, S Robson & D Bowman to organise.** Water trough a possibility, however an IBC, being a large square plastic container which water could be pumped into, a possibility. **ACTION: Cllr S Robson & D Bowman to arrange site visit. Site visit to be held with allotment tenant in due course, whose plot the butt could be placed on.**

**2022/79 Litter pick**

Litter picking equipment requested via County Council for litter pick scheduled Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**2022/80 Roads/footpaths/village maintenance**

The sunken road at crossroads in Fourstones is due to Northumbrian Water having dug a trench, and the material not being compacted correctly. NCC Streetworks who deal with the actions of utility companies were aware of the issue.

**2022/80/01 Progress regarding the reduction in speeding traffic through the villages**

Cllr S Robson had created text for on-line speed reduction petition via County Council web-site. 50 signatories were required for the issue to be considered by the Local Area Committee. County Council requesting exact area for Slow signage on Mossy, which had been requested via the Local Transport Plan 2023-2024. County Cllr advised a traffic speed survey was to be carried out on East Fourstones lane. **ACTION: S Robson to submit petition to County Council, and provide exact location for Slow Signage at Mossy.**

**2022/80/02 Footpath clearance works/hedgerow obstructions, including Broadway to East Fourstones**

Quality Cottages to Hardhaugh required hedgerow clearance. **ACTION: Clerk to contact landowner/County Council** Clearance works required at the back of Broadacres, and on stretch from garage to school, with a further call-out for volunteers required. **ACTION: Cllr Martin to co-ordinate volunteers.**

**2022/80/03 To receive update on proposed village signage/planters**

Stones lettered and painted black. Contractor had visited site with proposed location(s) sprayed yellow. A concrete pad required, with stone to be built up and large stone then placed on top, and four stainless steel rods required to prevent tipping over. Planters to be placed at Warden Bridge stone signage and the white East Fourstones signage.

**2022/80/04 To receive update on recycled seating at Crossgates**

Order to be submitted via County Cllr. Site visit to be held at Crossgates 4pm 9/9/22 to confirm exact location. **ACTION: Cllr S Robson to attend site visit.**

**2022/80/05 Grasscutting, Fourstones village signage**

Two new areas around village signage actioned by gardeners and which would be added to gardening maintenance schedule, along with maintenance at Warden Bridge.

**2022/80/06 Tree Maintenance at East Fourstones**

Overgrown trees had been attended to.

**2022/80/07 To receive update on Dog Fouling Warning signage at Crossgates**

Cllr D Liddle had been tasked with organising signage.

**2022/81 Planning**

**2022/81/01 Planning Applications received**

No planning applications had been received.

**2022/81/02 To consider issues relating to Prudham Quarry Planning Proposals**

County Council Minerals and Waste Compliance Officer had visited Prudham quarry, and agreed there were a lot of caterpillar tracks, but County Council had decided they were not related to the quarry development. The developer did not yet have permission to excavate as the highways agreement was not complete. **ACTION: County Cllr to clarify with Compliance Officer, and visit site.**

**2022/82 Reports**

**2022/82/01 Town Hall**

Nothing to report.

### **2022/82/02 Northumberland County Council**

Complaints about changes to bus services had been received, mostly regarding the frequency of the evening service from Newbrough to Hexham, with NCC confident they can introduce a 625pm service. County Council Trees and Woodland Strategy had not yet come before the Scrutiny Committee, update to be given to Parish Council as soon as possible.

Cllr Bowman reported a messy weeded area West of bridge – **ACTION: County Cllr to inspect.**

Cllr J Martin to attend Transport North East Forum zoom meeting. Complaint had been received regarding smelly rubbish being burnt in St Aidan's yard – Cllr D Bowman confirmed this was wood, cardboard and paper – **ACTION: County Cllr to gain further information from complainant. Tenants to be made aware of complaint via D Bowman.** The Local Plan is intentionally vague regarding the Open Space Development contribution, to allow Planning Department more flexibility. Developer contributions will be determined on a case-by-case basis. NCC Leisure Services Development keen for funding towards outdoor gym equipment. Quote for feasibility study for greenway alongside the Mossy awaited.

There is no definition of a climate emergency yet. Interest in attending the Community Resilience event in Newbiggin 29/9/22 should be made via [communityhubs@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:communityhubs@northumberland.gov.uk) County Council were extending CAN's warm hubs network by inviting stakeholders to become part of the Northumberland Warm Places and Spaces network, with members asked to provide warmth and other support if necessary. Newbrough Town Hall to sign up to the scheme. Northern Powergrid £7.5m Resilience Grant will cover improvements to the energy resilience of town and village halls, with grants available between £1,000 to £20,000, to be submitted via the M.P. or Leader of County Council. Potential powercuts during the Winter had been mooted, with D Spearman of Newbrough Town Hall Committee having arranged a meeting with relevant personnel to consider the issue.

### **2022/82/03 Sportsfield Association**

Nothing to report.

Further to the ROSPA annual play area report, the landlord of the Boatside Inn had agreed to be responsible for making sure the loose fixtures on step entry barrier were tightened and checked on a regular basis. A whole bolt is missing on the tube connection itself, with installer contacted for replacement. The pub oil tank had leaked, therefore the play area was currently closed due to temporary oil tanks having to be located there.

### **2022/83 Financial Matters**

**2022/83/01 Payments due:** C Miller – July, August Salary - £406.64; Expenses £57.07; DH Charlton - £467; B Gustard – gardening – £452; S Robson – water pump – £58.99

It was resolved to approve the payments.

### **2022/83/02 To approve application for telephone banking**

It was resolved to apply for telephone banking, and if there were future issues with cheques being bounced, a signatory would be able to resolve via telephoning HSBC.

### **2022/83/03 To approve application for on-line banking**

HSBC could only provide on-line banking if the banking arrangements were amended to enable one signatory to authorise payments. It was resolved the Standing Orders would be amended to allow on-line banking. **ACTION: Clerk to amend SO's for authorisation at next PC meeting.**

### **2022/83/04 To account computerised accounts package at a cost of £60/annum**

It was resolved to purchase an annual accounts package, specifically for Parish Council's, at a cost of £60/annum.

### **2022/84 The Railway Inn**

The community were not in a position to purchase the pub at the cost of £200K. The building had been re-listed as an Asset of Community Value As the proposed sale of the building had fallen through, clarification on ACV status to be sought. **ACTION: Clerk to contact I Hedley to confirm building is currently still listed as an ACV.**

**2022/85 To receive update from Climate Change Group**  
Nothing to report.

**2022/86 To consider Crises Management for the parish**  
Discussed earlier.

**2022/87 To receive items for next meeting**

There were no items for the next meeting. Precept planning for 2023-2024 may take longer to consider due to current cost of living crises.

**2022/88 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Warden Parish Council will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 commencing 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 9pm.



Claire Miller, Clerk to Warden Parish Council

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>
Allotments	Cllr's R Robson, D Bowman and D Liddle to install water pump
Speeding traffic	Cllr S Robson to submit E petition to County Council
Replacement village signage	Stones and planters to be placed in due course.
Crossgates seating/dog fouling	Cllr S Robson and County Cllr to attend site meeting and confirm exact location of seating.
Crises Management	H Hinds and County Cllr to arrange Workshop, with Stakeholder Resilience Planning Committee to then be set up
The Railway Inn	Clerk to confirm via I Hedley that pub is still listed as an Asset of Community Value.
Local Transport Plan requests 2023-2024	Cllr S Robson to provide exact location of Slow Signage at Mossy to Clerk for transmission to NCC.
Annual ROSPA play area inspection report	Replacement bolts ordered via installer.
Quality Cottages to Hardhaugh hedge clearance	Clerk to contact landowner/County Council
Clearance works, Broadacres/garage to school	Cllr J Martin to co-ordinate volunteers
Prudham Quarry, caterpillar tracks	County Cllr to seek further clarification from NCC/visit site.
On-line payments	Clerk to amend Standing Orders to allow on-line banking, for authorisation at next PC meeting.
Rubbish being burnt in St Aidan's yard	County Cllr to gain further information from complainant. Tenants to be made aware of complaint via D Bowman