

WOOLER PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council, Held on Monday 21st August 2023 @ 7pm – at Glendale Middle School, Wooler

Present: Mark Napier (Chair), Councillors, Ellie Bell (Vice) Caroline Cumming, Helen Deane-Hall, Rob Donkin, Joyce Robertson, Duncan Veevers, Rob Parson

In Attendance: Kerren Rodgers (Clerk), Karen Froggat

23/054 APOLOGIES – Mark Mather, No apologies received from Albert Fairnington and NCC not received DOI therefore vacancy has arisen by default. Clerk to notify NCC and publish vacancy notice

23/055 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – Karen Froggat, CEO of GGT presented the programme of events for Dark Skies, celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the National Park gaining Dark Sky status. Events are to take place from **Wednesday 18th October to Wednesday 1st November**. All PC's are encouraged to get involved and a request for Wooler PC to encourage other councils to support the project and look at hosting event. The meeting agreed to support the project and various suggestions for activities were discussed.

23/056 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – Cllr Donkin 23/064

23/057 LOCAL SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT

Northumbria Police report

“10 recorded crimes since the last meeting. None are linked and no crime patterns or trends are developing that would raise concern for the area. There has been no incidents of note since the last meeting and nothing that would cause any vulnerability in the area either.”

It was noted that youths on bikes were acting in an intimidatory manner towards dog walkers – this matter should be reported to the police.

It was great annoyance that the meeting was informed that the Scotts Park toilets had been once again damaged and had to be closed until repairs can be actioned. Discussions followed regarding options available to make them safer for law-abiding residents to be able to use them.

For further regular updates on local matters members of the public can go online and search for Northumbria Connected to get signed up for the updates.

The advice from police is **if a member of the public sees a crime being reported - a 999 call should be made to report it**. If the crime has already happened and the perpetrators have left, then this should be reported either on the website or 101

23/058 PREVIOUS MINUTES

REVIEW & SIGN

To be signed as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 24th July '23

Cllr Donkin noted a slight change needed to 23/050 ...” it was confirmed this had been **removed** for safety reasons and was not to be replaced”

The Parish Council read through the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 24/7//23 were agreed to be a true and accurate record, Cllr Donkin proposed, Cllr Robertson seconded, all agreed. The Chair signed the minutes.

23/059 MATTERS ARISING

REVIEW & DISCUSSION

The visit to the Water Treatment Plant had been arranged for the 7th September.

The new bin on The Peth had been installed in the wrong place and is to be moved.

23/060 PARISH REPORT

UPDATE & DECISION

- **First School Site – Community Asset transfer update** – The Chair noted that both he and the Vice Chair had signed the necessary documentation and the matter was now being progressed by the solicitors.
- **Caretakers Work/Playpark Inspection timetable - Update** – A report of work undertaken was made to the meeting. Cllr Donkin asked that the flower bed recently planted at The Tory needed weeding and the whole Tory site needed tidying – meeting agreed
- **EA Flood Plan** – Cllr Bell reported that volunteers had been recruited
- **Tory Site – Update** Cllr Deane-Hall reported that a meeting had been arranged for the 30th August to discuss signage
- **Bus station toilets - update** – The toilets have now been handed over and discussions followed regarding CCTV installation. Signage to be installed asap.
- **Annual Town & Parish Conference** - The meeting agreed that Cllrs Robertson & Cumming would attend on behalf of WPC – all agreed.

23/061 SCHOOL FARM FIELD SITE

DISCUSSION & DECISION

- **Pergola/seating Community Orchard Site** – the meeting was informed that the pergola had arrived. A meeting was arranged for Sunday at 9am to discuss the option of sitting of the Pergola and also the annual inspection of the allotments. NCC had offered free trees and Cllr Deane-Hall offered to grow them on. The meeting agreed to ask for Copse Trees

Cllr Donkin confirmed that the PC had been offered a shed and flagstones from an ex-allotment holder and it is hoped that these can be moved on Sunday (weather dependant)

The Clerk reported on the great Northumberland Forest project and the meeting agreed for this to be investigated further.

The Chair noted that NCC had damaged the track at the entrance to the School Farm Field when using the area to store salt last winter. NCC to be asked to make good the track.

23/062 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

REPORT & DECISION

Cllr Mather had sent his apologies - no report forthcoming

23/063 SCOTTS PARK/BRYONS PARK

UPDATE & DECISION

- **Scotts Pk Play Area** – working group update Cllr Parson reported that he had met with Playdale rep and the previous quotation was discussed. They are happy to re-quote when decision is made. The meeting was informed of the North of Tyne - crowd funding opportunity and the recording of the presentation is to be circulated. A friends of Scotts Park play-park would need to be established. Cllr Robertson suggested including adult “gym” equipment to be included and note was made of a trampoline which had recently been installed at Berwick.
- **Wheelchair Swing update** – The swing has now been fully repaired and the meeting agreed that a sign needed to be installed regarding correct use for safety reasons. It was also noted that the gate into the play area from the skate park side is not shutting properly.
- **To agree woodchip purchase for zip wire area** – Discussions followed as mix option had proved unsuccessful – quotations presented to the meeting and the Chair proposed accepting the quote from A W Jenkinson at £37 cubic metre with a charge of £350 delivery for 25 cubic meters, Cllr Cumming seconded – all agreed. It was also agreed that people/rakes would be needed on delivery.

23/064 PLANNING MATTERS

DISCUSSION & DECISION

- **23/01898/FUL** – Part demolition of existing outbuilding following dilapidation and material change to exterior with new internal floor (amended description) **Outbuilding, Bendor, Wooler, NE71 6SZ** o comment req'd

23/065 PLANNING DECISIONS**UPDATE & DECISION**

- Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) – Revoked Order in respect of **Tree – Dunblane House, Ryecroft Way, Wooler**

23/066 OUTSIDE BODIES**REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION**

None

23/067 COUNCILLOR'S TASKS/QUESTIONS**REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION**

Cllr Cumming noted complaints still being received regarding the yellow lines on South Road.

Cllr Donkin noted the manhole cover on Scotts Park needed repairs, Cllr Veevers to investigate.

23/068 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 25th September 2023 at 7pm

23/069 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**23/070 FINANCE –****DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- Payments for authorisation – SEE TABLE BELOW

IONIS-emails	30.00	DD
EE mobile	16.26	DD
Tom Armstrong –Caretaker	900.00	Tfr
NCC – Aug payroll costs	998.35	Tfr
Des Hood – Taxi to replace bus recharge to NCC	130.00	Tfr
SLCC – Part cost of training for Clerk	72.00	Tfr
WAVE – water supply	49.07	Tfr

Two signatories to authorise the above payments

Signed:

Signed: