

Shilbottle Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Shilbottle Parish Council held on
Wednesday 08 November 2023 at 18.30
In The Haven Community Room

1. Public Speaking

- 1.1. This section was led by representatives from Northumbria Police. See section 13 below for details.

2. Welcome by Chair

- 2.1. The Chair welcomed everyone in attendance.
- 2.2. The Chair expressed concern that the village not getting value for money from NCC services considering no response to numerous telephone requests for drains to be cleared to alleviate flooding along Grange Road and Lee Avenue/The Haven. Roadway has only been cleared today after over a week of requests for this work to be done and a further phone call today. Chair instructed the Clerk to formally raise this issue in writing to NCC.

3. Those Present

- 3.1. Councillor Graham Huggins, Shelia Robertson Yvonne Douglas, Sinead Bailey and The Chair, Councillor Mrs Haddow, Clerk Paul Burns. County Councillor Trevor Thorne.

4. Apologies for Absence

- 4.1. Received from Cllr. Lewis, Storey, Hood, Elliott and McCann.

5. Minutes of meeting held 11 October 2023

- 5.1. The Minutes were presented for approval.
- 5.2. Minutes were discussed with update on various points raised at last meeting discussed.
- 5.3. Minutes proposed Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Huggins. Unanimously approved.

6. Matters arising for discussion

- 6.1. Cllr Bailey asked question regarding Northumberland County Council out of hours service. Clerk advised website states "Emergency repairs will be attended within 24 hours ...or otherwise made safe".

7. Declaration of interest

- 7.1. None.

8. Correspondence

- 8.1. Storey and Son – Instruction to proceed with seats
- 8.2. NCC - Planning Consultation 23/02592/FUL 20 Hawthorn Terrace Shilbottle- Application withdrawn
- 8.3. Mazars LLP – AGAR Audit Invoice
- 8.4. NCC - Planning Consultation 23/02548/CCD Friendly Frogs Pre-school Shilbottle – Application GRANTED

- 8.5. NALC – OCTOBER 2023 ENews
- 8.6. NCC - Planning Consultation 23/02101/FUL Shilbottle And District Working Mens Club 28 Grange Road – Application GRANTED
- 8.7. Carham Parish Council – Vehicle Activated Signs
- 8.8. Northumbria Police – Liaison with Parish Council
- 8.9. NCC – SLA2023 Invoice
- 8.10. NALC -VAT126 Training
- 8.11. Art of Stone – War Memorial “correction”. Clerk to instruct to proceed
- 8.12. NCC – 2024/25 Precept documentation
- 8.13. The Northumberland Estates – Vehicle Activated Signs
- 8.14. Amicale Héry Shilbottle Association — 60th Anniversary funding request. Clerk to respond with review nearer to summer 2024 once events have been finalised
- 8.15. Amicale Héry Shilbottle Association — Naming of the new estate road on proposed Grange Road development.
- 8.16. NALC – Request for training being brought out to the parish

9. Finance (for Oct 2023)

Outgoings

Storey and Son Landscape	Service Level Agreement	£1,530.98
Fantasy Prints	Play Areas Signs	£434.64
HMRC	PAYE (P32)	£52.80
SPC Clerk	Expenses	£29.10
Kidd Garden Design	Play Area Maintenance	£120.00
SPC Chair	Inks	£9.99
Elliott Odd Job Man	Caretaker	£100.00
Mazars LLP	Audit fees	£252.00
SPC Clerk	Wages	£715.00

Incomings

SPC Clerk (Receipt No 18)	Cemetery Fees	£150.00
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- 9.1. Clerk has registered to attend NALC training course for VAT126 process early December to allow application to HMRC for VAT returns submissions.
- 9.2. Clerk highlighted agenda omission (“copy/paste” error) of Service Level Agreement value of £1,530.98 which shall be corrected and included in these minutes (see table of Outgoings above).
- 9.3. Bank has sent letter to advise of interest rate changes. Clerk has suggested that these are considered and reviewed as part of the 2024/25 precept exercise.
- 9.4. Finance report given by Clerk was proposed by Cllr Huggins and seconded by Cllr Robertson. Passed unanimously

10. Planning – Clerk advised the following feedback over past month:

- 10.1. Planning Consultation 23/02592/FUL 20 Hawthorn Terrace Shilbottle- Application withdrawn.
- 10.2. Planning Consultation 23/02548/CCD Friendly Frogs Pre-school Shilbottle First School – Permission GRANTED.
- 10.3. Planning Consultation 23/02101/FUL Shilbottle And District Working Mens Club 28 Grange Road – Application GRANTED.

11. Feedback on play areas - Councillors Huggins/Bailey

- 11.1. Cllr Huggins advised of inspection outcome.
- 11.2. Playpark signage to be installed this next week.

12. Liaison with NCC - Cllr Lewis on liaison with County Councillor Thorne

This section was led by Cllr Thorne providing feedback on various updates within NCC.

- 12.1. Cllr Thorne was pleased to have attended the Local Area Cmte. at Bamburgh. The 2008 unitary has still to demonstrate equality particularly on cemetery upkeep. Some areas appear to have preferential treatment particularly South East Northumberland. Cllr Thorne is in support of Cllr Haddow's campaign and expressed his wish for her to continue to take this forward.
- 12.2. Flooding in Shilbottle due to drains overwhelmed with leaves. Cllr Thorne has emailed P Jones (NCC) regarding this issue.
- 12.3. Cllr Thorne visited resident of The Haven to discuss damp issue.
- 12.4. Alnwick cobbles: Cobble to be overhauled as budget is available
- 12.5. Advance Northumberland – will have a new Chief Executive following resignation. Change to take place March 2024.
- 12.6. NCC budget will be released in February 2024 with aim to protect frontline services
- 12.7. NCC have reaffirmed their Climate Change agenda including more road litter picking.
- 12.8. Devolution deal – Region of seven councils (including NCC) with more government funding continues to progress.
- 12.9. "British Volt" site is still in abeyance, awaiting funding from private sector.
- 12.10. Rail passenger line linking Ashington and Newcastle progressing well towards 2024 opening
- 12.11. Arriva bus route does not go as far as bottom of village (Coquet View). Cllr Thorne was requested to push this service being re-introduced particularly with new Grange Road development being imminent.
- 12.12. Column illuminated in Alnwick. Latest project proposal is for a mural with "Welcome to Alnwick" on the gable end of No 1 and 3 Bondgate without.

13. Liaison with Police - Councillors Douglas, Hood.

- 13.1. Meeting this evening was attended by two Constables from Northumbria Police.
- 13.2. Various topics were discussed and a report on the current status for policing in the village presented to the meeting.
- 13.3. Suggestions on areas covering:

13.3.1. Speeding vehicles within the village

13.3.2. Parking in the village

were discussed and actions taken to follow up with NCC in conjunction with Northumbria Police.

13.4. It was highlighted by a councillor of issues relating to unwanted and worrying phone calls. It was suggested to contact service provider (e.g. BT). Devices can be connected to monitor these calls such as “BT Guardian” system.

13.5. There is an ongoing issue with phone scams. Should anyone have concerns in this regard you should phone the police on 101. “Action Fraud” is run by City of London Police as a national hub for such crimes including scam calls.

See <https://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa2/fraud/action-fraud/>



13.6. Clerk took an action to send through list of regular events in Shilbottle to Northumbria Police representatives in attendance this evening.

14. **Bus Shelters** - Councillor Storey.

14.1. Nothing to report this month.

15. **Dog fouling/Litter** - Update by all Councillors for designated areas

15.1. Lee Ave has seen an increase in dog fouling. This will be monitored.

16. **NCC Housing and Public Protection** - Councillors Hood, Bailey

16.1. It has been noted that there are a number of properties empty in village.

16.2. NCC officials have been in attendance today however this was not publicised to residents. The Chair only seen the vehicle by chance and took the opportunity to talk with the four NCC officials and made some suggestions on Parish Council input to Housing and Public Protection process.

17. **Environment & Sustainability** - Councillor McCann

17.1. Nothing to report this month.

18. **Planning for Christmas** - Councillor Mrs Haddow

18.1. Rev O'Sullivan to liaise with Cllr Haddow on planning. Scheduling Friday 08th December for dressing the tree at a ceremony where singing will be led by C. Gough.

19. **Remembrance Sunday** - Councillor Mrs Haddow

19.1. Children from the school have been given readings to deliver during the ceremony at the memorial.

19.2. As part of the remembrance events both school and Friendly Frogs have been involved in baking activities.

19.3. Format as previous years for a 2 o'clock start.

20. **Newsletter** - Councillor Mrs Haddow

20.1. Newsletter will be published before Christmas.

This concluded all items on the Agenda.

21. **Further items at discretion of the Chair**

21.1. Coffee mornings have been scheduled for funds towards Alnwick Hospice. The Chair reminded members of the decision previously for the Parish Council to adopt Alnwick Hospice as our charity of choice. The Chair proposed a donation of £200 to the Hospice. This was discussed. The proposal was moved by Cllr Douglas, seconded by Cllr Bailey with subsequent vote being unanimous.

21.2. No further comments from attendees.

22. **Date of next meeting:**

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 18:30 in The Haven Community Room

22.1. Meeting ended 19:30