

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Warden Parish Council held on Monday 3rd July 2023 commencing at 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall

Those Present: Cllr S Robson (Chairman), Cllr SJ Heminsley, Cllr D Bowman, Cllr D Liddle, Cllr L Kay, County Cllr N Morphet, D Faran (County Council), C Miller (Clerk), three members of the public

2023/58 Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Martin, Cllr WJ Foot

2023/59 Declaration of Members Interests

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

2023/60 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter

Parishioner asked for an update on the installation of the pump for the allotments. Cllr D Liddle advised there was a broken mechanism, and the pump had to be re-installed. If this was successful, a reservoir may then be installed. **ACTION: D Liddle to further installation of pump within the next two weeks.** Stanegate editorial team advised in order for the magazine to continue, fund raising would be required from 2024.

2023/61 Meeting with Delia Faran, Northumberland Communities Together

Delia Faran introduced herself as a locality co-ordinator for NCT, a division of the County Council, and a new service borne out of the covid pandemic. Due to an increase in enquiries for support in the community, such as shopping and collecting prescriptions, it became evident a County Council service purely for the community would be beneficial. The organisation has support planners from adult social care, compiled of social workers and occupational therapists, who can also support people in the community not eligible for adult social care, but who still have needs. NCT offer support for those applying for benefits, such as attendance allowance, and deal with individuals in the community who need support. One issue that had arisen is social isolation, with NCT able to signpost people to community groups. The Locality Co-ordinator role is to support the community, and to look at gaps in provision. The Covid pandemic had decimated the community, and everything that had worked before this had not necessarily started up again. The role supports existing groups, to see what is working well, and areas that can be improved. Micro grants of up to £500 are available to help a constituted group get started, via independent funding streams, such as defibrillator funding and welfare rights. NCT can fast track people into Citizens Advice and the Greggs Foundation. Cllr S Robson reported the Parish Council is looking to acquire a further defibrillator in the parish with a funding bid to be submitted to the Community Foundation. DF to advise Clerk of funding available. The Stanegate editorial team present. The magazine is delivered to 550 homes, however funding problems have arisen due to a lack of advertisers. DF to advise of any funding streams that could be suitable. Cllr SJ Heminsley raised problems when voluntary organisations need to open a new bank account. DF advised a large problem for community groups involves transport, and people need to be able to get to events. Northumberland is very much an aging population, with fewer young families in rural areas. DF advised It is easier to focus on what is working well, all areas have issues, and there is a need to develop what is already there.

2023/62 Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 be accepted as a true record.

Cllr N Morphet to meet with Executive Director of Place regarding the decrease in gully cleansing frequency.

2023/63 Allotments - to receive update on pump for well

Discussed earlier.

2023/64 Litter pick

Date for future litter pick event to be agreed at next Parish Council meeting.

2023/65 Roads/footpaths/village maintenance

County Council Engineer had carried out a site visit to assess landslip on the Mossy, with strengthening of road edges

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/warden/Northumberland Association of Local Councils/Warden Parish Council>

and improved drainage required. However the works were definitely not included in the Local Transport Plan Programme for 2023-2024, but engineer would recommend they be included in the 2024-2025 programme. it would be useful if Newbrough Parish Council could include the proposal in their LTP 2024-2025 requests. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Newbrough PC and ask if they would consider including the Mossy in their LTP 2024-2025 requests.**

County Cllr reported Newbrough School Headteacher is in agreement with the footway accessibility audit and extending the footpath in front of the School. Highways had acknowledged receipt of the proposals, and which could be considered in the LTP 2024-2025.

Investigations were to be carried out on the sunken patches at Fourstones Crossroads.

2023/65/01 Progress regarding the reduction in speeding traffic through the villages

County Council were to prepare a design brief this financial year as a result of the petition and presentation to the Local Area Committee for potential road safety improvements.

2023/65/02 Footpath clearance works/hedgerow obstructions

Clearance works required, with gardeners to be asked to remove obstructions to footpaths. **ACTION: Clerk to convey to gardeners.**

2023/65/03 To receive update on proposed village signage/planters

Supporting wall had not yet been built. **ACTION: Cllr S Robson to speak to contractor.**

2023/65/04 To receive update on recycled seating at Crossgates

A resident of Crossgates had since installed a seat in the same area, therefore an alternative location was required for the seating. Cllr S Robson suggested the seat be placed on a stretch of the riverside overlooking the river, which was presumably on private land. **ACTION: Cllr S Robson to create a map and circulate to all for agreement. Clerk to seek landowner permission.**

2023/65/05 To receive update on Dog Fouling Warning signage at Crossgates

County Cllr had contacted County Council regarding possible increase in dog waste bin emptying, however organising a larger wheelie bin with a locking post would be the preferred solution. Matter to be considered further at next meeting.

2023/65/06 To receive update on play area repairs

J Martin had reported the missing bolts had been replaced, and additional bolts requested via Playsafety.

2023/65/07 To consider Local Transport Plan Requests 2024-2025

It was resolved to request the following via the LTP 2024-2025: 1. Mossy strengthening and drainage; 2. Mossy road resurfacing; and 3. Implementation of recommendations from footway accessibility audit, with the top priority being dropped kerbs, East Fourstones to Butt Bank junction.

2023/66 Planning

2023/66/01 Planning Applications received

- 23/02219/FUL: The Croft, Fourstones – Extension and renovation of existing detached dwelling – no objections.

2023/66/02 Approval of Planning Application received

- 23/00446/LBC: Martlet, Fourstones – Listed Building Consent for replacement of existing UPVC windows with hardwood windows in a white, painted finish.
- 20/01107/CCM – Prudham Quarry – extraction of sandstone

2023/66/03 To consider issues relating to Prudham Quarry Planning Proposals

Developer had signed Highways Agreement, with planning application to be submitted in order that pre-commencement conditions can be discharged.

2023/67 **Reports**
2023/67/01 **Town Hall**

Nothing to report.

2023/67/02 **Northumberland County Council**

County Cllr willing to carry out a short presentation on river water quality and sewage, which the Parish Council supported. The Climate Action Group could also be interested in this.

2023/67/03 **Sportsfield Association/ Newbrough First School – Repair to MUGA steel fencing - to receive update regarding establishing the MUGA as a sustainable community/school facility**

Warden and Newbrough Parish Council's had agreed to fund 50% each towards the fencing. Sportsfield Association to apply for funding towards re-surfacing.

2023/68 **Financial Matters**

2023/68/01 **Payments to be authorised**

- C Miller – salary - £433.11; expenses - £35.20
- RoSPA – play area annual inspection - £126.00
- EasyPC Accounts – annual charge for accounts package - £60
- D Charlton – gardening - £480
- B Gustard – gardening - £460

It was resolved to approve the payments.

2023/68/02 **To receive update regarding defibrillator at Fourstones - to consider adopting Parish Council Safeguarding Policy**

It was resolved to approve the Parish Council safeguarding Policy, further to Community Foundation grant fund stipulations. Cllr L Kay approved as the Parish Council safeguarding lead. A training pack for defibrillator use could be purchased via the British Heart foundation, and which would be considered further in due course. **ACTION: L Kay to provide quotation for training pack to Clerk for inclusion in grant application.**

2023/68/03 **To consider arrangements for future purchase(s) of Remembrance Day Wreath**

Clerk had been contacted by the new Hexham Area representative of the Royal British Legion who was able to organise the purchase of the annual remembrance day wreath and it was resolved the offer would be accepted.

2023/69 **The Railway Inn**

County Cllr reported there was a community ownership fund available.

2023/70 **To receive update from Climate Change Group**

County Cllr had requested a quote for a feasibility study of the greenway along the Mossy, however the company would only carry out a study if the County Council procured their services themselves. County Council likely to declare an ecological emergency next week. The County Council Chief ecologist had been persuaded to support this, and it was envisaged the ecological department would subsequently grow.

2023/71 **To consider Crises Management in the parish**

Cllr S Robson had drafted an emergency plan, circulated to all, which was a diluted version of the County Council draft document. It would provide members of the community with emergency numbers and Parish Cllr contact details. In the event of an emergency, the Parish Council would arrange a meeting in the Town Hall, along with members of the hall committee. Members of the community could be asked if they wished to self identify as vulnerable and contacted during

times of emergency. This would be during initial stages of a crises before other organisations kick into action, such as Northern Powergrid and the County Council. Cllr L Kay voiced concerns with data protection, and who do the Parish Council contact for assistance during emergencies. The Civil Contingencies Team could assist with data protection issues. **ACTION: Detailed comments on the plan to be forwarded to Cllr S Robson. H Hinds, County Council Civil Contingencies Officer, to be invited to next Parish Council meeting.**

2023/72 To consider Play area inspection report

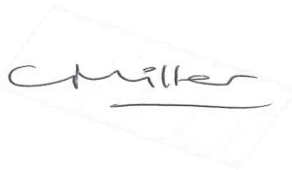
Cllr J Martin reported he had checked the securing of the posts, but wasn't sure which ones were identified as loose, as all appear firm. It seemed that the securing bolts to the poles require a special type of 'driver,' with Play Safety to be asked if they can provide this. Cllr J Martin had concerns with the amount of sharp gravel lying about on the rubberised surface, which he believed is the result of re-gravelling after the replacement oil tank had spilled through the fencing and subsequently been picked up on shoes/kicked about. Staff of the pub could action removal.

2023/73 To receive items for next meeting

There were no items for the next meeting.

2023/74 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Warden Parish Council will be held on Monday 4th September 2023 commencing 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall



Claire Miller, Clerk to Warden Parish Council

| ACTION | RESPONSIBLE |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Allotments | Cllr D Liddle to install water pump within the next two weeks. |
| Replacement village signage/planters | Cllr S Robson to speak to contractor regarding supporting wall not yet having been built |
| Crises Management | Comments on draft plan to be forwarded to Cllr S Robson. H Hinds, County Council Contingency Officer to be invited to September PC meeting |
| Defibrillator at Fourstones | Clerk to submit funding application in due course, further to adoption of safeguarding policy. L Kay to provide costs for defib training pack. |
| Crossgates dog waste bin | Larger bin request to be added to next meeting agenda. |
| Sunken patches, Fourstones crossroads | County Cllr to continue to lobby for a permanent solution |
| Crossgates seating | Cllr S Robson to circulate map for alternative location of seating, Clerk to then seek landowner permission |
| Remembrance Day wreath | Clerk to confirm annual wreath with British Legion Hexham branch |
| LTP 2024-2025 | Clerk to convey requests to County Council |
| Obstruction(s) to footpaths | Clerk to ask gardeners to action |

The meeting closed at 9pm.