

WOOLER PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council, Held on Monday 25th September 2023 @ 7pm – at Glendale Middle School, Wooler

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

In Attendance: Kerren Rodgers (Clerk), J Pollock (Glendale Live)

23/071 APOLOGIES – Mark Napier (Chair), Mark Mather, Duncan Veevers

23/072 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – None

23/073 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – None

23/074 LOCAL SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT

Northumbria Police report

“10 crimes recorded since the last meeting. None of which effect the wider community and in all but two the parties involved are known to each other.

No other incidents arising which would affect the local community or increase tension in the area however we’re now well through the harvest season which does on occasion see an increase in reports of poaching so can I ask that any reports are rang in accordingly.

And finally Glendale show has come and gone and thankfully there were no issues like there were last year and the show passed off without issue inside and outside the grounds on the A697 etc.

And as ever can I ask that people consider signing up for Northumbria connected on the NORPOL web page as a way of getting regular updates on various issues local to us.”

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

23/075 PREVIOUS MINUTES

REVIEW & SIGN

To be signed as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 21st August ‘23

The Parish Council read through the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21/8/23 were agreed to be a true and accurate record, Cllr Cumming proposed, Cllr Robertson seconded, all agreed. The Vice Chair signed the minutes.

23/076 MATTERS ARISING

REVIEW & DISCUSSION

It was noted the bin on The Peth has still not been moved – matter in hand.

Cllr Donkin confirmed the shed donated to the PC had been re-located to near the polytunnel.

23/077 PARISH REPORT

UPDATE & DECISION

- **First School Site – Community Asset transfer update** – The Vice Chair confirmed that CAT now completed and letter from solicitor read out. It was agreed that the Community Group set up to manage the cemetery is to be invited to the next PC meeting.
- **Caretakers Work/Playpark Inspection timetable - Update** – N/a caretaker on holiday
- **Tory Site – Update** Cllr Deane-Hall reported on a site meeting held regarding signage. Quotes provided and consideration needed regarding size, number of boards, fences and placement. Clerk to circulate figures. Cllr Donkin agreed to provide stands for boards.

- **Bus station toilets - update** – The Clerk confirmed that initial “snagging” items had been completed and there was now a lock on the changing room door as youths were found sitting in the room at night.
- **Christmas Carol Concert date/URC Christmas tree Festival/Christmas Lights** – It was agreed that the Christmas Carol Service would be held on Tuesday 12th December at 6pm. Discussions followed regarding the URC request to decorate a Christmas Tree reflecting the Parish Council work. Cllr Bell nominated Cllr Cumming to lead a sub-committee to produce decorations. Clerk to contact URC and get further information. Cllr Donkin confirmed that no new Christmas lights would need to be purchased this year, and the date of installation was set at 25th November 9am to meet in the bus station car park.
- It was also noted that the Remembrance Service would be held on the 12th November at 2pm - The Clerk to confirm with St Marys Church. It was agreed to purchase a Remembrance Flag to be flown.

23/078 SCHOOL FARM FIELD SITE

DISCUSSION & DECISION

- **Pergola/seating Community Orchard Site** – It was agreed that a date needed to be organised for the installation. Cllr Donkin has manufactured the “shoes” to secure the pergola. Clerk to circulate dates.

23/079 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

REPORT & DECISION

Cllr Mather had sent his apologies but had provided update via Clerk. Tweaks had been made to the bus routes, which mainly affected Berwick Industrial Est and as such, if travel within Berwick was needed a Discovery Ticket should be purchased. A new bus route is being organised between Wooler and Seahouses. This is expected to run 12 months of the year with additional buses running in the summer. The Community Chest fund is open until the 30th September for applications. Local Area Committees have changed their format and are now more targeted to local areas. The Middle School is to be developed as a family hub, with Surestart amongst others. BT are currently reducing copper again and it is important that vulnerable people are identified. The footpath at the railway bridge that had suffered a landslip was now being repaired.

23/080 SCOTTS PARK/BRYONS PARK

UPDATE & DECISION

- **Scotts Pk Play Area** – working group update Cllr Parson reported on further progress and noted that Friends of Wooler Playparks constitution was being set up. Sign to be produced for wheelchair swing.
- **Drainage Cover repairs** – Cllr Veevers is dealing with.

23/081 PLANNING MATTERS

DISCUSSION & DECISION

- **23/03114/FUL** Alterations including change of use from domestic residential property to commercial gallery unit at ground floor and creation of 3no. en-suite bedrooms and associated lounge at first floor for B & B accommodation. Refurbishment of double garage to rear to include artist studio and self catering flat with additional window to roof scape. **79 and 81 High Street, Wooler NE71 6BD** – discussions took place over this application and other consultee comments. It was noted that the application contravened the Northumberland Plan by not having parking spaces within the curtilage. The parish Council noted that whilst they supported the development of the High St, they would need to follow the Plan and object to this application.
- **23/03312/ADE & 23/03311/FUL** Installation and Advertisement Consent for green company signs, Costa coffee signs and posters **Garden centre, 7-9 South Road, Wooler** – This is a retrospective application to which the PC has no objection

23/082 PLANNING DECISIONS

UPDATE & DECISION

- Part demolition of existing outbuilding following dilapidation and material change to exterior along with new internal floor (amended description) **Outbuilding, Bendor, Wooler, NE71 6SZ GRANTED**

23/083 OUTSIDE BODIES

REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION

The visit to the water treatment plant was very interesting and thanks were extended to the Northumberland Water staff for giving their time.

23/084 COUNCILLOR'S TASKS/QUESTIONS**REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION**

Cllr Cumming asked if emergency plan was in place due to the impending storm? It was confirmed that if the emergency plan was required, first contact will be the Cheviot Centre.

Cllr Donkin noted that the plants for the winter planting were now in the polytunnel.

Cllr Parson asked if anything could be done about the speed of the traffic on the A697 as parents felt unsafe walking on the path between the Berwick Road and the garage – Clerk to report to highways.

23/085 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 23rd October 2023 at 7pm

23/086 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Address by Lesley Robson – Rural Advocacy & Digital Inclusion Officer – GGT, Actual v Budget

23/087 FINANCE –**DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- Payments for authorisation – SEE TABLE BELOW

IONIS-emails	30.00	DD
EE mobile	16.26	DD
Tom Armstrong –Caretaker	0	Tfr
NCC – Sept payroll costs	998.35	Tfr
Des Hood – Taxi to replace bus recharge to NCC	66.00	Tfr
Viking – Toilet rolls/soap	76.75	Tfr
Viking credit – return of mop	-89.99	Tfr
Glendale Paints – cleaning materials	53.46	Tfr
Playdale – Shackles/Bush/Joints	167.74	Tfr

Two signatories to authorise the above payments

Signed:

Signed: