

WOOLER PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council, Held on Monday 18th December 2023 @ 7pm – at Glendale Middle School, Wooler

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

In Attendance: Kerren Rodgers (Clerk), Tom Armstrong

23/126 APOLOGIES – Cllr Mark Mather - illness

23/127 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – Request for memorial bench for Tommy Swan – an email was read to the meeting from John Grey of the Farne and Glendale Lodge of Freemasons asking if they could purchase a bench in memory of Tommy Swan and place it on the Riverside on South Road. The meeting agreed to the request with the proviso that it was a composite bench rather than wood, to reduce maintenance costs.

23/128 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – None

23/129 LOCAL SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT

Northumbria Police report

There has been 7 crimes since the last meeting on Nov the 27th.

Only one of note was on overnight burglary to Doddington's Café on Dec the 9th with enqs ongoing. From a crime prevention point of view just a reminder for businesses, with it being xmas, that on occasion more cash than normal might be left overnight on premises and to ensure if this is the case to have it locked and secured in a safe or out of sight of anyone and to bank it at the earliest opportunity.

Incident wise -

There's been 20 incidents reported in the Wooler area since the last meeting. None of which will affect the local community or raise the vulnerability of anyone

Community update –

As of last week both Alnwick and Berwick Police station front offices will revert back to being open from 9 to 5 Monday to Friday, which is good to hear.

And finally a reminder about Northumbria Connected and to sign up to it for more local info. Search Northumbria Connected online and enter your details. It's that simple.

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

23/130 CARETAKERS WORKS UPDATE

REPORT

The Caretaker reported that since the last meeting the nest swing has been installed at Brysons Park. The report produced was then discussed. The meeting agreed that Brysons Park was mainly used by younger children and any replacement equipment should reflect this age group. The caretaker recommended removing the multi games unit – the caretaker to inspect and advise.

The Chairman left the meeting and the vice Chair took over the Chair

23/131 PREVIOUS MINUTES

REVIEW & SIGN

To be signed as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 27th November '23
The Parish Council read through the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 27/11/23 were agreed to be a true and accurate record, Cllr Cumming proposed, Cllr Veevers seconded, all agreed. The Vice-Chair signed the minutes.

23/132 MATTERS ARISING

REVIEW & DISCUSSION

Cllr Parson asked if the Cheviot Centre was booked for the Cemetery public consultation – the Clerk confirmed it was.

23/133 PARISH REPORT

UPDATE & DECISION

First School Site – Community Asset transfer update – Cllr Rob Parsons

Cllr Parson presented the draft cemetery rules and proposed charges if the cemetery is to go ahead. The consultation is arranged for Wednesday 10th January '24, 3 – 7pm Cllrs Mather, Napier, Parson and Bell are to be available to discuss with residents. Information leaflet and poster agreed

- **Tory Site – Update** – The War Memorial Grant has now been confirmed. The chains to stop access are in place and thanks are to be sent. Cllr Deane-Hall had no response yet regarding the historical society. It was also noted that 100 trees had been received and were currently stored in Cllr Deane-Halls' greenhouse. Discussions followed regarding tree planting and possibility to involve children.
- **Christmas Carol Concert Update Cllr Rob Donkin**– Cllr Robertson & Cumming are to organise seating and all councillors to attend early. Cllr Cumming to read in place of County councillor Mather if still ill.
- **Bus station toilets/CCTV – Update** Report on current state of repairs given and CCTV options discussed. Quotes to be obtained for street light mounted cameras.
- **Parish Clock (St Marys Church) – works required** Cllr Robertson suggested an article to be prepared for the Glendale Live with information about the clock, the history and the clock winders work. Cllr Robertson to meet with the magazine to discuss. Cllr Donkin noted that the clock is in a poor state but it would cost thousands to automate.
- **Christmas lights takedown** – It was agreed that the lights were to be taken down on Saturday 6th January 9.30am meet.

23/134 SCHOOL FARM FIELD SITE

DISCUSSION & DECISION

None

23/135 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

REPORT & DECISION

Cllr Mather is ill so no report was forthcoming.

23/136 SCOTTS PARK/BRYONS PARK

UPDATE & DECISION

Scotts Pk Play Area – working group update The meeting was informed that with the amendments as discussed at the previous meeting, the cost has now risen to £119k. Awaiting information from Cllr Mather to see if funding may be available.

23/0137 PLANNING MATTERS

DISCUSSION & DECISION

None

23/138 PLANNING DECISIONS

UPDATE & DECISION

- Conservation rooflights to the front and dormers to the rear, additionally minor elevational changes including closing up the two openings for the doors (one removed entirely, the other converted to a window) and a new door opening proposed more centrally **46 High Street, Wooler, NE71 6BG**

23/139 PRECEPT – FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**REPORT & DISCUSSION**

This is to be carried forward to the next meeting

23/140 OUTSIDE BODIES**REPORT & DISCUSSION**

None

23/141 COUNCILLOR'S TASKS/QUESTIONS**REPORT & DISCUSSION**

Cllr Robertson noted that the potholes at the bottom of Ramseys Lane were worsening, these were reported on fixmystreet.

23/142 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 22nd January 2024 at 7pm

23/143 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Precept decision, Cemetery decision**23/144 FINANCE –****DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- Payments for authorisation – SEE TABLE BELOW

IONIS-emails	30.00	DD
EE mobile	16.26	DD
Tom Armstrong –Caretaker	160	Tfr
NCC – Dec payroll costs (incl clerk back pay)	1613.25	Tfr
Wicksteed – Dee Shackles	69.29	Tfr
Des Hood – Bus replacement taxis (NCC recharge)	179.00	Tfr

Two signatories to authorise the above payments

Signed:

Signed: