

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Warden Parish Council held on Monday 8th January 2024 commencing at 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall

Those Present: Cllr S Robson (Chairman), Cllr WJ Foot, Cllr D Bowman, Cllr J Martin, Cllr S Heminsley, County Cllr N Morphet, (County Council), C Miller (Clerk), one member of the public

2024/01 Apologies for Absence

Cllr G Charlton, Cllr L Kay, Cllr D Liddle

2024/02 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr D Bowman declared an interest in Agenda Item 23/03731/FUL: 2 Kiln Cottages, Fourstones – Replace outbuilding and shipping container with new building to safeguard vehicles. Cllr's S Robson and SJ Heminsley declared an interest in Railway Inn.

2024/03 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter

There were no matters raised from members of the public.

2024/04 Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2023 be accepted as a true record further to amendments as follows: Agenda item: 2023-103, 2040 target is for net zero **greenhouse gases**, 2030 target is for **net zero** carbon dioxide; Agenda item: 2023/107 change to Active Travel **England** (from Tynedale).

2024/05 Allotments

No issues arising.

2024/06 Community litter pick

Further litter pick to be arranged in due course

2024/07 Roads/footpaths/village maintenance

County Cllr advised 2024-2025 Local Transport Plan programme had been released by County Council. The whole of C234 between Boatside Inn and Fourstones will likely be surface dressed, with drainage issues actioned first. Landowner(s) can be encouraged to make improvements, however changes to land management may prove difficult. Should the County Council be unable to improve, the land owner would be approached. Flooding & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Manager had looked into options to improve the drainage under the road and down to the river, and advised that "Highways don't have records of where the gullies extend to downstream and don't currently have the resources to investigate. If the gullies are generally draining well this won't be a priority." County Council Chief Executive and Leader of the Council were aware of problems.

Cllr Robson reported potholes were prevalent, and the road starting to break up.

Clerk had received response from Andy Craig of County Council, who advised "whilst funding for capital maintenance of roads had increased over recent years, it is still insufficient to meet all the needs for repairs across the County. In the meantime, I will pass on your concerns onto the Area Highways Delivery Team requesting that a safety inspection of the road is undertaken. This will ensure that any necessary remedial work that is required to maintain this road in a safe condition will be carried out in accordance with our maintenance policy."

Parishioner had contacted Cllr Robson regarding blocked gullies at North Bank. **ACTION: Clerk to forward email to Highways Maintenance, Cllr S Robson to provide photographic evidence.**

Field ditches had been suggested as a solution to drainage problems. **ACTION: Cllr S Robson to prepare email for Natural England's Catchment Sensitive Farming team who may be able to assist.**

The dropped kerbs between East Fourstones and Butt Bank were still “under consideration” for the 2024/25 LTP programme, but the resurfacing of the B6319 west of Walwick Grange and the surface dressing of Homers Lane (the C235) were unlikely to make the programme. No update on sunken patches at Fourstones crossroads. County Cllr to discuss issues with P Jones, County Council Director.

2024/07/01 Progress regarding the reduction in speeding traffic through the villages

County Cllr had met with N Snowdon, County Council officer to discuss Hardhaugh traffic measures. Agreement had been given to refresh centre lane markings, increase slow road markings and replace road narrowing signage. County Council would consider installation of road studs, pedestrian in road warning signage and Welcome to Hardhaugh gateway signage. N Snowdon not convinced reducing the speed limit would work. There were not enough properties to justify 30mph, the proposal wouldn't meet government guidelines, and likely be ignored on the long straight. 40mph limit could be possible, but N Snowdon didn't think it would be effective. A repeated traffic speed survey to be carried out in the Spring which would be compared to previous survey. County Cllr advised pushing for changes to the road to make it consistent and the introduction of 40mph, as well as pushing for the 40mph speed limit itself. Concern was expressed relating to the proliferation of signage and whether there is a suitable location for a gateway sign to the west of Hardhaugh. The key priority being how traffic is calmed and the best way to do this. County Cllr to advise N Snowdon the Parish Council were currently implementing Warden signage.

30mph repeater signage down Frankham Lane not visible, with request received it be moved to the first telegraph pole.
ACTION: S Robson to report via Fix My Street.

Community speedwatch were taking on new volunteers until 16/1/24.

2024/07/02 Footpath clearance works/hedgerow obstructions

Item to be removed from agenda.

2024/07/03 To receive update on proposed village signage/planters

ACTION: Cllr D Bowman to chase up.

2024/07/04 To receive update on new location for recycled seating

Clerk had re-emailed Warden Estates, with no response received. **ACTION: Clerk to re-contact landowner.**

2024/07/05 To consider larger bin for dog waste at Crossgates

Clerk had ordered larger bin via County Council. **ACTION: Clerk to chase up**

2024/07/06 To consider repair to Coronation Seat

Wood showing rot and requiring repair. It was resolved to repair at an approximate cost of £200. **ACTION: D Bowman to organise.**

2024/07/07 To receive update on repair/repainting of Parish Council noticeboard

Repair/repainting actioned by parishioner, with letter of thanks to be forwarded. **ACTION: Cllr WJ Foot to provide contact information.**

2024/07/08 To receive update on play area repair(s)

Minor works outstanding.

2024/08 Planning

2024/08/01 Planning Applications received

- 23/03731/FUL: 2 Kiln Cottages, Fourstones – Replace outbuilding and shipping container with new building to safeguard vehicles – Parish Council had submitted no objections, but voiced concerns regarding vehicular access.

2024/08/02 Approval of Planning Application received

- 23/02526/LBC I Listed building consent for replacement windows Location The Gin Gan Fourstones
- 23/03981/VARYCO: The Croft, Fourstones – Variation of Condition 2 to 23/02219/FUL to allow minor changes to approved design
- 23/03512/VARYCO: Wyvern, Butt Bank, Fourstones – Variation of Condition 2 to 23/00331/FUL to allow reduction of angle of roof pitch from 40 to 35 degrees, reduction in size of first floor feature window on South West corner of West elevation, replacement of timber infill above and below feature windows with natural stone, pergola to front of South elevation and adjustments to layout of solar panels on South facing roof

2024/08/03 Withdrawal of Planning Application received

- 23/03511/FUL: Laverick Cottage, Fourstones – Construction of a sustainable, low impact, one bedroom self catering treehouse style holiday accommodation lodge

2024/08/04 To consider issues relating to Prudham Quarry Planning Proposals

No further progress.

2024/08/05 To consider Humshaugh Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Draft plan noted.

2024/09 Reports

2024/09/01 Town Hall

Nothing to report.

2024/09/02 Northumberland County Council

County Council cabinet had agreed new target for Northumberland to be net zero for GHG emissions by 2040. Target for Northumberland to be net zero for carbon dioxide emissions retained as 2030. New target for the council itself to be net zero for carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. The Rural Design Centre were to organise a course for farmers to help them reduce their emissions. Sustainable Haltwhistle to hold a Time for Change event 29/2/24, the focus being health of the river tyne. Budget consultation opened December 2023, closing date 26/1/24.

2024/09/03 Sportsfield Association/ Newbrough First School – Repair to MUGA steel fencing - to receive update regarding establishing the MUGA as a sustainable community/school facility

Two quotations had been received, with specific funding available for MUGA's. In order to receive grants, proof of leasing/owning the land is a requirement.

2024/10 Financial Matters

2024/10/01 To receive 2023/2024 Local Government Services Pay Agreement, backdated from 1st April 2023, equating to £1/hour increase

Pay increase noted. It was resolved to review Clerk salary scale.

2024/10/02 To approve the following payments

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – Remembrance Day wreath – it was resolved to grant £50.

C Miller, salary - £571.63; expenses £27.90; Richard Elliott – Installation circuit for defib - £440.20 (retrospective) – over budget due to additional installation requirements – it was resolved to approve the payments.

2024/10/03 To consider financial support to the Stanegate

Meeting had been held with editorial committee. It was resolved to grant £250 to support the Stanegate. The Committee to also request funding via Newbrough Parish Council. A limited number of hard copies continue to be printed. Committee considering various options to ensure the sustainability of the publication.

2024/10/04 To consider grant request from Tynedale Hospice at Home

It was resolved to grant £60.

2024/10/05 To consider request for grant from PCC of Warden & Newbrough

It was resolved to grant £500, and forward sustainable information in relation to churchyard maintenance for future reference.

2024/10/06 To receive update on safety requirements for parish gardeners

Hi viz jackets supplied. **ACTION: D Bowman to source bollard.**

2024/10/07 To consider training requirements for use of defibrillator

Deferred until next meeting.

2024/10/08 To consider budget requirements 2024-2025

It was resolved to approve the budget requirements 2024-2025.

2024/10/09 To consider precept requirements 2024-2025

It was resolved to approve precept requirements 2024-2025 of £10,000.

2024/11 The Railway Inn

Tidying up of the site had been carried out.

2024/12 To receive update from Climate Change Group

County Cllr reported that he had received a quote of £10K to £15K to undertake an appraisal of options to improve cycling infrastructure between Fourstones and Hexham, and a further £15K to £20K to undertake a feasibility study of the chosen option. Possible funding is available to bid for.

Climate Action Group working on a revised plan.

Cycle route between Hexham and Haydon Bridge being looked at, involving negotiation with landowners.

2024/13 To consider Crises Management in the parish

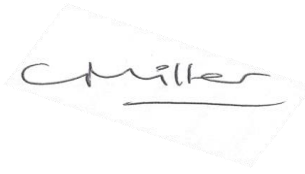
It was resolved to adopt the Parish Council emergency plan, to include Parish Cllr mobile numbers. Information to be printed and circulated to parishioners after Easter.

2024/14 To receive items for next meeting/urgent business

There was no urgent business.

2024/15 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Warden Parish Council will be held on Monday 4th March 2024 commencing 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Miller". The signature is written on a light-colored rectangular background that has a faint grid pattern.

Claire Miller, Clerk to Warden Parish Council

The meeting closed at 850pm

DRAFT

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
Defibrillator(s)	Cllr L Kay to organise defib training
Crossgates dog waste bin	Clerk to chase up bin order with County Council
Crises Management	Plan to be circulated to all parishioners after Easter
Gardener safety measures	D Bowman to source reflective cones
Blocked gullies, North Bank Field ditches	Clerk to forward email to Highways Maintenance, Cllr S Robson to provide photographic evidence Cllr S Robson to prepare email for Natural England Catchment sensitive farming team who may be able to assist.
Riverside seating	Clerk to chase up landowner permission
Noticeboard	Repair/repainting actioned by parishioner, with letter of thanks to be forwarded. Cllr WJ Foot to provide contact information.
30mph repeater signage down Frankham Lane not visible, with request received it be moved to the first telegraph pole.	S Robson to report via Fix My Street
Signage/planters	Cllr D Bowman to chase up.