

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Warden Parish Council held on Monday 4th March 2024 commencing at 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall

Those Present: Cllr S Robson (Chairman), Cllr WJ Foot, Cllr S Heminsley, Cllr G Charlton, Cllr L Kay, Cllr D Liddle, County Cllr N Morphet, (County Council), C Miller (Clerk), two members of the public

2024/16 Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Martin, Cllr D Bowman

2024/17 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr SJ Heminsley declared an interest in the Railway Inn.
Cllr G Charlton declared an interest in allotments.

2024/18 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter

Parishioner had reported concerns regarding A69 junction at Two Mile Cottages to Guy Opperman MP, and National Highways. NH to carry out an inspection and hold a public meeting. The area was outside of the parish, however it was agreed it would be beneficial if Warden Parish Council were represented at the meeting.

2024/19 Minutes of previous meeting held on Monday 8th January 2024

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 8th January 2024 be accepted as a true record, further to the following amendments. **2024/07** “the changes to land management may prove **ineffective**”.

2024/07/01 “county councillor advised pushing for changes to the road to make it consistent **with** the introduction of 40mph”. **2024/09/02** Sustainable Haltwhistle are organising a **Tyne** for Change event.

2024/20 Allotments – to approve request for shed on allotment

It was resolved to approve the request for shed on allotment, with structure to be 6ft x 8ft x 2m, stained green.

2024/21 Community litter pick

It was resolved to hold next litter pick event Sunday 19/5/24. It had been noted there was an increase in litter within the parish, however this had been due to high winds. **ACTION: Clerk to arrange loan of litter picking equipment from County Council.**

2024/22 Roads/footpaths/village maintenance

Structures Engineer had advised that current works on the Mossy involved cleaning out drainage system, installing additional gulleys, and strengthening road sides. The long-term solution involved co-operation of the landowner who might be asked to dig a ditch along the uphill side of the hedge and consider changes to one management. Highways to improve current road diversion signage. Surface dressing was included within the Local Transport Plan 2024-2025, being both sides into Fourstones. Work to sunken patches at Fourstones had been delayed due to it coinciding with Mossy road closure, and had been scheduled for when Mossy is reopened. Repeater sign at South View had been inspected. The structure is obscured by vegetation but moving it would not be an option. County Council had spoken to landowner to request shrubbery be cut back. The 2024-2025 Local Transport Plan draft schedule of works had been agreed.

2024/22/01 Progress regarding the reduction in speeding traffic through the villages

Nothing to report.

2024/22/02 To receive update on proposed village signage/planters

Problems ongoing relating to contractor. **ACTION: D Bowman furthering.**

2024/22/03 To receive update on new location for recycled seating

Landowner had advised they had held a site meeting with County Council Footpaths Officer November 2023 who were surprised that the field fence had not been restored, as they had previously paid for this work to be done. County

Council had taken this up with the contractors, and in the meantime advise it would be best to wait and get the fencing sorted before agreeing to the bench location.

2024/22/04 To receive update on larger bin for dog waste at Crossgates

Bin had not yet been installed by County Council. **ACTION: Clerk to re-contact County Council, copying County Cllr into email.**

2024/22/05 To receive update on repair to Coronation Seat

Seat repair ongoing.

2024/22/06 To receive update on play area repair(s)

J Martin had advised there was no current danger aspect at the play area, with landlords having tidied gravel up.

2024/23 Planning

2024/23/01 Planning Applications received

No planning applications had been received.

2024/23/02 Approval of Planning Application received

- 23/03731/FUL: 2 Kiln Cottages, Fourstones – Replace outbuilding and shipping container with new building to safeguard vehicles

2024/23/03 To consider issues relating to Prudham Quarry Planning Proposals

Nothing to report.

2024/24 Reports

2024/24/01 Town Hall

Town Hall to submit funding application towards maintenance of generator which is to be used in times of emergencies.

2024/24/02 Northumberland County Council

No progress had been made with traffic calming measures at Hardhaugh. Speed survey to be repeated Spring 2024, before plans finalised. Proposals included within Local Transport Plan 2024-2025 programme. Climate Change website to be launched. Invitations to the first local bus board meeting (scheduled October 2023 which had been delayed) were to be circulated.

2024/24/03 Sportsfield Association/ Newbrough First School – Repair to MUGA steel fencing - to receive update regarding establishing the MUGA as a sustainable community/school facility

Grant application submitted via Community Foundation.

2024/25 Financial Matters

2024/25/01 To approve the following payments

Matthew Ford – drain repair – allotments £144.00; J Weaver – repair to allotment gate - £135.00; C Miller, salary - £420.77; expenses £28.92

It was resolved to approve the payments.

2024/25/02 To consider training requirements for use of defibrillator

Training equipment to be purchased via British Heart Foundation, however this was currently out of stock. **ACTION: Cllr L Kay to confirm with BHF whether they would receive future stock, and contact alternative supplier if required.**

2024/25/03 To receive acknowledgement of grant from Tynedale Hospice at Home and PCC of Warden and Newbrough

Acknowledgement of grants noted.

2024/26 The Railway Inn

Fourstones Community Ventures Ltd had been dissolved. Viewing of the inn had been carried out for a micro brewery and food venue, however there were ongoing issues relating to the price, and the car park having been removed from the sale. There were ongoing concerns with the Asset of Community Value, and it would be better re-opened as a pub. Representation should be made as regards the building being allowed to become run down.

2024/27 To receive update from Climate Change Group

County Cllr advised the RAMP fund could be accessed to carry out a feasibility study for a greenway alongside the Mossy.

2024/28 To consider Crises Management in the parish

Cllr S Robson had included Parish Council mobile numbers into Emergency plan, to be circulated to all. Plan to be distributed within the parish by end of April 2024. **ACTION: Parish Cllr's to circulate plan and speak to parishioners.** Further to review following Storm Arwen, County Council Civil Contingencies team had implemented the 28 recommendations contained within the report, two currently being work in progress. During a recent storm, Northern Powergrid estimated reconnection times had improved, which the review could take credit for.

2024/29 Review of Asset Register and Risk Assessment

It was resolved the Asset Register was a true record. It was resolved the Risk Assessment was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council

2024/30 Review of Internal Controls

It was resolved that the current system of internal controls was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council. It was resolved to engage Mr Michael Ackroyd as internal auditor year ending 31.3.24, at the rate of £25/hour with an estimate received of 6 to 7 hours to complete the audit. **ACTION: If estimate exceeds 6 to 7 hours, auditor to inform the Council.**

2024/31 Review of Insurance Policy

It was resolved the current values of street furniture £36,000; play area equipment £60,000; employers liability £10m; public liability £2.5m; fidelity £150K; libel and slander £250K and officials indemnity £500K was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council.

2024/32 To receive information relating to Northumberland Household Waste Recovery Centres (HWRC)

County Council had provided the following information. "In response to new Government legislation, from 1st February Northumberland households can now dispose of limited DIY waste for free at our Northumberland Household Waste Recovery Centres (HWRC). From this date site users will need a pre-booked permit to dispose of their DIY waste at our HWRCs, to help us manage DIY waste disposal monthly. Households that are taking in other non-DIY waste such as general household waste, garden waste, old furniture etc to the HWRCs are not affected by the new permit arrangements. The booking system is being introduced to manage these new DIY waste limits which are in line with the requirements of the new Controlled Waste Regulations 2023. A permit can be requested via www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste or through the contact centre on 0345 600 6400. The pre-booked permit allows free disposal of DIY waste up to 100 litres – that's about two typical 50 litre builders' rubble sacks, or one item no larger than 2000mm x 750mm x 700mm (ie the size of a shower screen). If the site user needs to dispose of more DIY waste than the allocated free allowance, then they can simply 'Pay as You Throw' for any additional DIY waste above the free amount using the existing tariff. Each household can have four visits with a permit to dispose of their DIY waste in any four-week period. Prominent site signage is in place at each HWRC informing site users of the new DIY permit

requirements from 1st February 2024. Information has also been issued to the local media and a comprehensive social media campaign will include a DIY waste explainer video and an update in the News Section of the Council website.”

Useful links:

Information leaflet (please scroll to DIY Waste Section):

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Waste/Tip.aspx#householdwastepermits>

Permit booking system: <https://wastepermits.northumberland.gov.uk/selfservice/Permit.aspx>

2024/33 Urgent Business/Items for next agenda

County Council were to carry out a review of parliamentary polling districts and polling places

2024/34 Date of Next Meeting

The annual meeting of Warden Parish Council will be held on Monday 13th May 2024 commencing 715pm in Newbrough Town Hall. The annual meeting of the parish will commence at 7pm.


PART II

The Council is invited to consider the following resolution: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the agenda, as the item involves the discussion of personal information.

It was resolved to hold private session.

2024/35 To carry out review of Clerk salary and consider recommendations

It was resolved to raise the Clerk’s payscale to 17, to come into effect from 1st April 2024.



Claire Miller, Clerk to Warden Parish Council

The meeting closed at 810pm

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
Defibrillator(s)	Cllr L Kay to contact alternative supplier for training packs, should British Heart Foundation be unable to provide.
Crossgates dog waste bin	Clerk to chase up bin order with County Council
Crises Management	Plan to be circulated to all parishioners by the end of April 2024
Signage/planters	Cllr D Bowman to chase up.
Litter pick Sunday 19/5/24	Clerk to arrange loan of litter picking equipment from County Council.

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