

Minutes of Rothbury Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 15th June 2011 in the Parish Hall Rothbury commencing 715pm

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Fendley, Cllr Gilson

Those Present: Cllr Reynolds (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Dawson, Cllr Mrs Edes, Cllr Mrs Morton ,
Cllr R Murray, Cllr P Dawson, Cllr S Bridgett (NCC)

78/11 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded all Councillors of their duty to declare, at the start of any such item on the agenda, if they have a personal or prejudicial interest.

79/11 Election of Officers

Chairman: Cllr Reynolds

Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs Dawson

80/11 Vacancy

By-Election due to 10 electors written requests to NCC. Cllr Murray not happy, and with a distinct lack of public attendance, if these persons are so interested in local democracy why do they not attend PC meetings. However, PC have no say in the matter or manner in which a By- Election has been called.

81/11 Public Questions

No members of the public present.

82/11 Minutes of the meeting held 11th May 2011

It was proposed by Cllr Reynolds and seconded by Cllr Dawson and **IT WAS AGREED** that the minutes be adopted.

83/11 Matters Arising

83/11.01 Chairman's Announcements

None.

83/11.02 Urgent Business

None.

83/11.03 NCC Provision of Local Services

Meeting held with NCC and minutes circulated, with enhancement of broadband also discussed. Litter bins will still be emptied by NCC, but actual bins will be responsibility of PC. If bins replaced in conservation area, NCC could possibly negotiate lower prices and bill the PC. Dog bins will not be replaced in future, waste can be put in normal bins. Open spaces – NCC will not cut village greens. Riverside play area – reiterated PC not willing to take over, equipment will be removed when in disrepair. Whitton View play area – still undecided who will take over maintenance. Seating – Cow Haugh, Picnic Tables/Benches – would not be happy to maintain as classed as visitor use. Public WC's – riverside toilets will be demolished by NCC. Bus Shelters – NCC would maintain any future shelters. Dropped Kerbs ongoing under LTP Scheme. Cllr Murray does not agree with litter bins being used for dog waste, and unhappy with riverside W/C's being demolished - could they not be replaced or left as they are, however to replace would cost in the region of £50K, and there would be insurance problems due to flooding - it is not a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to

provide public W/C's. Could be a problem with smell in litter bins due to dog mess. However PC can still purchase dog bins, but NCC will not contribute 50% to the cost. Cllr Reynolds to draw up a list of proposals for next meeting, as NCC have put these suggestions forward and wish to hear PC's response.

83/11.04 Church Clock Update

Nothing to report.

83/11.05 Dog Bins

Nothing to report.

83/11.06 Parish Clusters

Next meeting 20/7/11, Jubilee Hall 730pm.

83/11.07 Bridge Works

Meeting to held 20/6/11 6pm, Jubilee Hall, with English Heritage and Caroline Bruce NCC present.

83/11.08 Community Policing

Police have asked for details of PC meeting dates.

83/11.09 Mayoral Chain

Nothing to report.

84/11 Planning

84/11.01 Planning Applications have been received for the following

- 11/0074/TPO: Removal of 2 TPO Trees, Heather Moor Hillside
- 11/00601/FUL: Porch to north elevation, 8 Beechcroft
- 11/01061/FUL: Mr C McEwan – Silvertown House West – demolition/replacement extension – Sub-committee to look at

85/11 Financial Matters

85/11.01 Accounts for Authorisation

C Miller – Quarterly Salary & Expenses - £935.98

2nd Rothbury Scouts – World Jamboree – request for donation – Cllr Reynolds declared an interest – to look at Grant Awarding Policy before next meeting

NALC – Annual Subscription - £265.73 – do not receive as much support at present, not compulsory – Clerk to contact NALC and query services

Northumberland Touring Co – Request for Donation –

UCCT – May Bus Hire - £80.00

J Ayre/M Evens – £346.50 & £349.41 – gardeners have reported hole in matting, work to be carried out

D Metcalf - £106.25 – duplicate as original cheque shredded in error

Thrum Mill Farm - £492.00. Tree report covering churchyard and village greens

Society of Local Council Clerk's - £82.00

86/11 Seats/Trees

Report commissioned which had inspected 33 trees in total. Tree No 2 Oak has large limbs hanging, Tree 11 Sycamore similar situation, Tree No 24 Japanese Cherry should be removed – all priorities. Should be cheaper if all trees actioned together.

87/11 Paths/Verges

- Cllr Reynolds has received complaints about a path being closed at Cove Quarry, which is not a public footpath but has been used as this for many years, and could be the Duke who has actioned this. Agreed to ask NCC who the actual owners are (Asset's Department), can apply for it to become Right of Way. Cllr Reynolds to action.
- Cllr Murray to no longer carry out Beggar Rigg grass cutting - given thanks for the work he has carried out.

88/11 Unitary Councillor Report

- Issues regarding resurfacing at Beech Croft and Silverton Terrace, road had had to be dug up by Northumbrian Water due to leakage, and larger tractor has damaged tarmac in the area.
- Broadband – county bidding for 19million to update broadband in Northumberland.
- Cllr Dawson mentioned One way system now in operation – numerous yellow lines have resulted in vehicles parking in strange places - lines should be further to the East around the War Memorial. Dropped pavement at Otterburn Mill – no indication vehicles cannot park there, and vehicles parking on that corner are blocking the pavement off. Possible for white line in this area. E-mail to be sent to Robert Thorne NCC. Police should be contacted to ask if parking issues have been discussed at tonight's internet forum, NCC are meeting with Sergeant Graham Vickers on a regular basis.
- Cllr Morton asked why the water supply was interrupted last week, and if householders can claim compensation - however thought claims could only be made if water is off for over 24 hours. Cllr Bridgett reported the problem is the pipes require full replacement.
- Yellow lines appear garish, should be primrose colour and 50mm wide in a conservation area. The markings on the kerbs are fixed penalty notice – no loading/waiting at any time, even disabled users.
- Cllr Bridgett of the opinion Armstrong Grave area an absolute disgrace. Agreed to contact Sales & Son Wooler, who believe is the agent.
- Telephone Kiosk at CO-OP – reported as filthy and rubbish strewn, clerk to contact B.T.

89/11 Correspondence

89/11.01 NCC – Bus Services – questionnaire extension; Composting Garden Waste leaflets

89/11.02 The Clerk Magazine

90/11 Cllr Sandford Retirement

Discussed at Youth Project meeting, decided to give some sort of award and name it the Sandford Award, for young person achievement on a yearly basis, and plaque to be placed in centre. January 2010 law changed so a Parish Council can award a status to any citizens or former members of the council the title of Freeman of that parish. Cllr Mrs Dawson to speak to Stuart Athey about plaque/shield.

91/11 Any additional agenda items

War Memorial railing hit yet again, Cllr Dawson has salvaged rails but post non existent, and will contact police.

93/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Rothbury Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 13th July 2011 commencing 715pm in the Parish Hall Rothbury.