

Minutes of Rothbury Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th May 2011 in the Parish Hall Rothbury commencing 730pm

Apologies for Absence None

Those Present: Cllr Dawson (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Edes, Cllr Mrs Morton, Cllr Mrs Dawson, Cllr Fendley, Cllr Gilson, Cllr Murray, Cllr Reynolds, Cllr Bridgett (NCC)
Andrew Miller, Northumberland National Parks

62/11 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.

63/11 Election of Officers

- Chairman: Cllr Dawson to stand down. Cllr Edes proposed Cllr Fendley, Cllr Fendley unwilling. Cllr Dawson prepared to chair tonight's meeting, and to appoint positions at next month's meeting, with the length of term Chairman should serve to be agreed to give consistency. Proposals to be forwarded to Clerk before next meeting.
- Sub-Committee representatives to also be decided at June meeting.

64/11 Public Questions

No public questions.

65/11 Minutes of the meeting held 13th April 2011

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

66/11 Matters Arising

66/11.01 Chairman's Announcements: None.

66/11/02 Urgent Business

Andrew Miller National Parks present to discuss the understandable speculation regarding Tourist Information Centre. National Park Authority have invested in Church House, and developed a community enterprise, farming and ranger teams, with the Visitor Centre winning regional and national awards, having most recently received a gold award for environmental works. However there is to be a substantial cut in budget of 33% - currently working with members and partners to develop a programme, however staff and services will be cut with ranger team, farm officers and community enterprise officers affected and reductions in discretionary budgets. Senior management roles have been cut by 50%, with overall job losses to be 18 across the authority. There is a need to prioritise first purpose work – to look after the National Park, with second purpose being people to enjoy the NP. NP have been contacted by alternative organisations offering to run the Visitor Centre Service at Rothbury & Ingram, and this will be going out to tender. Shared services from Church House being looked at and at present do provide space for registrar; Environment Agency/Natural England, looked at library sharing building, but the best interests for the community is to maintain library in its present building. Solutions to be found by March 2013, with budget cuts to be implemented from April 2013. However there is no intention of getting rid of Church House, although roof works are required at large cost. Queried whether PC could meet again in Church House, however the meeting room only accommodates six persons. NP very keen to work with community and other partners. Cllr Dawson thanked Andrew for his attendance and declared the meeting very useful.

66/11.03 NCC Provision of Local Services

NCC have arranged meeting 23/5/11 630pm Jubilee Hall – Clerk/Chairman/Vice Chairman invited.

66/11.04 Church Clock Update

Nothing to report.

66/11.05 Dog Bins

Preliminary discussions with Northumberland Estates.

66/11.06 Parish Clusters

In recognising proposed levels of devolution, by the next meeting 20/7/11 NCC will have met with most of the PC's in the cluster.

66/11.07 Bridge Works

Meeting held 19/4/11 and minutes circulated. Still awaiting date for meeting with English Heritage – NCC to confirm. Clerk to re-contact Alan Beith. Bailey Bridge to be hopefully open in two weeks time. Would have been useful for NCC to forward bridge update for publicising on web-site as well as Bridges publication. Lighting proposals - Cllr Bridgett to partly fund through his small scheme budget. It was agreed to propose six Victorian type structures - If insufficient funds, four, and to ensure ducts and outlets are available for two in middle of bridge if required in future.

66/11.08 Community Policing

Cllr Dawson had attended last meeting, cars driving in river not an arrestable offence, but persons were contacted by Environment Agency, and seizure notice to be put on vehicle. Next meeting September at Longframlington.

66/11.09 Mayoral Chain

Cllr Edes to speak to Anthea Wilbie Chalke.

67/11 Planning

67/11.01 Planning Applications received: None.

67/11.02 Approval of Planning Application have been received for the following

- A/2011/00091: B Hunt, Ballachan Hillside – orangery to rear elevation – colour of powder coating can be conditioned on the approval.
- A/2011/0086: Lannaghan Forestry & Tree Services – Beech Tree, Greystoke – on behalf of B.T. however PC are the tree custodians and had not been consulted on this planning application – Clerk to contact Karen Ledger NCC querying this.

68/11 Financial Matters

68/11.01 Accounts for Authorisation

- Highlights – rural touring scheme – request for donation – not aware they have visited Rothbury before, but believed to be in area tomorrow, agreed at present not in a position to donate
- AON – Insurance - £1014.93
- UCCT - £100 - £61.00 received in fares
- J Ayre - £437.25
- M Evens – £432.75
- D Metcalf - £106.25

69/11 Seats/Trees

- Eventually all seats will be recyclable therefore reducing maintenance costs.
- Gardeners had asked NCC to deal with fallen post on green which they had actioned.
- Tree Survey quote details received from Thrum Mill Farm for assessment involving visual examination - £410+VAT. Agreed to carry this out, Cllr Edes wishing to attend at inspection, Clerk to contact TMF.

70/11 Paths/Verges

- E-mail received from a visitor commenting on path to Thrum Mill and how attractive it could be if money spent - details to be forwarded to NCC - and in his opinion seats in need of repair, however PC did decide some time ago the seat at Gasworks Cottage was beyond repair.
- NCC have again not actioned area opposite Cllr Morton's lane, excuse being daffodils are there and it is a 25 degree slope and too dangerous to cut. Last year the wildflower plants would not allow cutting until July. Cllr Bridgett to make enquiries.

71/11 Unitary Councillor Report

- Trees and branches gathering on cut water on bridge removed.

- Whitton View – Cragside sign has eventually been returned to junction.
- Whitton View – play park – discussions on future maintenance commenced, option Northumberland Estates can maintain or PC can take over, is funding available under 106 agreement, £660 per property – equating to £60K maintenance sum.
- Resurfacing works commenced on Station Road, Beechcroft etc.
- Bus Shelter request questionnaire – Northern Area Committee – Greenwell Bakery area discussed, merits of existing shelters looked at; 20metres required which would lead to loss of several parking spaces, would be contentious. NCC consensus being it could be funded through NCC small scheme or contribution from PC. NCC had contacted Cllr Dawson to say it was up to PC to look at request. As discussed over years, a non-starter for areas outside Queens Head and Greenwell Bakery, and surely the Bus Company are responsible for shelters. Cllr Bridgett had looked at cantilever designs that could be placed outside Queen’s but would still require approval from NCC.
- Cyclepath stones – Cllr Dawson has visited site and counted stones, and they are all there – 49 in total.

72/11 Correspondence

- 72/11.01 NCC: Town & Country Planning Action 1990 – Tree Preservation Order confirmed
- 72/11.02 Northumberland Biodiversity Partnership – Round Robin newsletter – for information
- 72/11.03 NCC – A/2011/0091: Ballachan, Hillside – reply to comments regarding powder covering
- 72/11.04 NCC – Surface Dressing – for information
- 72/11.05 Jubilee Institute – AGM – Cllr Edes to attend

73/11 Cllr Sandford Retirement

Vacancy procedure to be carried out. Cllr Sandford now in Alnwick hospital, he will not return home. Should a mark of gratitude from the community be made through precept, however not thought appropriate. Youth Project would not exist without Cllr Sandford, opinion something could be linked with this – to be discussed at their AGM. Suggestion of framed certificate to display in Youth Project rooms.

74/11 Urgent Business/Items for Next Agenda

- Cllr Morton had been approached by Civic Society who award a prize for an essay written by schoolchildren, Middle School to participate.
- E-mail sent by NCC via web-site regarding pole in river – dubious whose responsibility it was – however thought obvious it would be Environment Agency.

75/11 Items to be discussed in private

75/11.01 Whitton View Development:

75/11.02 Churchyard Trees:

77/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Rothbury Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 15th June 2011 commencing 7.15pm in the Parish Hall