

Minutes of Rothbury Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 2011
In the Parish Hall Rothbury commencing 715pm

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mrs Tinlin, Dawson

Those Present: Cllr Reynolds (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Dawson, Mrs Edes, Mrs Morton, Bridgett, Fendley, Gilson
Two members of the public, one visitor to Rothbury

139/11 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. Cllr Reynolds declared an interest in property on Hillside West/Pondicherry.

140/11 Police Presence

Two officers present. Crime update given – local male arrested for possession of cannabis; metal drain fittings stolen from Hedgeley Service Station; gardening tools removed from Thropton; drug arrest in Longframlington; burglaries at Swarland and Shawdon Hall – two person's subsequently charged with these offences; cable covers stolen A697 Thrunton Woods; copper thefts; Alwinton Show - vehicle boot broken into and mobile phone stolen; no disorder offences; June Clifford evicted, now residing Ashington. Working with schools regarding fireworks. Speed watch volunteers in certain areas. Next Community Priority Setting meeting 22/11/11 at Longframlington Memorial Hall. PC reported parking problems ongoing - with heavy traffic flow to Alwinton show and problems with parking near charity shop. Politics/finance involved with parking issues, however solution has to be left until bridge works completed. Remembrance Day Parade will create a challenge for the one-way system. Cllr Gilson of the opinion no historical major occurrences due to parking problems, only nuisance. Meeting held with pub group concerning several individuals with no unlawful activity since, police to liaise with landlords before Christmas.

141/11 Public Questions

No public questions.

142/11 Minutes of the meeting held 14th September 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting were declared as a true record.

143/11 Matters Arising

143/11.01 Chairman's Announcements

- Ragwort issue deferred
- No private session planned
- Meeting held today regarding Whitton View Development
- Up-to-date list of Parish Councillor's and their details placed in noticeboard

143/11.02 Urgent Business

- Proposed bollard at Well Strand
- Information from Ross Bullwell NCC asking for suggestions for autumn works. Two residents from Pondicherry have asked for grit bins, could be a private road. Hillside West resident requesting winter gritting
- Further Planning Application, Blaeberry Hill three dwellings received
- Meeting between NCC/PC held on Monday

143/11.03 NCC Provision of Local Services

Documents received from NCC regarding equalising services throughout the county. Seats at Beggar's Rigg & Haugh car park to be passed onto PC. No extra funding available from NCC for these additional services, and will be handed over as they are now as NCC cannot afford to renovate. Financial cuts discussed at joint meeting. W/C's Bridge Street strategic, but riverside block will be demolished, NCC have asked for views on whether public think these should be retained however they are not DDA compliant and cannot be insured as on a flood plain.

143/11.04 Church Clock Update

Striking hours again, though hammer not repaired. Funding could be available as it is a public amenity, riverside WC's may also be eligible.

143/11.05 Dog Bins

Correspondence forwarded to Alan Beith's query and Bill Pringle NCC, request form for two new bins completed, sites agreed - North Eastern end Industrial Estate, and land near Lordenshaw Drive to Wagtail Road. Dog Warden is to spend time at worst affected areas.

143/11.06 Parish Clusters

Next meeting Monday 730pm.

143/11.07 Bridge Works

Update from Peter Brewis – service diversions had gone well, except for water. Excavation second stage arches to commence 17/10/11, riverworks to form foundations for scaffolding, constraints on fish migration. Pointing works to be completed Summer 2012. Points of interest to be recorded and ensure bats not harmed. A resident has asked if the new traffic diversion signs are still a necessity, these would be required until works complete.

143/11.08 Community Policing

Meeting held with police and concerns aired. Volunteers working 10-3pm at weekends. However a civilian had tried to move on a vehicle, and such actions could alienate the public. Feedback would be valuable to police.

143/11.09 Chairs Ribbon of Office

Design fully discussed 2005, incredibly expensive, but the lady concerned wishes to donate to the community. Assurances given it would be worn at meetings and official engagements of the Chairman.

143/11.10 Armstrong Plot

Nothing to report.

143/11.11 War Memorial

Nothing to report.

143/11.12 Electric Car Charging Points

Cllr Dawson awaiting further information. There is a special fast charging system of 30 minutes now available. Concern over using disabled bays, and flooding areas on haugh, however there are already electric points at the bridge works.

144/11 Planning

144/11.01 Planning Applications have been received for the following:

- 11/02320/FUL: Miss D Mennim - Loft Conversion, Dalmation, Garleigh Road - supported
- 11/02486/OUT: Mrs J Crane, outline layout for 3 NO residential plots, Blaeberry Hill – supported
- Cllr Gilson could find no useful information on NCC web-site regarding planning, however it was reported if you type in specific information you can access site. NCC did ask what the specific problems were and in the meantime paper copies of decision notices still being received.

145/11 Financial Matters

145/11.01 Accounts for Authorisation

- British Legion – Wreath - £20.00
- PCC - £30.00 – 13/7/11 & 10/8/11 meeting dates
- NALC - £15.00 – training events
- BDO Audit LLP - £192
- UCCT - £100.00 – Bus hire
- M Evens - £396.00
- J Ayre - £360.68
- M Gilson - £48.00 - crocuses
- L Charleton - £50.00 – branch works
- PCC - £15.00 – meeting with police 22/9/11
- £6844 has been received – 6 months precept
- BDO LLP audit report received – advised internal auditor should carry out checks throughout the year, this can be a Parish Councillor
- Thankyou received from Scouts for Sweden jamoboree

146/11 Paths/Verges

- Right of Way to Well Strand – residents have complained about the number of vehicles accessing the area who are not residents/ allotment holder – NCC to look into possibility of bollard with keys provided to residents and allotment holders.

147/11 Seats/Trees

- Seats at Thrum Mill – one easily repairable, one will require removal, and donation seat awaited for its replacement.

- Meeting with Ian Fletcher for second opinion on 8 trees to be held, then phase one can go out to tender, could cost up to £2K, three companies will need to be sought.

148/11 Unitary Councillor Report

- Superfast Broadband – BT confirmed they will only action up to Morpeth, public funding required for area past this, matching funding will be required. Rothbury factor strongly in bid as proved there is a demand for it.
- Bridge lighting – Peter Brewis to speak to NCC Design Team.
- Brewery Lane – shut for three evenings 24/10/11
- Whitton View road – drainage works to start next week, confusion over pipe and system
- Bus shelter – positive meeting with Queen’s Head landlord, NCC to approach Punch Taverns
- Boundary Review – consultation until 5/12/11 to register views, wish to move Rothbury division into Hexham constituency
- Dunkirk Bridge – responsibility of Armstrong Estates/National Trust, agreement reached on funding for the repair, NCC to contribute to infilling of bridge and widening of road.

149/11 Correspondence

- 149/11.01 CPRE – how to respond to planning applications – for information
- 149/11.02 NCC – co-location of north planning team at Alnwick – for information
- 149/11.03 NCC – temporary road closure B6341 B6342 U4080 Haw Hill – additional parking restriction/no waiting areas
- 149/11.04 Boundary Commission for England – 2013 Review of Parliamentary constituencies in England – discussed earlier
- 149/11.05 Anne-Marie Trevelyan – broadband for Northumberland – cannot respond to political parties
- 149/11.06 NCC – Dog Fouling – discussed earlier
- 149/11.07 NCC – Improved Walking/Cycling Links to Rothbury First School – key requirement of Whitton View development, path will remove part of cobbled area
- 149/11.08 NCC – How to have your voice heard in Northumberland - meetings to be held Hexham/Berwick – for information

150/11 Cllr Sandford Retirement

Deferred meeting of Drop in Centre trustees tomorrow night

151/11 Any additional agenda items

None

152/11 Whitton View Development

- Drain works to commence next week
- Play area – asked in advance for Section 106 agreement – copy only handed over at meeting – part of planning agreement was for the developer to provide play equipment and land and then hand over to former District Council. NCC to consult with residents whether they want play area as there is another park within 50 yards; and they are still debating who owns the land. PC has to make a decision within the next 5 weeks whether they wish to take it on, however the land could be used for alternative recreational use. Decision to be made next PC meeting 9/11/11. Robin Murray had e-mailed information about funding for play areas to Parish Councillor’s, if redesignated to Queen Elizabeth for next year celebrations could be option for funding.

Urgent Business

Thomlinson Trust – Cllr Mrs Dawson & Edes attended – 36 students to receive grants, and they had converted the loan to middle school into a gift.

Several street lights require attention – clerk to contact NCC.

153/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Rothbury Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 9th November 2011 commencing 7.15pm in the Parish Hall Rothbury