

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 9th November 2011 in the Parish Hall Rothbury commencing 715pm

Those Present: Cllr Reynolds (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Dawson, Mrs Edes, Mrs Morton, Mrs Tinlin, Bridgett, Dawson Fendley, Gilson

154/11 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, Windyhaugh Planning Application, and gritting/grit bins Hillside.

155/11 Police Presence

Agreed there is a good working relationship with PC/Police; crime, anti-social behaviour remaining low, however car had been stolen and crashed at Whitton View, local incident involving youths with 4 arrests made. Urge continued vigilance, other areas seeing thefts of metal, sheep, diesel, quad vehicles. Road safety campaign signage has now been removed for the Winter, with number of fatal incidents down involving motorcyclists. Remembrance Parade road closures in hand. It was reported the Chinese Restaurant flat had been broken into whilst the shop was open. Representations had been made to Chief Constable involving possibility of police motorcyclists for area. Tactics being piloted in Cumbria involve placing ASBO's on specific persons thought carrying out crimes, however ASBO's are extremely difficult and expensive to obtain. Regarding double yellow line parking, police do have the power to enforce parking offences and issue fixed penalty tickets, but it is in the process of becoming responsibility of NCC, with police being thinly stretched, parking offences are not top priority. Police also work with NCC dog warden regarding dog fouling. Cllr Reynolds had forwarded a letter to the local press to give a balanced view from the meeting with police. Next police meeting 15/12/11 (private), next forum 22/11/11 6pm Longframlington Memorial Hall.

156/11 Public Questions

No members of the public present.

157/11 Minutes of the meeting held 11th October

The minutes of the previous meeting held 11/10/11 were declared as a true record, subject to the following amendments: meeting between NCC/PC changed to PC's in the area. **Construction company** to consult with residents of Whitton View, not NCC.

158/11 Matters Arising

158/11.01 Chairman's Announcements

- No need for a private session.

158/11.02 Urgent Business

- Further Planning Application available for comment on NCC web-site
- Mobile Library Service
- Information about gravestones
- Christmas Lights

158/11.03 NCC Provision of Local Services

Formal letter received regarding cuts to government funding and handing over responsibilities to PC. Precept would need to be raised if PC willing to take over these areas. Concerns over where it will all end in future for handing over other responsibilities. For Rothbury: five public seats at Cow Haugh & Beggar's Rigg car park – estimated maintenance £15 annually and have to adopt in present condition, previously NCC all assets would be transferred in acceptable standard – comment to be made to NCC if in an acceptable standard PC will take over. Cllr Gilson to inspect them; riverside WC's – propose demolish as impossible to insure, and £60K required to update, and would then require daily attention, insist NCC provide additional signage for Bridge Street W/C. Cllr Gilson suggested asking local business's to carry out upgrading, however it was agreed the PC cannot take on responsibility, therefore NCC will demolish. Additional grass cutting – 3 extra cuts at £541.50 - to make do with basic service.

158/11.04 Church Clock Update

Additional meeting held to discuss urgent hammer repair – instructions given to W Potts to carry out work at a value of £2286, but cannot action before Remembrance Day. Major repair issues discussed – all hammers need looked at, further estimates should be sought, and ask opinion of W Potts in tendering for work; meeting to be held with church, bell ringers and PC for all opinions. Cllr Dawson to pull Information together for next PC meeting, and original agreement to be looked at/re-drafted.

158/11.05 Dog Bins

Two new dog bins in place, Cllr Gilson wishes to thank Bill Pringle NCC & Northumberland Estates for their help. Cllr Bridgett had carried out training to enable him to issue tickets, and forwards any complaints he has received to NCC Dog Warden.

158/11.06 Parish Clusters

Next meeting 12/12/11 730pm Thropton Memorial Hall. Membership figures have to be discussed for PC's, proportionate towards precept, could be £150-170 for RPC, to be discussed further. Do think it is worth having, can make organisations accountable, though cost important issue. Agreed to support formal cluster.

158/11.07 Bridge Works

Peter Brewis update – works progressing after month of lost time due to water main diversion; old arches now exposed, results disappointing from a structural point of view, quality of stonework poor - extra stone with mortars to be approved by English Heritage; pre 1759 parapets had rounded tops but taken down. Works progress dependent on severity of winter. Temporary bridge surface down to residual metal – potential accident, have budgeted for resurfacing. Looking at an official bridge opening, permanence of one-way system open for future debate.

158/11.08 Community Policing

Nothing to report.

158/11.09 Chair's Ribbon of Office

To be taken off agenda.

158/11.10 Armstrong Plot

To be taken off agenda.

158/11.11 War Memorial

Insurance claim agreed, works to be carried out in near future.

158/11.12 Electric Car charging points

Information received from National Parks – further meeting held with NCC, have identified budget and will adopt points once installed; propose to use lighting box installed on green, NCC currently carrying out consultation period. Charging points are available which only take 30 minutes to full charge. Proposed area opposite doctor's surgery is problematic for parking/access.

158/11.13 Boundary Commission

Correspondence received from Alan Beith urging PC to make comment against the proposal for Rothbury division, and general public are also able to air their views at Newcastle Civic Centre next week. Cllr Bridgett dismayed NCC are not making comment. However comments from individuals are urged – Cllr Reynolds to draft PC response with the view to remain in Berwick constituency.

158/11.14 Whitton View Development

Minutes received from proposed play area meeting. Section 106 agreement means developer provide/install play area, then NCC take over using approximately £60K from the developer to cover future costs, however with no developer the building company are working on behalf of the banks and since agreement NCC have decided they will not be

responsible. Developers to consult residents for their preferences, is the option for open space/field, or the £60K contribution could be in the form of a grant to PC for projects within the village. Cllr Gilson had previously carried out a survey with local children, and the basic premise had been they would like areas to congregate and for skateboard use, which would be low maintenance. Whoever owns the land is liable to 106 agreement and further meeting 16/11/11. Cllr Reynalds asked for views if the play area with apparatus goes ahead and £60K available, would the PC be in favour of adopting – the general consensus being not to take it over.

159/11 Planning

159/11.01 Planning Applications have been received for the following:

- 11/02630/FUL: Mr A Kell, 23 Cragside View – single storey link - supported
- 11/02579/FUL: Mr & Mrs B Johnson, Windyhaugh, Hillside – pitched roof – supported

160/11 Financial Matters

160/11/01 The following invoices were authorised

- I Fletcher – tree survey work - £30.00
- UCCT – October bus £80.00 – fares received £67.00
- J Ayre/M Evens – Gardening £310.75 each
- DCC – rent of Parish Hall - £5.00
- NCC – dog bins - £97.99

161/11 Paths/Verges

Gardeners will finish scheduled work tomorrow and recommence 8/3/11. Have introduced different plants which are well appreciated. Memorial bed to be for Queen's Jubilee next year.

162/11 Seats/Trees

- Seat report produced by gardeners, there are 65 seats, and also 59 & 59A by NCC depot, which will be replaced by future donated seat. Several other seats have been removed in disrepair. Armstrong Cross seats appear in need of attention, however the type of wood on these causes problems.
- Several leaning gravestones in closed churchyard – two have fallen, three currently 21% or more – it was agreed these should be laid flat, and bear in mind some stones in this churchyard are listed. Cllr Reynalds to progress.

163/11 Unitary Councillor Report

- Bus shelter moving slowly – legal issues/negotiating with separate organisation.
- Brewery Lane resurfacing carried out.
- Broadband situation – work can be done to align projects together, NCC bidding for 7million, and need to find 15-20million. Defra fund initially allocated 20million to uplands, however this could have been increased to 300million.
- Stipulation road has to be resurfaced at Whitton View traffic island before estate complete.

164/11 Correspondence

164/11.01 NCC – Whitton View Development – discussed earlier

164/11.02 NCC – Delivering Local Services from April 2012 – discussed earlier

164/11.03 NALC – Minutes AGM 23/10/10 & Annual Report 2010-2011 – Cllr Reynalds attended AGM, there is a vacancy for Coquetdale which Cllr Reynalds interested in – NALC have received funding cuts – and PC subscriptions are to be raised, but feel organisation useful and value for money.

164/11.04 Community Action Northumberland – Annual Report 2010/2011

164/11.05 Jubilee Institute – Newsletter

164/11.06 Your Health – The fight against cancer

164/11.07 S Bridgett – Grit Bins – additional bins to be £200 and filled twice but PC have to finance, however Winter Services are a frontline service financed from Council Tax. Within shopping centre there are two, with previous

requests promised and not delivered, and bins were not mentioned as being handed over to PC at individual PC discussion meetings. PC to disagree with proposal.

164/11.08 Mobile Library Services – services are being cut, no specific proposals, but £50K shortfall in funding. Whilst not used by RPC residents, very useful facility for those living further up coquet valley.

165/11 Cllr Sandford Retirement

Commemorative seat has been suggested near to Youth Project, could place at Youth Shelter, but already seats in that area – there is space at the bottom of Wellstrand. Cllr Mrs Dawson to contact Tony Sandford's daughter.

166/11 Any additional agenda items

- Christmas lights – to be erected 20/11/11, and lighting ceremony 3/12/11 with children's procession, police have been informed. Official lighting ceremony to involve Cllr Edes & Jack Phillips. An individual large donation has been received, and 'Light up a Life' to be supported. Extra volunteers welcomed for putting up lights.
- WRVS creating a social centre 8/1/12 with formal agreement to use the hospital every Tuesday 10-3pm, presently sourcing funding and Get About Transport Scheme grant money applied for. Reminiscence project being looked into – with possibly funding from National Parks.
- All welcome to attend 11/11/11 two minute silence and Sunday Remembrance Service.

167/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Rothbury Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 7th December 2011 commencing 7.15pm in the Parish Hall Rothbury.