

NEWTON BY THE SEA PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT 6.30pm ON WEDNESDAY 27th JUNE 2018
AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

**Subject to approval at the next parish council meeting on 22nd August 2018.
These minutes were taken by Cllr Gerrard in the absence of a parish clerk.**

In Attendance: Councillors J Roper (Chairman), D Gerrard, R Foster Smith, L Bridgeman, P. Slee, J Lavender, V Thompson, K Cairns (latter arrived part way through the AONB presentation).
County Councillor W Pattison
Iain Robson AONB
PC Stuart Bruce, Northumbria Police
1 member of the public

Public Open Session:

No one wished to use this opportunity.

18/48 Declaration of Interests:

The Chairman read out the Declaration of Interests.

18/49 Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs K Thompson and R Lightfoot (apologies accepted).

18/50 Minutes of the Annual and Ordinary Meetings held on 2nd May 2018.

MOTION 1 Acceptance of Minutes: Cllr Foster Smith proposed, Cllr Bridgeman seconded that the minutes be accepted. Agreed unanimously and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

18/51 Matters arising from the Minutes:

- a) The Newton Trust, with donors, are interested in funding the replacement of 4 benches within High and Low Newton. Consultation is ongoing regarding bench details and the transfer of memorial plaques etc.
- b) Arriva have stated that they are not likely to reintroduce the X18 bus service into High Newton as it is considered that the 418 service is adequate.
- c) **MOTION 2** Cllr Bridgeman proposed, Cllr Slee seconded, that the revised Risk Assessment circulated in advance of the meeting, be accepted. Agreed unanimously.
- d) A letter to the National Trust regarding recently installed signage is pending.
- e) Discussions continue regarding Broadband issues at Doxford Newhouses. Sylvia Pringle of iNorthumberland has arranged to meet the resident who raised the matter to discuss options.
- f) The library van, after repairs is back on the road.

18/52 Stuart Bruce, Alnwick Rural East Neighbourhood Officer:

a) PC Bruce informed the meeting that there were no major police problems except parking within the parish. He encouraged those present to sign up to www.yournorthumbria.org for up to date information. He left with the Chairman some information sheets to be posted on notice boards.

18/53 AONB Matters:

a) Iain Robson informed the meeting that the main priority for the AONB team is to review the present management plan and update it for 2019 to 2024. Parish Councils should take due regard to the plan when it is published. The Government has ordered a review for all designated AONBs and National Parks. It is possible that some may be enlarged or joined. It is hoped the review will be published by the end of 2019. The AONB has received funding for a 3.5 year Coast Care Project to train keen volunteers in skills that will benefit both the AONB and local projects.

b) Iain was happy to conduct a de-clutter audit of unnecessary signage and street furniture within the parish. 7 councillors voted in favour of this - 1 abstained.

c) Iain Robson will advise when a suitable date is agreed for a de-cluttering of signage at the Link House car park. Volunteers would be appreciated.

18/54 County Councillor Report by Cllr Wendy Pattison:

a) Cllr Pattison summarised her report which had already been circulated and attached to these minutes. A brief discussion took place regarding parking at Alnmouth Station including the possible introduction of charges for the NCC car park. Cllr Pattison suggested that resurfacing of the Brunton Road should be included in the parish's LTP request.

18/55 Financial Matters:

a) As of 14th June 2018, the parish account held £4,631.30. Cllr Gerrard suggested that the council may like to consider Cllr Roper, in the absence of an appointed clerk, being authorised to sign the Annual Government Statement as both Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer. Cllr Gerrard would sign the appropriate form as acting clerk. Cllr Roper had received authority to do this by PKF Littlejohn, the External Auditor. Cllr Cairns requested that it be recorded that he had obtained this advice.

MOTION 3 Cllr Lavender proposed, Cllrs Foster Smith seconded that Cllrs Roper and Gerrard be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement when and where required. Agreed unanimously.

b) There were no cheques or payments required.

c) The Parish Council's financial accounts for 2017/2018 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Cairns stated that 25% (per cent) of the budget had been spent with Stableyard Landscapes for cutting grass at High Newton where she said the majority of councillors live. Cllr Roper replied that the inference that such councillors were purposely directing parish funds to works close to where they live was unacceptable. The need for such grass cutting works were explained and it was pointed out that these costs had been agreed when the budget/precept was set. (Meeting 30th November 2016 17/08 - extra grass cuts agreed. Cllr Cairns present.) Several councillors pointed out to Cllr Cairns that the item in hand was approval of the year end accounts and not querying budgeting or spend.

MOTION 4 Cllr Bridgeman proposed, Cllr Thompson seconded, that the parish council is happy with the way that monies have been spent in accordance with the setting of the budget. Cllr Cairns abruptly left the meeting without explanation or an apology. The motion was then carried unanimously.

d) Cllr Roper read out Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2017/2018.

MOTION 5 Cllr Bridgeman proposed, Cllr Lavender seconded that the statement should be accepted along with the financial accounts for 2017/2018. Agreed unanimously and the appropriate documents were signed.

18/56 Procedural Matters:

- a) The council did not receive a single application for the advertised vacant Clerk's position and is still seeking a parish clerk. Further advertising will take place possibly including the local publications The Whinstone Times and The Net.
- b) Councillors Roper, Foster Smith and Gerrard, as the current cheque signatories, have applied for the necessary bankers cards to enable them to view bank statements online. Arrangements for making online payments will be considered next.
- c) Progress is slowly being made to update the new NALC based parish council website and to close down the old site.
- d) Changes in the data protection legislation as it affects councillors are being investigated. The procedure prepared for the EJBC will be circulated for review.

18/57 Planning:

- a) 18/00579/FUL 8No. Dwellings, Land North of Quarry House, Embleton. This application has been invalidated.
- b) 18/01511/FUL Replacement of Porch, 5 Coastguard Cottages, Low Newton. Approved
- c) 18/02136/FUL Proposed Rear Single Storey Bedroom Extension & Re-Roofing of Rear Sunroom, 2 Doxford Newhouses Cottages, Chathill. Application just received.

18/58 EJBC:

- a) Councillors Foster Smith and Lavender informed the council that planning and building regulations are being applied for in respect of the proposed renovation of Cemetery House. The committee is endeavouring to obtain quotes from interested builders to modernise Cemetery House.

18/59 Highways:

- a) Details of the permanent signage for High Newton car park had just been received and the works should be completed in the next week or so. The composite legal orders have recently been published for modifications to the layout of yellow lines and parking restrictions in High Newton, so the works should take place in the next few weeks. An issue was raised with camper vans staying overnight in the car park and it was agreed that NCC be approached to see if the overhead barrier could be set lower to prevent this.
- b) Councillors Roper and Bridgeman have had discussions with local farmer Richard Jeffrey regarding the RoW / pedestrian route from the car park to the village where there has been illegal car parking. NCC is slowly putting together a plan for low level lighting and improved surfacing along this path and it is hoped that a gate and appropriate notices will prevent inconsiderate drivers from leaving their cars there.
- c) The road from Doxford Hall to the East has been resurfaced.

18/60 General:

- a) It is understood that the sale of 2 Town Close, High Newton has been completed. No further news regarding the Covenant.

- b) Various improvements have been made to the public toilets at Low Newton including repainting and a new door fitted. Leak to the gents urinal is still to be repaired.
- c) There has been no news from the National Trust re a combined beach clean and community drop-in session. The Trust is understood to be considering tidying up the Low Newton boatyard.

18/61 Correspondence / Meetings / Urgent Business:

- a) NCC Correspondence re Byways Modification Order (no 9) 2017 is predominantly in Eglington parish.

18/62 Items for Next Agenda:

None.

18/63 Date of next Meeting:

22nd August 2018 The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

Chairman.....