

Minutes of a Meeting of Carham Parish Council held in Carham Church on

Tuesday 10 March 2015

755 Present: Councillors Mrs A Lauder (Chair), Mr W Potts, Mr B Woodcock, Mr D Critchelow and Mrs A Changleng (Clerk) in attendance. One member of the public, Mr L Pratt, was welcomed to the meeting.

756 Apologies: Councillors Mr R Brydon, Mrs J Thomas and Councillor Anthony Murray

757 Declarations of Interest: None

758 Minutes of the meeting on 13 January 2015 were approved and signed

759 Matters Arising: No meeting arranged yet between Mr Hughes and councillors to discuss the site of the roadside mirror. Councillor Potts will contact him. The sign at Wark Playpark has been put up by Mr Cater.

760 Correspondence:

The NALC roadshow - current issues and opportunities for local councils

Thursday 12 February in Wooler – *see item 765*

NCC - Area Committee North - Monday, 9 February in Berwick *Circulated - Cllr Woodcock attended*

Future Funding of Subsidised Bus Services in Northumberland *Circulated*

Northumberland Flood Risk Strategy *Circulated*

NCC - Review of the Planning Service *Circulated for comments before 1 March*

NCC has a backlog of planning applications and one of the recommendations in Deloitte's, the Council Auditor's report, is to "review the triggers that result in applications being taken to committee, including the interpretation of a parish council objection requiring a committee decision". Many TPCs responded to a letter from NCC Planning Director stating that the original consultation time period from the 5 to 19 February was insufficient (although this was extended to 1 March). They also object to the removal of the automatic trigger. Other concerns raised are TPCs being removed or excluded from the planning process and delegated decisions resulting in a loss of local knowledge and views.

761 Planning Applications:

15/00202/FUL Proposed erection of one dwelling house; outline planning for the three other plots. Land East Of Rose Cottage, Blue Row, Wark, Northumberland TD12 4RH.

Due to comments being required before the Parish Council meeting a notice was put on Wark notice board advising residents the application could be seen at the Chair's house. It could also be viewed on the website. The developer of the site, Mr L Pratt, attended the meeting and answered councillors' questions on the right of way, boundary fence, and traffic and water pressure issues. Tree preservation and archaeology were also discussed, considering the importance of the close proximity of Wark Castle. Councillors had no objections and Mr Pratt was thanked for attending the meeting.

NCC has granted permission to the solar PV installation to roofs of 3 existing farm sheds at East Moneylaws Farm.

762 Financial Statement:

To date there has been expenditure of £1,252.68. Councillors gave their approval for further payments of £696.50 to cover the Clerk's salary, hire of St Cuthbert's Church, sign and repair for play park, Air Ambulance donation and adoption of phone box. Balance in bank is £143.14. Councillors approved a yearly fee of £50 to Mr Alan Cater in recognition of the sterling work he carries out on the website. To be paid on 1 April.

763 Play Park Inspector's Report:

Monthly inspections and minor repairs have been carried out. Work is needed to clean the ground mats and the Clerk will report this to NCC to find out if cleaning can be done during the grass cutting. The new sign has been put up by Mr Cater. At no cost to the Parish Council he has set up an email address for the Clerk, clerk@carhamparish.org.uk which can be routed to the current clerk of the council thus avoiding the sign to be changed.

764 Adoption of Phone Box in Wark:

BT has advised the Clerk that the phone box in Wark will no longer be kept as a working landline. After a consultation with residents the majority of replies wished to keep it as a feature in the village. Approval was given for Carham Parish Council to adopt the phone box for a fee of £1.00. The Clerk will contact Mrs J Chubb to enquire if she has any knowledge of what is happening to the phone box at Mindrum Mill.

765 Website:

At the recent NALC roadshow "transparency, open-ness and accountability" was discussed. The Audit Commission is being dissolved on 31 March 2015 and by 2017 the role of BDO, our external auditor, will cease. However, the government wishes to see greater transparency in each council's financial and governance affairs, by publishing certain prescribed information, preferably on each council's website. This information includes end of year accounts, the internal auditor's report, details of land and property, minutes, agendas, list of members' responsibilities and the annual governance statement. Draft regulations have already been considered by Parliament and it seems likely that the system will be in place by April 2015.

766 Resignation: Councillor S Thorkildsen has resigned from Carham Parish Council. A vacancy notice will be inserted on the website.

767 A.O.C.B: None

**768 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 12 May in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm.
Ordinary Meeting and Annual Meeting**