

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

Tuesday 10 November 2015

**812 Present:** Councillors Mrs A Lauder (Chair), Mr W Potts, Mr B Woodcock, Mrs J Thomas, Mrs A Changleng (Clerk) and Councillor Anthony Murray in attendance. .

**813 Apologies:** Councillor R Brydon

**814 Declarations of Interest:** None

**815 Minutes** of the meeting on 8 September were approved and signed

**816 Matters Arising:** The litter bin at Wark Play Park has been moved to a more suitable spot. The Public Right of Way (Footpath No.11 Carham) has been checked by the Area Countryside Officer who reported he didn't come across any issues with being able to use the route along the old railway line and that there was no real noticeable difference once the route crosses the parish boundary. The Community Police Officer has been emailed with a list of future PC meetings. A donation of two small leaflet holders for the Information Points has been donated by James Bell Borderland Services.

**817 Correspondence:**

- Information Update: Planning Protocols and Public Access – *circulated*
- Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy – *circulated*
- Town & Parish Liaison Working Group - *chair*
- NALC AGM 17<sup>th</sup> October – *circulated*
- Rural Parish Meetings November 2015 – *circulated*
- NALC Training Sessions November 2015
- New NCC Website – *circulated*

The Chair gave a report on the Town & Parish Conference on Thursday 24 September. The Marketplace consisted of information on a broad variety of services such as Planning & Housing, Police, Health, Technical Services, Youth Work and Neighbourhood Services. Three workshops were attended. *Neighbourhood Planning* covered the background of neighbourhood development plans currently taking place in Northumberland. *Raising the Game* discussed the role of parishes in improving the lives of people they serve during a time of continuing changes and diminishing resources. *Providing for Everyone* considered the role of statutory and voluntary sector organizations working for the benefit of local communities in this time of austerity. Access to funding and resources were discussed.

Councillor Murray guided councillors through various issues when the complex matters of Planning Protocols, Local Plan Core Strategy and Devolution to the North-East were discussed.

As from 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 it is intended to implement the three Planning Protocols, following approval by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The emphasis is on the importance of deadlines being achieved in the **Pre-Application Engagement Process**. Town or Parish Councils will be notified electronically offering 14 days for them to decide whether they want to get involved in the pre-application process. If so, in the case of non major development proposals a telephone conversation will be held with a

planning case officer and a meeting with the case officer/developer could be arranged provided this is requested within 14 days. Submissions of written comments to the case officer to be made within 21 days. If engaging in the pre-application process there will automatically be an opportunity for Town and Parish Councils to get involved in **Section 106 Engagement Process**. There will be a **Review of the Engagement Process** after six months to establish how successful the level of engagement process is being in relation to both pre-application and S106 discussions.

The Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy – Pre Submission Draft is the County Council's main strategic plan covering the period to 2031. It sets out the spatial vision, objectives and outcomes for Northumberland. It describes the overall strategic approach to growth and proposes policy approaches for the economy, housing, the environment, climate change, infrastructure, minerals waste and renewable energy. The consultation runs until Wednesday 25 November 2015.

Agreement has been reached in principle, and subject to various conditions, for the government to devolve a variety of powers and funds to the North-East. These are now the subject of wider consultation.

- 818 Audit Report for Year Ended 31 March 2015:** The audit has been concluded by BDO with one query. A fee of £36.00 has been paid.
- 819 Precept for 2016/17:** It was agreed to apply for a precept of £2,500. After the summer of 2017 the smallest councils will no longer be subject to an automatic external audit. However, the sector-led audit body will still need to make an external auditor available, in order to address any issues that might be raised by the public. It seems likely that a 5-year fee will be levied.
- 820 Wark Play Park - Inspector's Reports:** Alan has repaired the perimeter fencing and is awaiting a quote for the repair of the vehicle gate. The rubber matting needs to be cleared of moss growth. The Flodden leaflet dispenser and village notice boards are showing signs of loosening but do not require early attention. Alan has carried out general ground work. The Clerk will find out if a yearly play park inspection is mandatory or merely recommended.
- 821 A.O.C.B:** Councillor Murray informed councillors of thefts which have taken place on local farms. The Chair mentioned an accident which took place in the middle of Wark recently. Councillors were sorry to hear that former councillor, Sid Thorkildsen, is unwell and a card will be sent to him by the Clerk. Former councillor John Hills has passed away. He served the community in many ways over the years. Thanks were given to John Lauder who tidied up the Carham War Memorial in time for Armistice Day.
- 822 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 12 January 2016 in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm.**