

**Minutes of a Meeting of Carham Parish Council held in Carham Church on
Tuesday 12 January 2016**

823 Present: Councillors Mrs A Lauder (Chair), Mr W Potts, Mr B Woodcock, Mrs J Thomas, Mr D Critchlow, Mr R Brydon, Mrs A Changleng (Clerk) and Councillor Anthony Murray in attendance.

824 The Chair welcomed Councillors to the meeting and congratulated Councillor A Murray on being awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

825 Apologies: PC Dan Perry

826 Declarations of Interest: None

827 Minutes of the meeting on 10 November were approved and signed

828 Matters Arising: None

829 Correspondence:

Smaller Councils' Meeting at Wooler on 16 November was attended by the Chair and Clerk. The Chair raised a concern about the Wark to Cornhill on Tweed road (B6350). A section of this road is adjacent to the river Tweed and has no safety barrier. There is a concern that a car may end up in the river. Martin King, Highways Manager, will investigate further.

Parish Council Meetings - Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP requested dates and times of planned parish council times and dates for 2016 meetings in order that her Chief of Staff can attend when he is available.

NCC Book Banks – The provision of recycling of books at local “Bring Sites” and Household Waste Recovery Centres in the recent past has been supplied by a private company. This company has withdrawn that service from certain locations due to a national fall in demand of books. Our nearest site is Castlegate Car Park in Berwick. NCC is writing to a number of local charities inviting them to provide facilities at any of the current sites. If unsuccessful the facility will be withdrawn.

Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service Consultation ‘Working Towards 2020’ - Councillor Murray reported that Wooler will be reduced in size with smaller appliances which are manned by mostly retained fire fighters. However, he is confident this should not affect the service which covers this area.

Devolution Briefing – Councillors A Lauder, J Thomas and the Clerk attended an exhibition in Belford where NCC staff were available for advice and guidance. Councillors agreed it is vital that our voice is heard about issues affecting our remote, rural area i.e. recent job losses in Berwick which is an important town for local employment.

Local Councils: Future Audit Arrangements – The Government’s Audit Commission was dissolved in March 2015 and its role has been temporarily filled by a company called Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd to whom the current external auditors (BDO) are now responsible. BDO’s role will finish on completion of the 2016/17 accounts. A new audit-procurement body, Smaller Audit Appointments Ltd (SLAAA), has been formed to recruit one or more firms to undertake local councils’ audit work. For councils below £25k pa there will not normally be an external audit, although they will still need to compile and publish the 4 page proforma. (An external auditor will only need to be available in case any elector wishes to ask questions which have not been answered by the council itself or if accounts from previous years have received a qualified audit).

830 Planning Applications: No objections to the following

Renewal of concrete yard at end of cattle shed at West Learmouth Farm

C20 Mindrum Mill Junction to Cornhill Junction Road – East Learmouth Bridge and East Learmouth Farm Bridge refurbishment

Installation of roof light at 9 Cheviot View, Wark

Hedgerow removal notice to replace existing hedge at East Learmouth Farm

Hedgerow removal notice to remove ends from various hedgerows at various sites near Wark Common Farm

NB The date for the road closure at East Learmouth Bridge has been changed to 1st February with work starting at East Learmouth Bridge the following week on Monday 8th February. The work should take six to eight weeks with the workforce moving to East Learmouth Farm Bridge upon completion. The duration for the work will be of similar length.

831 Road Safety in Wark: Some funding has been allocated by NCC to improve road safety in the village of Wark. Councillor Murray has been liaising with Neil Snowdon, Senior Programmes Officer (Highway Safety) about various ways to improve road safety. After consulting with Carham Parish Councillors their preference would be to have a Vehicle Activated Sign which would be funded by LTP, sited on the western side of the village. Carham Parish Council would be unable to fund a Speed Indicator Display

Councillors expressed gratitude for the detailed and helpful observations made by one of the design team and to Councillor Murray for acting on our behalf.

832 Wark Play Park: Alan Cater reported that recently Zurich Insurance carried out an inspection on behalf of NCC. The Clerk contacted NCC to advise that Carham Parish Council is responsible for the play park so it will now be taken off their insurance. The Clerk will check with Came & Co to make sure that the inspection regime in place is what they require, and that the annual independent inspection is something that they can provide. The Clerk received a copy of the report from Zurich which serves as a yearly independent report and is totally in line with the issues picked up by the play park inspector's monthly inspections.

833 Any Other Business: The Clerk reported there is £1,692.54 currently in the bank account and requested cheques to be signed for St Cuthbert's Church (£120), the Clerk's salary (£480) and Playsafety (invoice to be received).

PC Perry was unable to attend the meeting but emailed the Clerk to advise that there were no incidents of note to report which are relevant to Carham Parish. This dating back from 1st December. Residents are reminded to be vigilant and report any suspicious persons and vehicles, particularly as there have been incidents in the nearby areas on farms involving poaching and theft.

Councillor W Potts has been chosen to receive Maundy Money from HM The Queen at Windsor in recognition of his dedicated service as Church Warden at St Cuthbert's Church, Carham for over 50 years.

834 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8 March in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm.