

Minutes of a Meeting of Carham Parish Council held in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham on Tuesday 13 November 2018

040 **Present:** Cllrs Mrs A Lauder, Ms V Poland, Mr P Feerick, Mr W Potts, Mr J Jobson, Mr J Court, Councillor A Murray and Mrs A Changleng (Clerk) in attendance.

041 **Apologies:** Cllr D Critchlow

042 **Chair's Welcome:** Mr John Court signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and has completed a Declaration of Interest Form to become co-opted onto Carham Parish Council. Cllr Court was thanked for strimming the Carham War Memorial for Armistice Day. To commemorate 100 years since the end of the Great War, Cllr Lauder laid a wreath on behalf of the community of Carham at the Cornhill War Memorial on Sunday 11 November. The Battle of Carham weekend had been a huge success with the Vikings re-enacting splendid battle displays and Living History Camp. The Bishop of Berwick conducted a well attended service of commemoration outside the church, which was beautifully decorated with flowers, and information boards were of great interest to the public (now permanently at the back of the church). New information boards have also been sited at the church gates. The only disappointment was the lack of coverage by the media. Cllr Lauder passed on thanks and congratulations from Carham Parish Council to everyone who put in so much work into organizing and running the event.

043 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

044 **Parishioners' Questions:** On behalf of Janet Chubb, Cllr Poland informed the Council about the Carham Parish Footpaths Walk which took place on Saturday 10 November. Nine walkers set out from Pressen Farm to review three of the Rights of Way in the Parish. Some parts are clear and well maintained but others are more difficult to traverse. There has been mixed reactions from landowners. Janet is liaising with Philip Bradley of NCC who is being very helpful in trying to improve problem areas and make the Public Rights of Way accessible to all. A new Public Bridleway sign has been erected at Piperdean Lane. Janet was thanked for her enthusiasm and organisation of the walks.

045 **Minutes** of the meeting on 11 September were approved as read and signed.

046 **Matters Arising:** The broken sign post at the Loaning has been replaced by NCC but not the finger posts in Wark. There has been no response for the requested grit bin for Sunilaws and mounds of grit for outlying areas.

Cllr Murray made enquiries to NCC on our behalf about the street light 15CC on the unadopted road which is not working. NCC stated that this column is not an NCC asset, nor is it located on adopted highway and is in fact incorrectly labelled. 15CC is correctly labelled and located outside Tweedbank Cottage. Any request to re-site or undertake remedial works at the column outside of The Heathers would need to be undertaken by the landowner/developer who installed the column. Cllr Murray will contact NCC to clarify this situation. The Clerk will undertake to note the numbers of all the lights and where they are sited in the village.

NCC and Carham Parish Council have agreed to NCC's recommendation that the introduction of a post and rail fence, together with a suitable planted hedgerow, will improve safety at West Learmouth junction. There will also be improved signage and road markings. Safety barriers are not being

considered at present due to very limited funding available for such schemes. It was noted there was a recent accident at this junction.

047 **Correspondence:**

- NCC Highways Improvement Schemes in Northumberland
- Changes to Refuse Collection Routes
- Council Tax Support Scheme Consultation
- CAN AGM 6 November
- Housing Developer Funds for Sport and Play Facilities
- NALC Briefings
- Great North Air Ambulance
- CAN

048 **Wark Play Park:** A site meeting was held on 25 October attended by Cllr Lauder, Alan Cater and the Clerk. The grass re-enforcement around the newer equipment is degrading and needs to be replaced. The best alternative would be “Wet Pour” which would solve the weed problem around the equipment. The park needs a clean-up due to the results of a recent storm, including removal of broken limbs which are wedged in the tree at the back of the play park. There is one broken fence slat and damaged rabbit wire. Councillors agreed the “Wet Pour” would be best applied in the spring and in the meantime Cllr Lauder will arrange for a tree surgeon to remove the broken limbs, then a poster will be put on the notice board asking for volunteers to help clean-up on a given date.

049 **Newsletter:** Cllr Poland is currently working on the November edition and informed councillors of the proposed content.

050 **Finance:** There is £3,823.53 in the bank. Councillors agreed to cheques being signed for a play park inspection (£25) and printing expenses for Janet Chubb (£15). A donation for charity will be discussed in January. It was agreed to apply for a Precept for 2019 of £2,500. As part of its budget balancing measurements, the Council, subject to consultation, is considering a reduced level of council tax support for working age claimants. Due to the Council Tax Support Scheme Consultation the final tax base is not due to be approved by Cabinet until 15 January 2018. The tax base differs for each parish as it is calculated using a number of factors, such as the number of houses, whether they are single-occupier as well as the number of houses included within the Council Tax Support Scheme. The interim 2019-20 tax base for Carham is £128.29. Special expenses need to be taken into account when setting our Precept and Highways and Neighbourhood Services will contact the Clerk when the West Learmouth Junction improvements are implemented to allocate appropriate funding. Currently £14.78 is included in Council Tax Bills for Carham Parish Council. This amount doubled in 2014 when Carham Parish Council took over responsibility for Wark Play Park. After consideration it was agreed not to increase our Precept.

051 **Date of Next Meeting. Tuesday 8 January 2019 in St Cuthbert’s Church, Carham at 6.30pm.**