

**Minutes of a Meeting of Carham Parish Council held in Carham Church on
Tuesday 14 July 2015**

- 791 Present:** Councillors Mrs A Lauder (Chair), Mr W Potts, Mr B Woodcock, Mr R Brydon, Mrs J Thomas and Mrs A Changleng (Clerk) in attendance. Mr Gerald Tait, Coldstream Community Trust, was welcomed to the meeting.
- 792 Apologies:** Councillor Anthony Murray
- 793 Declarations of Interest:** None
- 794 Coldstream Energy Switch:** Mr Tait informed councillors about the switch which is a national initiative run by northern Local Authorities and Trusts. From 4 August the community website www.Coldstream.co under “Energy Switch” will have a computer link to register an interest in switching. It is relatively easy and takes about 10 minutes. For households not familiar with computers help can be given with offline input after 4 August. It is possible for anyone in the UK to register for an energy switch. All registrations for switches are gathered in by the end of August and are merged with other registrations in the UK, then taken to an auction of energy suppliers. The cheapest supplier wins. By about mid-October households get an offer which they accept or refuse. Not all households gain savings but have 75% chance of doing so, even if they have to pay an exit fee from their current supplier. Boiler service contracts are not affected. Coldstream Community Trust will receive £11 per household for a dual switch (electricity and gas) or if it’s only electricity or gas then the Trust gets £5.50. Promotion will be carried out through local media by the Trust and Councillor Thomas suggested mentioning local associations and charities which will benefit. The Parish Council will put this information on the Carham Community Website and carry out a leaflet drop.
- 795 Minutes** of the meeting on 10 May 2015 were approved and signed
- 796 Matters Arising:** NCC advised the Parish Council not to put a bin in the lay-by on the main road as this might encourage fly tipping. The bin for Wark Play Park has been delivered but has been put in front of the emergency vehicle gate. It will be moved to a more suitable position. The cost of the bin is £302.33.
- 797 Correspondence:**
- Consultation on a draft Private Sector Housing Strategy for Northumberland - circulated*
Training Sessions – Planning Application Process- circulated
Second Annual Town & Parish Council Conference - Thursday 24th September 2015 at West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington
Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2015 - circulated
Arriva Briefing Session – Proposed Commercial Bus Service Changes – circulated
Funding Fair – 15th July at Ancroft Memorial Hall – Councillor Woodcock will attend

798 Public Rights of Way: Parish of Carham Public Footpath no 27 Proposed Diversion was circulated to Councillors and put on the Public Notice Board for comments by 10 July. Councillors have no objections to the changes to the public footpath through the new houses in Wark.

Footpath No 11(Carham) - a path 900 meters in length from Cornhill Footpath No 15 on the Cornhill Parish boundary, crossing the C21 county road via a railway viaduct and continuing in a westerly direction to the south of Panama Plantation and crossing the U1002 unclassified road north-west of West Learmouth farm in the parish of Carham. The Clerk was notified of the overgrown state of this footpath and will contact NCC to ask if it can be cut.

799 Wark Play Park: Alan will be asked to carry out necessary repairs to the perimeter fencing and vehicle gate as reported. He will monitor the condition of the rubber matting which has settled somewhat since the grass was cut. He will also investigate the rabbit damage and see what can be done to reduce this. NCC was contacted at the beginning of July as the grass had not been cut every two weeks as planned and the park was in an unusable state. Photographs were sent as proof. The grass has now been cut but cutting will be monitored and NCC contacted if it is not done regularly.

800 Any Other Business: NCC are conducting a major review of 89 buildings and assets in nine main towns in order to reduce costs, support regeneration and radically improve service access for residents. If agreed, the new £19million council HQ in Ashington, accommodating up to 1,000 staff, will be commissioned to be completed by Spring 2018. However, Councillor Thomas said this is a waste of money and will make our Parish Council even more remote from Local Government. Councillors agreed that a letter be sent to our MP expressing concern. Councillors also discussed the lack of grass cutting by NCC on the road verges which can lead to needless accidents, especially on narrow minor roads. The Clerk will contact NCC.

801 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8 September in St Cuthbert's Church Carham at 6.30pm