

SIMONBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th September 2012 in Simonburn Village Hall

Mrs V S Allgood opened the meeting at 6.30 pm.

Present

Mrs V S Allgood (Chairlady), A W Langford and Clerk R Macfarlane

Apologies for absence D Bulman, NA Ridley, P Rowcroft and Councillor E. Heslop

Declaration of Interest

None

Co-option of Councillor

The co-option of R Hadley was confirmed and it was noted that he had to sign a declaration of acceptance of office.

Minutes

The minutes taken at the annual council meeting held on 9th May 2012, were read out approved by the Council and signed by the Chairlady.

Matters arising from last meeting

Jubilee Celebrations

Despite the rain and the midgies the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations were great fun and very successful.

Public Rights of Way

Planning Inspectorate - Reference to Byway Open to All Traffic No39 across Footpath No 10 to join Byway No24 and Byway No 38, Byway No 39 and restricted Byway No 40 with Modification Orders. This will now not take place as a hearing but by written submission instead.

Matters Discussed

Assets

The Clerk informed the Council that all street furniture, whether privately owned or the property of the Council, must be insured. The "Allgood seat" around the tree, two notice boards, car park lease and war memorial should be entered on an asset's register. There are two other seats in the village and they belong to the Village Hall. The Chairlady will confirm their ownership and insurance cover.

Banking

It was agreed that the Clerk makes use of internet banking but only for transferring funds and checking statements.

Village Hall Bookings

Clerk to contact Pat Fairless to confirm parish council bookings.

Reports

Northumberland County Council – Wark Bridge Committee will provide an update on the impending road works on B6320 and on the Phase II repairs to Wark Bridge (January). Cllr Heslop also encouraged councillors to attend the LDF Planning meetings.

Finances

Bank Statements

The current bank statements were approved and signed.

Payments

The following payments were agreed;

R Hadley (Petrol for mower) £30, Clerk's Salary (R Macfarlane) £125, Clerk's Expenses £21.09, V Allgood (Clerk's farewell present) £53.98 and BDO LLP Audit £60 (£10 vat)

Annual Audit and Annual Return

The Annual Audit in accordance with Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (Regulations 12-16) is now concluded and the audit opinion having been given by BDO LLP. The Clerk discussed assets and the car park lease with BDO LLB. There were no matters arising. It was RESOLVED that the Council approve and accept the Annual Return.

Internal Audit

No issues were raised with the Annual Internal Audit Report.

Appointment of External Auditors

Audit Commission have confirmed the appointment of BDO LLP as External Auditors to 2017. For parish councils with income/expenditure band of under £10,000 there will be no fee payable.

Code of Conduct

As part of the Localism Act 2011 the Standards Board for England was abolished and parish councils are obliged to make arrangements to adopt a new code of conduct. The Council RESOLVED to adopt the Northumberland ALC code of conduct for local councils. The Clerk will publish these details on the parish notice board.

Roads

Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme 2013-14

Councils are invited to submit transport priorities for the next year's Local Transport Plan and the top three priorities will be assessed for inclusion in the draft programme

Simonburn PC Priorities

-  Repair and upgrade the main road (B6320) through the parish
-  Repair and upgrade Ward Lane and improve road-side drainage.
-  Repair and upgrade the road leading from B6320 to Simonburn Village both sides of the Red Burn Bridge.

Planning

The clerk reported that he had received no applications or consultations. The Chairlady pointed out that there had been extensive roadworks along the B6320 and a mention of an EDF planning application published in the Hexham Courant.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 5th December 2012, 6.30 in Simonburn Village Hall.