

SIMONBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on 5th December 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, P Rowcroft and R Hadley
Also present Councillor E. Heslop and Clerk R Macfarlane

Apologies for absence

D Bulman and NA Ridley

Declaration of Interest

None

Co-option of Councillor and Declaration of Office

The co-option of R Hadley was confirmed and he signed the declaration of acceptance of office. (LGA 1972 section 83(3)). The Clerk will write to NCC Democratic services and provide them with the necessary details of the co-option

Minutes

The minutes taken at the council meeting held on 12th September 2012, were read out approved by the Council and signed by the Chairlady.

Matters arising from last meeting

Mower Service

This will have to be carried out before April. R Hadley will attend to this. At present the mower is stored in different garages and it was agreed to explore the possibility of a permanent site with its own garage.

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. The order was confirmed as a restricted B.O.A.T.

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 if they belong to the Village Hall then the latter is the organisation that should provide insurance cover.

Banking

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

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).

Ready-to-Switch Collective Purchasing Scheme Cllr Heslop explained how Northumberland has joined eleven other councils to offer residents the opportunity to take part in a collective purchasing scheme which will help save money on gas and electricity. Cllr Heslop reported that the Tynedale Sport's Presentation evening was very successful and well attended. The Olympian rower, Matt Wells, presented trophies and cups to many worthy recipients.

County Budget - To date NCC has had to make £118m savings and will have to cut back £74m on spending in the next 4 years involving £17.8m in 2012/13.

The LDF Core Strategy is at pre-publication stage and will be adopted next year.

Finances

Bank Statements

The bank statements – 3rd November current account No 319 balance £967.89 and deposit account 3rd September No 94 balance £1,713.05. These statements were approved and signed.

Payments

The following payments were agreed;

Clerk's Salary £125, Clerk's Expenses £27.02, Village Hall Rent (September) £10 Grant Aid was awarded to Village Hall £75 (Pensioner's Annual Christmas Dinner) (LGA 1972 sl37) Sport Tynedale £50 and Great North Air Ambulance £50 (LGA 1972 sl37)

Clerk's Salary

This was reviewed and it was RESOLVED to pay an annual salary of £600 (plus £150 for PAYE). This would be subject to an annual incremental rise.

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 has adopted and published the Northumberland ALC code of conduct for local councils and all those councillors present completed Member's Interests forms.

Review of Council Documents and Policies.

The Clerk referred to some of the legal documents that Councils must have: including Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Publication Scheme (FOI). These are in place now and they should be reviewed on an annual basis. There were no issues arising.

Roads

The Chairlady and Vice-Chair attended a PCAICC liaison meeting on 5th November with Simonburn, Wark and Stonehaugh PCs. The Leader of the County Council, J Reid and Richard Powell (Communities Officer) were also in attendance. The Clerk was asked to send NCC a map highlighting the troublesome areas of the water supply.

There is some concern with inappropriate signage on the Ward Lane road. Also at the Stonehaugh junction the traffic sign is possibly too high. Cllr Heslop will contact NCC Safety Officer.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 13th March 2013, 6.30 in Simonburn Village Hall.