

SIMONBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th December 2013 in Simonburn Village Hall

Mrs V S Allgood opened the meeting at 6.30 pm.

Present

Mrs V Allgood (Chairman), RA Hadley, D Bulman and Mr P Rowcroft
Also Councillor RM Gibson and Clerk R Macfarlane

Apologies for absence

AW Langford and Mr NA Ridley

Declaration of Interest

None

Presentation

Alison Thornton-Sykes and Stuart Evans on behalf of the Northumberland National Park Authority provided an update on The Sill Project: an exciting £11.2 million initiative of international importance that will create a Landscape Discovery Centre and new YHA Youth Hostel at Once Brewed in Northumberland. The presentation was enhanced using a 3-D model of the proposed building and surrounding area.

Minutes

The minutes taken at the council meeting held on 11th September 2013, having been circulated and approved by the Council were signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from last meeting

Parish Grass Mower

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, thanked Cllr Hadley for his time and effort keeping the village green very smart and tidy. It was pointed out that Bill (new to the village) has also been helping out.

Notice Board

The Clerk has researched some commercial examples of parish notice boards. They seem rather costly so other alternatives will be pursued.

Tree Seat

It was noted that the Tree Seat is in need of repair. Cllr Hadley volunteered his services.

Communications

NNPA Park Life, BOSS Project Evaluation Survey, New Councillor Training, Nalc Annual Report, CAN Annual Report, CAN Newsletter, Slaley PC re Mobile PO van, Light up a Life-Tynedale Hospice, GNAA, Postal Survey of Housing Needs, CPRE Newsletter, NCC Members Handbook, Local Plan Core Strategy & CD, State of National Park 2012/13 SLCC membership renewed in December 1561/32900, T&W Integrated Transport Authority Quality Contracts Scheme.

Request for a Dispensation

Simonburn PC requests the grant of a dispensation under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to enable the Council to participate in the discussion and vote on setting precepts for 2013/2014 to 2016/2017. This request is made because councillors are (or are closely connected with persons who are) council tax payers who will be affected by the precept set by Simonburn Parish Council. The Council considers that, without this dispensation, the number of members prohibited from participating in the business of setting a precept would be so great as to impede the transaction of business.

Matters Discussed

Water Authority

Water Board employees have visited the village and have yet to report back on their plans. It is likely that Fastflow will draw up a plan and consult those to be affected.

Roads

Some issues with the traffic lights that have recently been used at Ward road end and the large lorries using Ward Lane.

Reports

Northumberland County Council

Cllr Gibson reported on several issues including grant funding opportunities, broadband, street lights and winter services.

Finances

Bank Statements

The latest statements were approved and signed. Balances at 1st December 2013 Current Account £1293.94, Deposit £1714.28

Approved Payments

Clerk's salary £210 (including £42 tax), Expenses £52.28 (£5.17 vat), Hire of Hall £10 (December), David Dixon Mower Repairs £132.13 (£110.11 plus £22.02 vat) and Great North Air Ambulance £100 (LGA 1972 s137).

Date of next meeting Wednesday 12th March 2014, 6.30 in Simonburn Village Hall.