

SIMONBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 14th May 2014 in Simonburn Village Hall

Mrs V S Allgood opened the meeting at 6.45 pm.

01-05-01 Present

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

01-05-02 Election of Chairman

Cllr Ridley proposed **Cllr VS Allgood** and this was seconded by Cllr D Bulman - all agreed.
NB At this point Cllr Allgood took the Chair and signed the declaration of acceptance of office (LGA 1972 s83).

The Chairman welcomed all councillors and thanked them for their support throughout the year. She also welcomed County Councillor Rupert Gibson to the meeting and thanked him for his attendance and giving valuable information from County Hall. Lastly the Chairman thanked the Clerk on behalf of the Council, for his help and advice

01-05-03 Apologies for absence

P Rowcroft and AW Langford

Cllr Langford has been unable to attend because of work commitment and his absence was approved by the Council.

01-05-04 Declaration of Interest

None

01-05-05 Appointment of Officers

Chairman

- **Cllr VS Allgood** - proposed by NA Ridley and seconded by D Bulman

Vice Chairman

- **Cllr AW Langford** - proposed by VA Allgood and seconded by D Bulman

Evans Trust

- **Cllr VS Allgood** - proposed by NA Ridley and seconded by D Bulman

Village Hall

- **Cllr D Bulman** - proposed by RA Hadley and seconded by NA Ridley

(NB Mid Tyne Community Trust Representative is no longer required)

01-05-06 Public First Focus

No members of the public present

01-05-07 Minutes

The minutes taken at the council meeting held on 12th March 2014, having been circulated and approved by the Council were signed by the Chairman.

01-05-08 **Matters arising from last meeting**

Parish Grass Mower

The new mower, Husqvarna RCTH 194, is up and running and the Chairman thanked Cllr Hadley for organising maintenance and petrol and for cutting the grass.

Water Authority

There is still some concern that the water pressure is not as it should be..

Flower Bed on the Green

It was decided that any encroachment on the Village Green would be undesirable and it would also impact on the curtilage of the listed buildings.

Farm Watch and Community Policing

Cllr Gibson will contact the appropriate police officer who is also a “wildlife officer”.

Bank Authority

Clerk to check if Chairman, NA Ridley, D Bulman and P Rowcroft are signatories.

01-05-09 **Communications**

CAB Update and Northumberland Adviceline, AgeUK Advice Service, Road Link (A69) Limited Annual Report 2013-14, CPRE, Garden Waste Collection, BDO Audit pack, NCC Non-Domestic Rates Bill, NNPA Meeting on 14th May

- **PCC Matters** The Revd Canon Michael Thompson, Rector, Humshaugh with Simonburn and Wark will take his last scheduled service on 21st August at St Mungo’s Church
- **Non-Domestic Rates Bill** The car park is leased to the Council and has a rateable value of 400. The annual charge at present is £188.40 but with Small Business Relief there is nothing to pay. This will continue up to 31st March 2015.

01-05-10 **Reports**

Northumberland County Council

Cllr Gibson reported on the recent West Committee meeting including “section 106” agreements. He also informed the Council that new rules governing his “Member’s Allowance” means that grant aid will only be awarded for projects of £2,000 or more.

Cllr Gibson invited questions from councillors.

01-05-11 **Roads**

Ward Lane. The traffic management protocol is for the empty forestry wagons to go up the Lane and full ones back through Wark. The road is in a terrible state and some of the passing places have been filled in and may have damaged drainage routes. At places there are no verges. The new kerb stones at the road end on B6320 appear to be very large and are possibly a danger to motor vehicles. Pot holes that were recently filled, didn’t last very long.

01-05-12 **Footpaths**

There is a lot of concern about off-road motorcycles using the byways, BOATS and bridleways in the parish, often illegally. Clerk to contact the local police.

01-05-13 **Planning**

NCC Planning Application 14/00711/FUL

Proposed replacement of existing windows to front and side of main hall Simonburn Village Hall NE48 3AJ This was granted permission 29th April 2014

01-05-14 **Policy and Document Review**

Assets Register

For Audit purposes the value of the Council's assets had to be restated last year and the assets register was valued at £1,909. The Assets Register was amended to include the new grass mower and is now £3,259

Financial Regulations Documentation

The Clerk pointed out that the Fidelity Guarantee is now £25,000 and has amended the Risk Management Document appropriately.

Risk Management

It was RESOLVED to continue insurance cover with Zurich Municipal.

Standing Orders

No alterations or amendments were suggested or proposed.

01-05-15 **Audit**

Internal Audit

Colin Earnshaw the Internal Auditor has completed the audit and there were no matters arising. The Council asked the Clerk to thank him and it was agreed to pay him a fee of £50

Annual Statement of Accounts

The Annual Financial Return was accepted and this was signed by the Chairman. It was RESOLVED that the Council approve the Accounting Statement, Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Internal Audit Report.

External Audit

The Audit Commission has confirmed BDO LLB as External Auditors from 2012 to 2016

01-05-16 **Finances**

Bank Statements

The latest statements were approved and signed. Balances at 1st May Deposit Account £1,714.76 and Current Account £579.21

Income Half precept £1000 and vat repayment £472.09

Clerk's Salary review

It was agreed to increase the Clerk's Salary to £1000 per annum.

Approved Payments

Clerk's salary £250 (including £50 tax), Expenses £21.55 (£1.44 vat), Hire of Hall £40 for the year, Insurance Zurich Municipal £243.80, Land Factor Car Park Rent £5, Mower Insurance Border Counties £161.08 (1st June) and Roger.Hadley £100 for petrol, CAN £20, D Dixon (Mower repairs) £31.82. Internal Audit C Earnshaw £50 – this was agreed but not paid.

01-05-17 **Date of next meeting** Regular Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 3rd September 2014, 6.30 in Simonburn Village Hall.