

SIMONBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May 2015 in Simonburn Village Hall

Mrs V S Allgood opened the meeting at 6.45 pm.

01-05-01 Present

Mrs V Allgood (Chairman), NA Ridley, P Rowcroft and D Bulman
Also 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. In his absence, due to County Council duties, she gave thanks to the work carried out by County Councillor Rupert Gibson, his attendance at meetings and the valuable information he imparts 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

RA Hadley and AW Langford also Councillor RM Gibson

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 P Rowcroft 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 P Rowcroft and seconded by NA Ridley

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 18th March 2015, 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, should be road taxed as advised by DVLA but we are awaiting a NOVA certificate (or equivalent C&E 389 form) in order to do this.

Bank Authority

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

01-05-09 **Communications**

CAN Newsletter, CAN Spring Conference, RSN Affordable Rural Housing guide, Road Link (A69) Annual Report, Consultation – Street Trading Policy, Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership, Tynedale Hospice at Home – Newslink and Core Music grant request

- **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. .

01-05-10 **Reports**

Northumberland County Council

No report

Village Hall

The woodworm has been treated and the new windows are made and ready to install.

01-05-11 **Roads**

Ward Lane. The condition of the road has much improved, however some of the pot holes that were recently filled, didn't last very long. Red spots and white spots painted on the road suggest imminent road repairs. The County Council are busy with a maintenance project involving all their sandstone bridges. Work is expected to start soon on Simonburn Bridge.

Simonburn/Nunwick Junction

Even though the highways tanker has emptied some of the drains, there is still evidence of blocked drains on the Nunwick side of the road. The Clerk was asked to report this to NCC highways (101003085832).

01-05-12 **Footpaths**

No issues

01-05-13 **Planning**

NCC Planning Application – no current applications

The Chairman attended a County Council planning briefing at Bellingham where she learnt that the Head of Planning, because of a work back-log, will chose whether an application will be heard by Committee or merely decided by the case officer.

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

Assets Register The Assets Register value remains at £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 a full 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 2017

01-05-16 **Finances**

Bank Statements

The latest statements were approved and signed. Balances at 1st April Deposit Account £1,715.72 and Current Account £790.55

Income Half precept £1000 and vat repayment £64.98

Approved Payments

Clerk's salary £200, HMRC £50 tax, Clerk's expenses £27.62 (£1.83 vat), Council Insurance Zurich Municipal £243.80, C Earnshaw Internal Audit £50, Car Park Rent Land Factor (Nunwick Estate) £5.00, Mower Insurance Towergate £183.20, Village Hall Committee (PT) £50, C NALC subscription £55.09, St Mungo's PCC Grass Cutting £100.

It was agreed to pay the Village Hall Committee the annual rent for using the premises with a one-off payment of £40.00.

It was agreed to pay the Car Park Rent Land Factor (Nunwick Estate) by standing order of annual fee £5.00.

01-05-17 **Date of next meeting** The Regular Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 9th September 2015, starting at 6.30 in Simonburn Village Hall.