

SIMONBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on 11th September 2013 in Simonburn Village Hall

Mrs V S Allgood opened the meeting at 6.30 pm.

Present

Mrs V Allgood (Chairman), Mr NA Ridley and Mr P Rowcroft
Also Councillor RM Gibson and Clerk R Macfarlane

Apologies for absence

D Bulman, AW Langford and RA Hadley.

Declaration of Interest

None

Minutes

The minutes taken at the council meeting held on 15th May 2013, having been circulated and approved by the Council were signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from last meeting

Parish Grass Mower

A new lock has been bought so the new mower is now safely locked up in the garage. The mower has been well received, it has made the cutting of the village green much easier. The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, thanked Cllr Hadley for his time and effort keeping the village green very smart and tidy.

Communications

CAN Newsletter, NNPA notice of meeting on 11th September, Community Agreements for flood areas, Centennial Motorcycle Rally on 16/17/18 August through Wark Forest and Kershope Forest, NHS, NCDN Digital Champions, Don't stand for it campaign.

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

Local Transport Plan Programme 2014-2015

The Council is requested to identify top three priorities to include in the NCC draft programme.

The Council is concerned with the size and frequency of large lorries and other vehicles using Ward Lane. This has led to much deterioration on the road surface and verges. Also when some passing places were constructed the drainage system already in place was been disrupted and this leads to flooding. Cllr Gibson supports the request.

Reports

Northumberland County Council Cllr RH Gibson shared his early experiences as a new County Councillor and related aspects of his training at County Hall. He intendeds to provide up-to-date information to all of the parishes in his Ward and for this purpose he has requested Councillor's e-mail addresses.

Current issues involve the Fibre Optic Broadband and the plan to cover 95% of Northumberland. Councillors reminded Cllr Gibson of the very poor coverage for mobile phones in the Simonburn area.

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 mandatory Conclusion Notice has been displayed publically for the prerequisite period of time. BDO LLB reported that there were no matters arising. It was proposed by Cllr NA Ridley and seconded by Cllr P Rowcroft and RESOLVED that the Council approve and accept the Annual Return.

Internal Audit

It was agreed to appoint Colin Earnshaw NNPA as Internal Auditor at an annual fee of £50

Finances

Bank Statements

The latest statements were approved and signed. Balances at 1st September Deposit Account £1714.04 and Current Account £822.85

Approved Payments

Clerk's salary £210 (including£42 tax), Expenses £52.28 (£5.17 vat), Hire of Hall £10 (September) and R Hadley (Petrol) £20.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 4th December 2013, 6.30 in Simonburn Village Hall.