

SIMONBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on 3rd September 2014 in Simonburn Village Hall

02-09-01 Present

Mrs V Allgood (Chairman), P Rowcroft and AW Langford
Also Councillor RM Gibson and Clerk R Macfarlane

02-09-02 Apologies for absence

Mr NA Ridley, RA Hadley and D Bulman

02-09-03 Declaration of Interest

None

02-09-04 Public First Focus

No members of the public present

02-09-05 Neighbourhood Beat Managers

PC Colin Heath (515) attended the meeting in the absence of PC Ian Robertson who is on long term leave. He is Beat Manager for Kielder, Tarsset, Byrness and Otterburn but also the Neighbourhood Beat Manager coordinator for the North Tyne Valley. He explained his function and outlined various initiatives being carried out at present. He gave information on Farm Watch, NPR and detailed some successes with local rural crime. He also explained procedures for those committing illegal activity with motorbikes on BOATS, footpaths and bridleways.

Neighbourhood officers can be contacted by phoning **101** and asking for extension **69191**

02-09-06 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.

02-09-07 Matters arising from last meeting

Wark Bridge

The bridge will be closed for painting from 10th September through to October.

02-09-08 Reports

Northumberland County Council

Cllr Gibson reported on events at County Hall and commented on the many staffing changes.

02-09-09 Communications

CAN Canny News, Electoral Register – voter registration, CPRE, Hexham Bus Shelter Engagement Event, Community Rail Designation: Tyne Valley Line (Newcastle-Hexham-Carlisle) local service

02-09-09 **Communications continued**

- Thank you letter from Community Action Northumberland for the grant aid given to them (£20)
- NALC's AGM will be taking place at 10.30am on Saturday 18th October in Storey Park Community Centre, St Mary's Field, Morpeth, NE61 2QF.
- First Annual Town and Parish Council Conference at County Hall on Thursday 25th of September. (2pm and 6 pm).
- Northern Powergrid Consultation - their future business plan in a variety of areas, including their provisions for safety, availability and reliability they are looking to engage with their stakeholders in a short telephone interview.
- World War 1 Centenary Commemoration - special events to mark this important date.

02-09-10 **Roads**

Local Transport Plan Programme 2015-2016

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

The Clerk was asked to resubmit the following priorities:-

Speed Limits

No request - although some concern with speeding lorries on the Ward Lane.

Traffic Regulation Orders

Replace the mirror sign at the B6320 junction and Ward Lane. Reposition the road signs at this junction to improve the obscured vision.

Minor Improvements

A request from the council for improvements to drainage down the Ward Lane. Many drainage gullies and some ditches have been squashed and damaged when "passing places" were added. This causes flooding when it rains.

Ward Lane Potholes

Several small potholes and one huge pothole in the middle of the Ward Lane road near the B6320 junction; these are very dangerous and growing worse by the day. The Clerk was asked to inform NCC Highways. This has previously been reported. "Big deep holes on Ward Lane near the junction with B6320 at NE48 3AF" Case reference number is 101002722279.

02-09-11 **Footpaths**

No issues

02-09-12 **Planning**

No issues

02-09-13 **Audit**

External Audit

BDO requirements and in line with the Audit Commission and complying with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (Regulations 12-16)

Exercise of Electors' Rights

BDO requirements and in line with Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (Regulations 12-16) and the Audit Commission Act of 1998.

The notice of appointment of date for the exercise of electors' rights must be displayed for 14 days. SPC will display the Audit Notice in Parish Notice Board from 1st to 14th April

The accounts and other documents must be then available for 20 working days.

SPC will make records available to the general public 15th April to 15th May

It is the duty of SPC to submit the annual return and supporting documentation to BDO LLP by the audit date of 16th May. Approval of Accounts no later than 30th June and Publication of Audited Accounts no later than 30th September 2014.

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. In the Issues Arising Report BDO listed "minor Issues". This related to the NCC Rebate given in April 2013 and recorded in Precept costs. It was RESOLVED that the Council approve and accept the Annual Return.

Conclusion of Audit

In accordance with Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 the accounts are now available for inspection by local electors and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit publically displayed for the prerequisite period of time. This provides an opportunity for councillors and members of the public to scrutinise the Council's accounts.

02-09-14 **Finances**

Bank Statements

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

Income Half precept £1000 and vat repayment £472.09

Approved Payments Clerk's salary £250 (£50 tax), Clerk's expenses £35.54 (£3.85 vat), Nalc Annual Subscription £49.18 and Internal Audit C Earnshaw £50

02-09-15 **Date of next meeting**

Regular Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 3rd December 2014, 6.30 in Simonburn Village Hall.