

SIMONBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on 9th September 2015 in Simonburn Village Hall

02-09-01 **Present**

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

02-09-02 **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs NA Ridley, RA Hadley, P Rowcroft and D Bulman

02-09-03 **Declaration of Interest**

15-01675-FUL Cllrs VS Allgood, RA Hadley, P Rowcroft and D Bulman

02-09-04 **Public First Focus**

No members of the public present

02-09-05 **Minutes**

The minutes taken at the council meeting held on 13th May 2015, have been circulated to the Council.

02-09-06 **Matters arising from last meeting**

Simonburn Bridges

Both bridges have been closed for inspection.

Grass Cutting

The Chairman commented how good the village looked and gave thanks to those who gave up their spare time to keep it tidy and cut the grass.

Grass Mower

This now has a "Certificate of Newness" and a UK registration Certificate.

02-09-07 **Reports**

Northumberland County Council

Cllr Gibson gave a brief report about the move of County Hall from Morpeth to Ashington. There was some concern about grass verges not being cut.

02-09-09 **Communications**

CAN Newsletter, Making Parishes Better Places, NCC Electronic Permit, Pay as you Throw, Heritage Open Days 10th to 13th September 2015, Oil-Club and NNPA Development Committee Meeting 12th August.

- **Grant Aid requests** Letter asking for grant aid has been received from Tynedale Hospice at Home. This will be considered at the next meeting of the Council.
- **Traffic Census** The Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the Ward Lane Census recently conducted.

02-09-10 **Roads**

Local Transport Plan Programme 2016-2017

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

The 2015-2016 Priorities

Speed Limits

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

NCC Response

These concerns will be raised with the timber transport companies

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.

NCC Response

Mirrors are not permitted in the Highway. They are not permitted in the Traffic Signs Regulations and are illegal. Mirrors may be placed in adjoining land but may require planning permission.

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.

NCC Response

This section of road is being considered through the annual review of road maintenance priorities which is currently taking place. This involves a technical appraisal, using a number of factors including condition data, defect data, cost/benefit analysis and the value to local communities.

The 2016-2017 Priorities

Because of the NCC response to replacing the mirror sign at the B6320 junction and Ward Lane, it was decided to remove it from the priorities and in its place insert-

Minor Improvements

The Council requests gully/drainage improvements on Castle Lane. The ditch under the road is too small and other ditches get blocked regularly causing flooding in No 2 The Green.

02-09-11 **Footpaths**

No issues

02-09-12 **Planning**

Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) 2010

Northumberland Council Planning Application – Statutory Consultation

NCC Applications 15-01675-FUL 15-01677-FUL 15-01678-FUL 15-01679-FUL

Proposed stock buildings (Plot 1) (Plot 2) (Plot 3) and (Plot 4)

Land north of Simonburn Farm

Sub-Committee

A sub-committee of the Council (Cllrs NA Ridley and AW Langford) considered the planning request and found no objections to this application.

NCC granted approval 9th September.

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 2015..

Timetable (Localism Act 2011 – 1st April 2015)

Common Inspection Period 1st to 14th July- this was followed in addition to BDO's timetable.

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. There were no matters arising. 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

Payments to be Approved Clerk's salary £200, HMRC £50, Clerk's expenses £37.58 (£3.38 vat),

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

Regular Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 2nd December 2015, 6.30 in Simonburn Village Hall.