

# **SIMONBURN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in Simonburn Village Hall

03-12-01 **Present**

Mrs VS Allgood (Chairman), RA Hadley, P Rowcroft and D Bulman  
Also Councillor RM Gibson and Clerk R Macfarlane

03-12-02 **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs NA Ridley and AW Langford

03-12-03 **Declaration of Interest**

None

03-12-04 **Public First Focus**

No members of the public present

03-12-05 **Minutes**

The minutes taken at the council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016, have been circulated all Councillors. These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

03-12-06 **Matters arising from last meeting**

Simonburn Bridge is still closed and the work is still quite intense.

No sign of any activity relating to the requested gully/drainage improvements on Castle Lane.

03-12-07 **Reports**

**Northumberland County Council**

Cllr Gibson gave a brief report about activities at County Hall. He commented on the Ray Wind Farm proposed grant aid structure and possible closure of Chollerford Bridge.

He will also address the Council's concerns about the dangerous positioning of the new bus stop at Nunwick road-end.

03-12-08 **Website**

TWDA have designed the new site and it was resolved to host the site with Heart Internet and use the domain name "simonburn.info"

The Clerk will request contributions that may enhance the site and Cllr Hadley will also promote the site within the village.

03-12-09 **Communications**

The following correspondence has been forwarded to all councillors: CAN Newsletter, NNPA PC Representation, Nalc e-news, War Memorial Bulletin & CPRE newsletter

- **NCC Proposal** Public Spaces Protection Order for the Control of Dogs
- **Household Waste Recovery Centres** Changes to opening days

03-12-10 **Budget and Precept**

The clerk provided an outline budget for the ensuing year. Looking at next year's spending the Council considered grant aid to support the village projects, website costs, running and maintenance of the grass mower and strimmer. It was RESOLVED that the precept should be increased to £2,400 for the financial year 2017-2018

03-12-11 **Review of Model Code of Conduct**

Nalc's County Committee acknowledged that there is an argument not to revise the current model but wished to seek observations and have circulated proposals to all councils. Comments to be made before 31 January 2017.

03-12-12 **External Auditors 2017/2018**

After the abolition of the Audit Commission, smaller local authority representatives have successfully persuaded government to allow them to collectively procure external audit services for smaller authorities

The company established by a consortium of smaller authorities sector bodies (National Association of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks and the Association of Drainage Authorities) and authorised by the department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to undertake this role.

SAAA (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments) have stated that three audit firms have been appointed as suppliers for the five-year period commencing 1 April 2017: PKF Littlejohn, Mazars and Moore Stephens. Contracts have been signed ahead of schedule on terms that will enable SAAA to undertake its various tasks including the quality control and monitoring of suppliers without making any further call on public funds. Further details of the audit appointment areas to be covered by the three firms will be communicated in due course.

03-12-13 **Finances**

**Bank Statements** The latest statements were approved and signed. Balances at 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 Current Account £1,872.11, Deposit £1,717.49

**Income** Half precept £1100 and vat repayment £64.98

**Approved Payments** Clerk's salary £228 , HMRC £57 tax, Council's expenses £40.54 (£3.17 vat) and s/o Car Park Rent £5,

**Section 137 Payments** Grant Aid to GNAA £60, CAN £20 and Tynedale Hospice £50

03-12-14 **Date of next meeting**

Regular Council Meeting Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 6.30 in Simonburn Village Hall.

Signed Chairman.....

Date .....8<sup>th</sup> March 2017.....