

# **SIMONBURN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in Simonburn Village Hall

## 04-03-01 **Present**

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

## 04-03-02 **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs NA Ridley, RA Hadley and AW Langford

## 04-03-03 **Declaration of Interest**

None

## 04-03-04 **Public First Focus**

No members of the public present

## 04-03-05 **Minutes**

The minutes taken at the council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, have been circulated all Councillors. These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 04-03-06 **Matters arising from last meeting**

Simonburn Bridge is still closed and the work is still continuing but due to finish by the end of the month. No sign of any activity relating to the requested gully/drainage improvements on Castle Lane.

## 04-03-07 **Reports**

### **Northumberland County Council**

Cllr Gibson gave a verbal report about activities at County Hall. He commented on the Ray Wind Farm proposed grant aid structure and possible closure of Chollerford Bridge. He has passed on the Council's concerns about the dangerous positioning of the new bus stop at Nunwick road-end.

## 04-03-08 **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"

## 04-03-09 **Communications**

The following correspondence has been forwarded to all councillors: CAN Newsletter, NNPA, Nalc e-news, The Pensions Regulator & CPRE newsletter Spring 2017

- **NCC 2017 Local Elections** NCC eager to maximise voter registration and turnout.
- **Northumberland Residents' Festival** – Information booklets.

04-03-10 **Planning**  
**Clerk Delegation**

For clarification, the Council delegated authority to the clerk to respond to consultations on planning applications if there was not a suitable scheduled meeting of the Parish Council in accordance with section 101 Local Govt. Act 1972 but this power would only be exercised with the consent of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman following consultation with all members of the Parish Council. It does not stop the Chairman calling a special meeting if circumstances merit.

04-03-11 **Document and Policy Review**

In line with NJC pay scales and reference to NALC/SLCC announcement issued in May 2016 the Council awarded an appropriate increase in Clerk's salary from April 2017.

04-03-12 **Footpaths**

There are a number of issues causing problems to residents and users of BOATS and byways in the parish of Simonburn.

The route, just west of Brocolitia, heading north off the B6318 ending up at Ward Lane is a big problem. The first part is a "claimed route" and restricted byway from B6318 (533/001 and 542/036). At Kirkshield and Slaterfield Fell the route heads west towards Ward Lane over Simonburn Common and then Broadpool Common (542/024 and 548/072). This second stretch is where there have been and are some major problems. The parish council thought that if this stretch was down-graded to a restricted byway -it might help the situation. The Clerk was asked to contact the County's Footpath's Officer, Tim Fish.

04-03-13 **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 £15.05

04-03-14 **Date of next meeting**

Regular Council Meeting Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017, 6.30 in Simonburn Village Hall.

Signed Chairman.....

Date .....17<sup>th</sup> May 2017.....

