

SIMONBURN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on 6th December 2017 in Simonburn Village Hall

03-12-01 **Present**

Cllrs VS Allgood (Chairman), S Tilson, P Rowcroft, D Bulman and AW Langford
Also Councillor RM Gibson and Clerk R Macfarlane

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

Cllr NA Ridley

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 27th September 2017, have been circulated all Councillors. These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

- **The Pensioners Regulator - Automatic Enrolment Duties.** The Council has received acknowledgement of declaration of compliance.
- **Proctor's Bridge (Humpy Back Bridge)**
The bridge has some loose stones on its parapet; Clerk has notified NCC.

03-12-07 **Reports**

Northumberland County Council

Cllr Gibson gave a verbal report.

03-12-08 **Website**

TWDA have designed the new site and all the relevant documents have been published to conform with Localities Act 2011. Contributions that may enhance the site, are requested. TWDA will arrange Domain (Simonburn.info) and Hosting. Clerk to apply for further grant aid from Transparency Funding.

03-12-09 **Communications**

The following correspondence has been forwarded to all councillors:

CAN Newsletter, Nalc e-news & CPRE newsletter

- **Chollerford Bridge Repairs** – This is now open.
- **NCC Joint Meetings with Town/Parish Councils** - 12th December
- **Correspondence John Kerwin** – Dirtbike-Action motorcycle events weekends.

03-12-10 **Roads**

There are concerns about the gully/drainage systems on Castle Lane. The ditch under the road is too small and other ditches get blocked regularly causing flooding in No 2 The Green. Clerk to contact the appropriate highways inspector.

03-12-11 **Footpaths**

The Council is aware of various issues relating to “off-road” vehicles and the damage and distress caused by them to some of the BOATs and byways within the parish.

03-12-12 **Planning**

Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) 2010 Northumberland Council Planning Application – Statutory Consultation. Application **17/02508/COU** Proposal for a change of use from a field to an outdoor equestrian arena. The Council had no objection to this application; it has since been withdrawn.

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

The DCLG Secretary of State indicated to the national NALC Conference that the capping/referendum regime would not be introduced for parish, town and community councils for the 2018/2019 financial year.

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, new auditors, FOI implications, website costs, running and maintenance of the grass mower and strimmer. It was **RESOLVED** that the precept should be increased to £2,600 for the financial year 2018-2019

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 and have circulated proposals to all councils.

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.

1st December 2017 Current Account £1782.11, Deposit £1,718.17

Approved Payments Clerk's salary £240 , HMRC £60 tax, Council's expenses £13.49

Grant Awards using LGA 1972 s137

Tynedale Hospice at Home £50, CAN £20 and GNAA £100

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

Regular Council Meeting Wednesday 14th March 2018, 6.30 in Simonburn Village Hall.