

Minutes of a meeting of **NORTH GOSFORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held at St. Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park on Wednesday 15th December 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councillors D. Phillipson (Chairman), Dr. B. Agnew, A. Cooke, J. Gray, Miss V. Hay, Mrs. H. Robinson and Mrs. P.M. Spearing.

Also in Attendance: City Councillor D. Down and P.C. David Watson.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors Mrs. J. Banks, Mrs. A. Mears and Amy Stillwell.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 17th November 2010, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. POLICE REPORT

P.C. David Watson reported that crime in the Parish remained extremely low when compared to the other areas of Newcastle. This was partly attributable to a high Police presence.

Operation Xmas Cracker was reaping great rewards in the Parklands Ward and around Metro stations in the City where the potential for crime increased in the lead in to Xmas.

Shoppers were being encouraged to be extra vigilant, particularly when placing parcels in the boot of the car and then going on to do additional shopping. This encouraged theft from cars.

Residents were also asked to be vigilant when responding to "cold callers" touting for business. It was always best to use recommended traders.

Reference was made to large groups of children throwing snowballs and to a small group of youths vandalising the bus shelter.

Continued representation by the Police at Parish Council meetings was being discussed internally.

It was agreed that the Police report be received and P.C. David Watson be thanked for his attendance.

4. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The City Council's Constitutional Committee had agreed to further consultation on the proposed review of the Parish boundary to exclude the Great Park area. Brunton Park and Melton Park residents would now be consulted and this would be done by letter to each household. Residents would be asked to send their views to the Head

of Democratic Services. It was hoped to do this quite quickly, although staff resources at the City Council were stretched, particularly leading up to the Xmas/New Year period. The Parish Council could supplement the City Council's consultation if it wished to do so.

It was agreed that the proposals to consult Brunton Park and Melton Park residents be welcomed and the draft of the City Council's consultation letter be studied before deciding whether it needed to be supplemented with the Parish Council's own consultation.

5. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Notices inviting written applications for the outstanding vacancy could be displayed in notice boards from next Saturday onwards, provided that the City Council had not received a request from ten electors to hold a by-election. Such a request would have to be made by the 17th December.

It was agreed that the vacancy be advertised from this coming weekend, provided that there was no valid request for a by-election.

6. ONGOING ISSUES

Reference was made to the following issues:

- The fence in the lay by on the east of the Great North Road would be repaired shortly and the out of date notices had been removed from the entrance to Gosforth Park.
- Jesmond Dene Nurseries would be sending out an estimate for maintenance of all the Parish Council planters and the Melton Park beds shortly.
- Councillor David Down circulated plans showing future road and footpath works. It was not clear when and where work would be done on Greenfield Road as the plans were difficult to interpret. He agreed to clarify the information shown on the plans and report back.

It was agreed that these matters be noted and pursued, as appropriate.

7. NEWCASTLE GREAT PARK

There had been no meeting of the Great Park Advisory Committee since the last Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Miss V. Hay had walked around Melbury and Warkworth Woods to monitor ongoing works. Junctions had not yet been painted and tree planting had halted. Some street lights had been repaired and work had started on the haul road.

Councillor David Down noted that the bus service had stopped short at Polwarth Drive during the inclement weather. Greenfield Road had been gritted twice a day but South Bend had not been gritted.

It was agreed that the progress report on the Great Park area be received.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were reported:

- Parklands Ward Committee – 26 November 2010.
- Health Action Network News and Desk Calendar.
- Letter from Mr. E. Alder confirming his interest in Parish Council vacancy.
- Local Council Reviews.
- E-mail from Friends of North Gosforth Chapel.

It was agreed that the correspondence be noted and pursued, as appropriate.

9. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Clerk's salary for month ended 30 th November 2010	£400:00
Postages, stationery, phone calls etc.	10:00
	£410:00

Northumberland Association of Local Councils – Annual

Membership and Local Council Reviews	£513:31
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10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No comments on applications at 45, Newlands Avenue; 17, South Ridge; The Byre, Gosforth Steadings, Sandy Lane; 45, Princes Road; 1, Norwood Avenue and 3, Easedale Avenue.

Applications granted conditionally at 3, Easedale Avenue; 5, Belmont Avenue; 56, The Fairway and TPO application at Northumberland Golf Club.

11. OTHER ISSUES

The following issues were raised:

- The traffic sensor outside 27, Polwarth Drive was not accurate.
- Parked cars at Princes Road were blocking the footpath.
- There had been some parking problems outside the Rugby Club.
- Shopkeepers should be thanked for continuing to provide services during the extreme weather conditions.
- Thanks to Peter Davison for his efforts during the inclement weather.
- Bus drivers had also performed well during difficult conditions on the roads.

- Dog fouling problems were on the increase and the dog warden should be invited to inspect the area.

It was agreed that these matters be noted and pursued, as appropriate.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting be held on Wednesday 19th January 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park. This would be the budget meeting when the precept would be determined for 2011/12.