

Minutes of a meeting of **NORTH GOSFORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held at St. Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park on Wednesday 16th June 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Also in Attendance: Councillors Mrs D. Packham, J. Shipley, P.C. Craig Foster and 3 residents from Melton Park.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors Dr. B. Agnew and Mrs J. Banks.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the annual Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 19th May 2010, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. POLICE MATTERS

P.C. Craig Foster reported that crime levels in the parish remained low. A lawn mower had been stolen in Grasmere Place, an assault had occurred in Brunton Park and some drugs had been found on the Great North Road.

Reference was made to the ongoing problem of commercial vehicles parking on Greenfield Road whilst work was ongoing at the Care Home site. It was noted that the building was due to be completed on Friday.

The Rapid Response Team had found a number of bottles and cans behind the shops and on Hilton Green.

A request was made for traffic police to monitor bus lanes which were frequently being used by other vehicles.

The problem of U turns at the Great North Road/Brunton Lane junction on Newcastle Race Day (a week on Saturday) should be controlled by having a Police presence there immediately after the last race and until most vehicular traffic had left the Racecourse car parks.

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

4. MELTON PARK – CHAPEL SITE

Residents from Melton Park were concerned that their children were being threatened with "the Police" if they did not move on from the land surrounding the former chapel site.

It was stressed that the land was owned by the Parish Council and was designated as public open space. Children were entitled to play there and they did so with the full support of the Parish Council, provided that they behaved responsibly. It was worrying that one or two “over vigilant” residents were actively discouraging children from playing there and calling the Police in order to move them on.

Reference was also made to the bamboo canes used to support planting and signs asking that the grass is not cut on certain parts of the site.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Secretary of the Friends of North Gosforth Chapel asking her to remind members that the land is owned by the Parish Council, is designated as public open space and is therefore an appropriate area for children to play responsibly, and asking that bamboo canes and signs about grass cutting be removed.

5. ONGOING ISSUES

Reference was made to the following issues:

- The anticipated changes to bus services had been introduced and would be monitored.
- Warkworth Woods was not yet adopted.
- Planning training for Parish Councillors was anticipated on Monday 28 June from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Civic Centre.
- The officer responsible for civic parking had attended the last Parklands Ward Committee meeting. Some local enforcement had been undertaken recently.
- The application to register Lincoln Green as a village green had been approved and the wording for the village green register was being drafted.
- A traffic survey was being undertaken on the roundabout next to McDonalds.

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

6. PARISH BOUNDARY REVIEW

The proposal to review the western and northern Parish Council boundary to remove Melbury and Warkworth Woods residential areas from the Parish was discussed. Parish Councillors unanimously supported the proposal which could be processed by the City Council at the same time as similar proposals for boundary review in Dinnington and Hazlerigg Parishes. They were also seeking removal of Great Park land. The establishment of a new Town/Parish Council for the Great Park area could then be pursued if there was public support.

It was agreed that a request for boundary review to exclude Melbury and Warkworth Woods from the Parish be submitted to the City Council.

7. BRUNTON LANE: PROPOSED BUS ONLY RESTRICTION

The proposal to restrict the length of Brunton Lane over the A1 bridge to all motor vehicles except buses and emergency vehicles was discussed. This closure would redirect the majority of traffic onto the specifically designed Great Park Road, which provides direct access to the A1. This would help to control traffic flows on Brunton Lane which had never been designed to cope with the traffic levels it was now experiencing.

It was agreed that the Parish Council support the proposal.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were reported:

- Parklands Ward Committee – 27 May 2010.
- Representation on SNAPs – letter from Councillor Packham.
- The opening of the Care Home on 2 July.
- Newcastle LINK – Drop In – 14 July Great North Museum.
- NALC County Committee – composition.
- Role of NALC in supporting Parish Councils.
- Concerns about feeding wild animals such as foxes.

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 31 st May 2010	£400:00
Postages, stationery, phone calls etc and ink cartridge	28:00
	£428:00
St. Aidan's Community Centre Affiliation Fees 2010	£35:00

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No comments on applications at 14, Sharperton Drive, 18, Westwood Road and 12, Chipchase Mews.

Object to application for lettering plaques and signs for Care Home at former Royal George site on grounds that there are too many. It was noted that signs had been installed and planning permission sought retrospectively.

Extensions at 33, Milford Gardens and 12, Princes Road had been granted conditionally. A conservatory at 9, Kingsley Avenue had been granted conditionally and signage at the Co-op Store, car park and car wash had been granted.

An extension at 45, Newlands Avenue had been refused.

11. OTHER ISSUES

The following issues were raised:

- The establishment of a North Gosforth Carers Support Group.
- The hedge at 1, Greenriggs Avenue was overgrown and the public footpath was lifting.
- The planters at the shops had been planted with geraniums and blue lobelia.
- Urgent reinstatement work was needed on Greenfield Road to the footpath and road outside the Community Centre.

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 21st July 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park.