

Minutes of the annual meeting of **NORTH GOSFORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held at St. Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park on Wednesday 18th May 2011 at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Councillors Dr. B. Agnew, E. Alder, S.N. Bond, A. Cooke, J. Gray, Miss V. Hay, Mrs. A. Mears, D. Phillipson and Mrs. H. Robinson.

Also in Attendance: Councillor D. Down and P.C. (131) James Desmond.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Mrs. P.M. Spearing.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor D. Phillipson was elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing Council year.

(Councillor Phillipson in the Chair).

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2011, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Mrs A. Mears was elected as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing Council year.

5. CO-OPTION AS PARISH COUNCILLOR

It was agreed that J. Gray be co-opted as a Parish Councillor to fill the outstanding vacancy arising from the Parish Council elections in May.

6. POLICE REPORT

P.C. Desmond reported that there had been 19 burglaries in the Parish. Garden tools had been used to force entry in a number of cases and residents were asked to ensure that garden equipment was safely locked away to help deter opportunist burglars.

Young people from the area were involved in alcohol related incidents and empty cans and bottles were being left behind Warkworth Woods.

It was noted that a licence to sell alcohol had been granted to the shop on the Great Park.

A group of young people had been kicking a ball against the church wall and had broken a window.

A bicycle had been stolen from a driveway in Greenfield Road.

Travelling families had moved into an area between Kingston Park and the Great Park. Efforts were being made to move them on.

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

7. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

It was anticipated that the new Labour administration at the City Council would re-appoint the Constitutional Committee and it would still deal with the Parish Council's request for boundary review to exclude the Great Park area.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

8. ONGOING ISSUES

Reference was made to the following issues:

- The fence in the lay by to the east of the Great North Road remained broken.
- There was no start date yet for repairs to the road and pavements in Greenfield Road.
- The shrub planting in the planters had not been as varied as promised and some weeding work needed to be done.
- The Parish Council had been registered as a PAYE employer and HMRC would be paid direct on a quarterly basis.
- The Royal Wedding Celebration had been well attended.
- The City Council had acknowledged receipt of the Parish Council's request for the introduction of no parking restrictions on part of Polwarth Drive.
- The pile of wood chippings next to the Scout Hut would be spread onto the surrounding area.

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

9. NORTHUMBRIAN WATER – BRUNTON PARK FLOODING

The Clerk read out an e-mail from Paul Davidson about ongoing work on the preferred option development for both foul and surface water elements. It was hoped that this would be completed in October and the project would then be prioritised along with other flooding schemes in the region. Work could commence in the summer of 2012 provided that the scheme met the criteria for investment.

It was agreed that the progress report be received.

10. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/11

The Parish Council accounts and annual return for 2010/11 were submitted for approval.

It was agreed that the accounts and annual return for 2010/11 be approved and the Chairman be authorised to sign the accounting statements and annual governance statement in the annual return.

11. NEWCASTLE GREAT PARK

Turney Wilde had removed the fence and seeded the land.

The City Council would not be reappointing the Great Park Advisory Committee and it was suggested that, if this was the case, the Great Park agenda item should be removed from the agenda for Parish Council meetings.

It was agreed that, if the Great Park Advisory Committee was to be disbanded, the agenda item should also be dropped from the agenda for Parish Council meetings.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were reported:

- Receipt of Parish Council precept.
- Banks are closing the cheque guarantee card scheme on 30 June.
- St. Aidan's Community Centre affiliation fees 2011/12 - £62:40.
- Northumberland Theatre Company – request for grant.

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

13. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Clerk's net salary for month ended 30 th April 2011	£320:00
Postages, phone calls, stationery etc	10:00
	£330:00
J. Roll – internal audit fee 2010/11	£100:00
St. Aidan's Community Centre affiliation fees 2011/12	£62:40

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No comments on applications at Peter Barratt's Garden Centre (sheds and greenhouses); 20, Easedale Avenue; and 46, Westwood Road.

Objections submitted to erection of telecommunications mast and ancillary equipment on Great North Road adjacent to Newlands Avenue and to retrospective application to increase height of boundary wall at 1, East Brunton Wynd.

Roof tiles being used at 18, Princes Road do not match existing.

It was agreed that Melton Park Councillors organise a residents' petition objecting to the telecommunications mast application.

15. OTHER ISSUES

The following issues were raised:

- Proposals to issue transponders to Great Park residents for use at Brunton Lane bus gate.
- Bus timetable variations in July.
- Concrete litter bins at Melton Park not cleaned out yet.
- 1, Greenriggs Avenue – overgrown hedge.
- City Council should be asked for an estimate for refurbishment of stone bus shelters on Great North Road.

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

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting be held on Wednesday 15th June 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park.