

Minutes of a meeting of **NORTH GOSFORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held at St. Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park on Wednesday 18th November 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Also in Attendance: Councillor J. Shipley, Sgt. M. Sutcliffe and 3 residents.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Mrs. A. Mears.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st October 2009, copies of which had previously been circulated to members, were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. POLICE MATTERS

Sgt. Sutcliffe reported that crime levels remained low and reported incidents related to criminal damage and burglaries to sheds and outbuildings. In the City centre, the Police were targeting retail crime and having an increased presence on public transport networks such as the Metro.

Reference was made to parking problems on the Great Park's residential streets and speeding on Barmoor Drive. Pavement parking was also causing problems on Greenfield Road. Streets in the Great Park had yet to be adopted but Sgt. Sutcliffe said that these problems would be monitored.

It was agreed that the Police report be received and Sgt. Sutcliffe be thanked for his attendance.

4. ONGOING ISSUES

Reference was made to the following issues:

- Village green status could be sought for Lincoln Green and, whilst it would afford the green greater protection, there would be financial implications. These should be explored first.
- The metal "children's' play area" sign on Hilton Green had been removed.
- Changes to the M46/X46 bus services were being discussed at the next Parklands Ward Committee and it was hoped that the details would be clarified shortly.
- The City Council hoped to offer more training events for Parish Councillors and there was the potential to arrange an event dealing with planning enforcement early in the new year provided that there was sufficient support.

Parish Councillors indicated that they would attend training on planning enforcement.

- The voluntary 20 mph speed limits in the City would be made permanent and enforceable in the new year as soon as the legal orders could be made.
- There was still no response from Roisin Corry about the planning conditions at the Royal George site and the development at 6, Princes Road.

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

5. NEWCASTLE GREAT PARK

Councillor Miss V. Hay reported the following matters:

- The Great Park Advisory Committee had met on Monday.
- The Early Years Provision Unit was hopefully opening in September 2010.
- Persimmons had given an assurance that problems with footpaths and roads leading to and from the school would be addressed.
- Arriva had been asked for information about the Park and Ride service and the potential for Sunday operation was discussed.
- The bus gate at Netherwitton Way had been out of action for a week.
- The lights on signs in Netherwitton Way were not working.
- The Consortium had not yet cut the hedge on the Warkworth Woods side.
- Access for cyclists on Brunton Lane would be provided.
- The height of the Ouseburn was discussed and a full report would be submitted on all water courses.
- Discussions were ongoing with utility companies.
- Work on the Brunton Lane/Great North Road junction would be completed in March and a meeting about the Brunton Lane bus gate would be arranged with the Consortium.
- The haul road was no longer needed and the bund and landscaping could now be considered.
- Turney Wilde should reinstate the kickabout area when they vacate in April.
- All outstanding issues in Melbury would be resolved so that adoption could take place. The play area was also being considered.

It was agreed that the Great Park report be received.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were reported:

- Sustainable Community Strategies – consultation by Newcastle and Northumberland.
- Joint West Gosforth/East Gosforth & Parklands Ward Cttee – 18 Nov.
- Parklands Ward Cttee – 24 Nov.
- NALC annual report 08/09 and AGM – 14 Nov.

- CAN AGM – 04 Nov.
- Speed indicator sign missing in Polwarth Drive.
- Trinity Church Xmas carol service – 21 Dec.

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

7. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following account was approved for payment:

Clerk's salary for month ended 31 October	£350:00
Postages, phone calls, stationery	10:00
Printer cartridge	18:00
	£378:00

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No comments on applications at 26, Clayworth Road, 55, Featherstone Grove, 23, Halton Way and 7, Beech Close.

- A letter from Councillor Mrs. D. Packham about the proposed new emergency hospital at Cramlington was reported. It expressed concern that some City residents may be taken there in an emergency rather than to the existing facilities in the City.

The Parish Council acknowledged this but did not think it was necessarily a problem as individual journeys could sometimes be quicker and the facilities would be new.

Change of use from shop and maisonette to nursery at 75, Featherstone Grove.

(Councillor Mrs H. Robinson disclosed a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of this application because she lived in close proximity to the property. She left the room for the duration of the debate and decision on this application.)

The Parish Council discussed the application in detail. There were a number of concerns including:

- Loss of shop unit to serve community.
- Increased parking generated by a 55 place nursery.
- Lack of overall floor space to meet minimum statutory requirement per child.
- The 10 full time and 4 part time staff would not park elsewhere in Gosforth and use public transport to commute to the site.
- Questionable demand bearing in mind other provision already in the area.
- The Parish Council had not been formally consulted on this application.

It was agreed that the Parish Council object to this application on the grounds mentioned above.

9. OTHER ISSUES

The following issues were raised:

- A mobile library service would be operating soon on the Great Park.
- There were companies advertising flood defences for domestic and commercial properties.
- Ponding occurred at the junction of Bowfield Avenue/Newlands Avenue during periods of rainfall.
- Drains on the Great North Road were susceptible to flooding.
- A pedestrian had been run down by a cyclist at Park Avenue/Great North Road. This emphasised the need for a cycle track along the Great North Road.
- The soil in the planters had been refurbished.
- Responsibility for cutting the Greenfield Road hedge was uncertain but the City Council had undertaken the work.
- Brunton Green was flooded and trees had been damaged. The Consortium were still responsible for Brunton Green and it was hoped that they could undertake remedial work.

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

10. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

The Parish Council considered a letter of application from Andrew Cooke, 9, Lincoln Green to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

It was agreed that the letter of application be accepted and Andrew Cooke be co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting be held on Wednesday 9th December 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park.