

Minutes of a meeting of **NORTH GOSFORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held at St. Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors D. Phillipson (Chairman), A. Cooke, Miss V. Hay, Mrs. A. Mears and Mrs. H. Robinson.

**Also in Attendance:** Councillor J. Shipley and P.C. Aidan Hall.

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Councillors Dr. B. Agnew, Mrs. J. Banks, J. Gray, Mrs. P.M. Spearing and Amy Stillwell.

## **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009, 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. Hall reported that crime levels continued to be low. There had been some parking issues on the Great Park, some problems with youths and one theft from a motor vehicle in Brunton Park.

Reference was made to parking problems on Princes Road and Greenfield Road and the difficulty in getting a response to phone calls reporting incidents.

The promised survey of parked vehicles on both sides of Greenfield Road had not been done. P.C. Hall agreed to pursue this.

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

## **4. ONGOING ISSUES**

Reference was made to the following issues:

- The Clerk had submitted the land registration application to the Durham Land Registry and a prompt response had been promised.
- The bus service changes had not been finalised and discussions were continuing.
- The impact of a new emergency hospital at Cramlington continued to cause concern.
- Pavements in Greenfield Road had been badly damaged by vehicles generated by the development of the Care Home.
- Residents wishing to report pot holes caused by the recent wintry conditions should ring the Envirocall number 0191 274 4000.

**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 complex negotiations about the S106 agreement were nearly completed.
- Improvements to the Great North Road/Brunton Lane junction should be completed in March and the bus gate in Brunton Lane would be installed shortly.
- Speeding on Brunton Lane continued to be a problem and speed warning signs would be installed.
- The height of the bridge parapet on the A1, which was part of the walk to school route, remained a concern. The potential to widen the footpath and/or raise the height of the parapet to make the route safer, was being explored.
- The top surface dressing for the school safety zone would be completed in the next six weeks.
- Closure of Brunton Lane at Hawthorn Grange was being progressed.
- The library bus was calling at the Great Park on a Saturday.
- The new child care facility was on target to open in 2011.
- Information was being collated about the operation of the SUDs and it was hoped that this could be made available to the Parish Council.
- Northumbrian Water had carried out survey work on the drainage in Brunton Park and should be asked to provide the Parish Council with the latest data.
- Supplemental report on the Ouseburn and the Atkins Report.

**It was agreed** that the Great Park report be received and Northumbrian Water be asked to provide an update on what has been done or will be done about the drainage system since the September 2008 flooding.

## **6. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2010/11**

The Clerk reported that expenditure on salary, administration, insurance, membership fees, audit fees, contracts and rent would be approximately £7,400 in the next financial year. Anticipated balances at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 would be £10,500. Previous annual precepts had generally been set at £10,000.

There was some uncertainty about the costs of future land maintenance and the maintenance/extension of planting schemes in 2010/11.

**It was agreed** that:

- (a) The Parish Council precept be set at £12,000 (twelve thousand pounds) for 2010/11 and Newcastle City Council be advised accordingly; and

(b) The Clerk's salary is increased to £400 per calendar month (£4,800 per annum) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were reported:

- Benwell/Scotswood Area Action Plan.
- Grounds Maintenance Contract Renewal 2010/11.
- Health Action Network newsletter.
- Northumberland NHS Care Trust – Putting People First newsletter.
- Community Action Northumberland correspondence/annual report.
- North of England Roadworks – pamphlets.

**It was agreed** that the correspondence be noted and the annual grounds maintenance contract for 2010/11 be renewed in the sum of £871.24 (excluding VAT).

## 8. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Newcastle City Council-grounds maintenance (2009/10)	856:78
VAT	128:52
	985:30
Clerk's salary for month ending 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2009	350:00
Postages, phone calls, stationery	10:00
Land Registry Fees	40:00
Rail travel Alnmouth/Durham return	16:90
	416:90
Northumberland Association of Local Councils membership	362:73
Local Council Review publications	108:00
	470:73

## **9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

No comments on applications at 14, Clayworth Road, 29, Greenfield Road and a TPO application at Northumberland Golf Club.

It was noted that work was ongoing at 20, Polwarth Drive although there was no evidence of a planning application being submitted yet.

## **10. OTHER ISSUES**

The following issues were raised:

- Looking after the elderly during periods of inclement weather and the work done by Councillor Mrs. P.M. Spearing to ensure that older people were not isolated completely. It was suggested that lists of those who needed support during wintry conditions could be held at some central point in the Parish.
- The bus route into Featherstone Grove had not been gritted during the extended period of inclement weather.
- Railings on the central reservation of the Great North Road had been removed but some isolated ones had been retained and did not appear to be needed.
- The hedge outside Greenfield Road would hopefully be tidied soon.
- There was no light in the bus shelter.

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

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was agreed** that the next Parish Council meeting be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park.