

Minutes of a meeting of **NORTH GOSFORTH PARISH COUNCIL** held at St. Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park on Wednesday 21st April 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Also in Attendance: Councillor Mrs. D. Packham, P.C. Matt Hough and 3 residents.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Mrs. J. Banks.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 17th March 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. Matt Hough reported that crime levels in the Parish remained low. Three windows had been damaged on Greenfield Road, a break-in had occurred at McDonalds, golf clubs had been stolen in Halton Way and a garage break-in had been reported in Barmoor Drive.

Reference was made to children going to McDonalds in the early morning hours. There had been some youth disorder in Gilwell Way and large groups were congregating in the Warkworth Woods area.

The problem of mud being deposited on the Great North Road by vehicles accessing the building site at Gosforth High School had not been resolved.

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

4. MELTON PARK – BALL GAMES

One resident from Melton Park raised the continuing issue of young people playing football in the vicinity of Melton Park shops and kicking the ball at residential properties. He hoped that the Parish Council could erect a fence between the public open space and the footpath outside his property. It was stressed that fencing off public open space was not an option and the matter was one for the Police to deal with.

Two residents representing the Friends of North Gosforth Chapel outlined the problems caused by children playing ball games on the former chapel site at Chapel Close. Damage was being caused to plants and trees and there was a need to protect the listed monument. They hoped that signs discouraging ball games could

be erected. It was noted that this matter had been discussed at previous Parish Council meetings and the Parish Council had decided to take no action because of the divided opinion on Melton Park about where children could play and the lack of play facilities generally on the estate.

The residents then suggested a compromise whereby a sign could be erected asking that the listed chapel site be respected. It was stressed that, if the Friends of North Gosforth Chapel wished to pay for such a sign, the wording, design and scale of any sign would need to be agreed with the Parish Council, as landowners, before it could be erected. It was also stressed that it would have no legal status.

It was agreed that the Friends of North Gosforth Chapel would submit the detailed design and wording for such a sign to the next Parish Council meeting.

5. MCDONALDS, ROTARY WAY

Councillors Derrick Phillipson and Val Hay had attended the recent Licensing Sub Committee hearing about the McDonald's application for a late night refreshment licence from 11.00 p.m. until 5.00 a.m. daily. They had been able to elaborate on the Parish Council's concerns. Whilst the application had been granted, a number of concessions had been made. It would operate as "drive through" only, there would be CCTV surveillance and regular litter sweeps would be undertaken.

It was agreed that the report be received.

6. ONGOING ISSUES

Reference was made to the following issues:

- The application to register Lincoln Green as a village green would be determined shortly.
- There appeared to be proposals to make changes to the bus services but the Parish Council had not been formally notified, despite its active involvement in lobbying for changes.
- Warkworth Woods had not yet been adopted.
- The changes to the Great North Road/Brunton Lane junction would need to be monitored closely as continuing problems were anticipated.
- The annual report on the condition of the Letch had been received and this was made available to Parish Councillors.

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

7. NEWCASTLE GREAT PARK

There had not been a meeting of the Great Park Advisory Committee since the last Parish Council meeting.

8. PARISH COUNCILS CLERKS GROUP

The Clerk had attended the Group meeting on 23rd March. Issues covered included:

- Difficulty in filling Parish Councillor vacancies on the Standards Committee. The Standards (Parish Councils) Sub-Committee should be wound up shortly.
- The temporary withdrawal of Dinnington Parish from the Parish Council Charter.
- Proposals for boundary review in Dinnington and Hazlerigg to exclude the Great Park areas.
- Consultations on the Newcastle Children and Young People's Plan 2010-13.
- New Model Standing Orders.
- Attendance of City Councillors at Parish Council meetings.
- NALC protocol about complaints involving Parish Councillors.
- Continuing problems with "on line" planning process.
- Training for Parish Councillors – planning enforcement promised.

It was agreed that the report on the Group meeting be received.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were reported:

- Joint public notice to federate Archibald First School with Gosforth Federation.
- The Parish precept for 2010/11 had been received.
- Standards (Parish Councils) Sub Committee – 16/04/10.
- Joint West Gosforth, East Gosforth, Parklands Ward Committee – 30/03/10.
- Lincoln Green water investigations.
- CE Electric UK – reporting routine maintenance problems.
- Northumberland Theatre Company – 2010/11.
- NALC correspondence/newsletters.
- Health Action Network – March newsletter.
- Northumberland NHS Care Trust newsletter.
- Audit details for 2009/10 - audit of accounts.

It was agreed that the correspondence be received and actioned, as appropriate.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following account was approved for payment:

Clerk's salary for month ended 31 st March 2010	£350:00
Postages, phone calls, stationery etc.	10:00
	£360:00

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillor Mrs. P.M. Spearing disclosed a personal interest in respect of the application to extend St. Aidan's Church because of her work as a Church Warden. She left the room for the duration of the discussion and decision relating to the application.

The Parish Council had no comments on the proposed extension to the church.

The Parish Council agreed to submit an objection to the application to extend 2, Ferndale Avenue and to request that the application be determined by the Development Control Committee rather than by one officer under delegated powers.

No comments on applications at 45, Newlands Avenue, 12, Princes Road, 9, Kingsley Avenue, signage at Co-op store car park/car wash, Rotary Way and a TPO application at Newcastle racecourse.

It was noted that applications had been granted at 29, Greenfield Road, 8, Belmont Avenue, TPO application at The Lodge, Gosforth Steadings and 2 additional chimney stacks at Care Home, Royal George site.

12. OTHER ISSUES

The following issues were raised:

- The pavement outside Jan Forsters premises was in poor condition.
- The pavement outside the Royal George site was badly damaged and unsafe.
- Road and pavement work was ongoing in the Great Park prior to formal adoption of the infrastructure.
- The hedge at 1, Greenriggs Avenue was overgrown.
- The footpath from the bus shelter at Brunton Lane to the bus shelter at Norwood Avenue (Great North Road) required repairs.
- Dog fouling continued to be a problem.
- Rubbish had been deposited in the garden of 34, Greenfield Road.

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

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the annual Parish Council meeting be held on Wednesday 19th May 2010 at 7:05 p.m. in St. Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park (immediately following the annual parish meeting).