



Birtley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Birtley Parish Council held in the Supper Room of Birtley Village Hall starting at 8.00 pm. on 6th August 2013.

Present Messrs EN Coulson (Chairman), DRB Burn, Mrs SW Crone, J Robson, A Lowes and WG White. Clerk: Robert Macfarlane

Apologies Unitary Councillor Rupert M Gibson

Declaration of Interest None

Minutes Minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2013 were agreed & signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

- **Play Area** Phase II Artificial Surface is now complete but there are areas of shrinkage due to excessive weather conditions. Repair work would be best carried out in October.
- **Weeds – especially Broadleaved Dockweed, *Rumex crispus***, Cllr Robson and Burn will explore options for clearance of dock and pernicious weeds.

Correspondence All councillors were circulated with a full list of correspondence. BDO Audit, Don't stand for it campaign, Highways and Neighbourhood Services – Area Contacts 2013, Big Lottery Fund – Monitoring, Nalc Annual Subscription.

- **Don't stand for it campaign** Some dog fouling has been reported. It was noted that it is an offence to not immediately pick up after your dog has fouled on any publically accessible land. Offenders can face an on-the-spot fine of £75 and if prosecuted, a fine of up to £1000 if they fail to pick up after their dog(s). The Clerk to contact the Public Protection Officer and see if it is possible to arrange a visit from the Animal Welfare and Dog Control Team.
- **Annual Audit** – this was completed free of charge by BDO LLB Southampton.

Grant Applications

The EDF Energy Green Rigg Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund have awarded a grant of £2,000.00 towards the grass mower and the NCC Members Local Improvement Schemes 2012/13 a grant of £4000. Cllr Burn will liaise with Community Foundation to update them and investigate the possibility of applying in the next round of applications. The Clerk has also contacted Cemex and Tarmac and made provisional application for grant aid.

Annual Audit and Annual Return 2012-2013

The Annual Audit in accordance with Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (Regulations 12-16) is now concluded and the audit opinion having been given by BDO LLP. There were no matters arising. It was proposed by Cllr Robson and seconded by Cllr Burn and RESOLVED that the Council approve and accept the Annual Return.

Document Review (Financial Regulations & Risk Assessment)

Risk Assessment and Management

This document was updated to reflect the new insurance with Zurich Municipal. There were no suggested additions or alterations to any other of the Council's documents.

Roads

Local transport Plan (LTP) Programme 2014-15

It was RESOLVED to confirm priorities

03459 Action to resolve flooding on C213 Catreen Fell Top near Grave's Wood

03460 Road repairs Birtley Road to High Countess Park

And also add:

Action to resolve flooding on Warkshaugh Bank near the railway bridge

Action to resolve flooding just east of Middle Cowden

In general the road from Birtley to A68 is in a bad state.

Neighbourhood Services

Clerk also to contact West NEAT Manager to identify areas with particular issues.

Footpaths

No issues.

Planning

Planning Applications from NCC for consultation.

12/03186/RENE Installation of a single wind turbine (40m to hub and 63.5m to tip) Land south east of Buteland House NE48 2EX The Council RESOLVED to object to this application.

Letters of objection were forwarded to the Council. These included Wood Cottage, Drovers Cottage, The Copse, The Hayloft and Buteland Cottage all at Buteland Heights. Also from NCC have letters of objection from The Forge and Gunwarren. The Case Officer, Sarah Seabury has also received responses from NNPA (several issues) and objection from MOD.

12/02072/FUL Construction of two holiday chalets and septic tank Blindburn Hall NE48 3HE BPC The Council RESOLVED to offer no object to this application.

Reports

Village Hall Some of the guttering has been damaged by recent winds; the repairs will be carried out soon.

NCC

Cllr Gibson intends to keep parish councillors informed about issues in his Ward and has requested councillor's E-mail addresses. It was thought that this would be best done through the Clerk.

FINANCES

Income

NCC Members Local Improvement Schemes 2012/13 Grant aid of £2200 and Big Lottery Fund AFE/1/010440439 Grant Aid of £3000 (both for Play Park surfacing)

NCC Members Local Improvement Schemes 2012/13 Grant aid of £4000 (Grass Mower) 2013 vat £167.17 Half precept £1312.50

Bank Statements 1st August 2013 Treasurer's Account £2,179.12, BMM £8141.48

Approved Payments The following were agreed: Clerk's salary £250, Clerk's expenses £44.54, NCC Hire of Hall £10 (Aug), NALC £45.09 Petrol TVCS £69 (vat OneandOne Website £25.16, A Lowes Plants etc £120, Robson and Cowen £128.96 (£108.33 plus £20.63 vat), Clerk's salary arrears £25, TVCS Petrol £68.02 and Playground Insurance £129.62.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 3rd December 2013 at 8pm in the Supper Room of Birtley Parish Hall
There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.55 pm.

