



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015

01-08-01 **Present** Cllrs EN Coulson (Chairman), DRB Burn, SW Crone, J Robson, A Lowes and WG White. Clerk: Robert Macfarlane, County Cllr RM Gibson and one member of the public

02-08-02 **Apologies** None

02-08-03 **Declaration of Interest** None

02-08-04 **Minutes** The Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May were agreed and signed.

02-08-05 **Matters Arising**

- No matters arising

02-08-06 **Correspondence**

All councillors were circulated with a full list of correspondence.

NCC Area Committee West meeting, CAN Newsletter, HMRC re- NOVA Certificate and DVLA for road tax.

- **The Northumberland Estates** Re- Change of Landlord – Village Green Birtley. Re Playing Field Rent. From now on all future rent demands and invoices will be in the name of Earl Percy's 2015 Maintenance Fund Settlement.
- **Grass Mowers** Zurich Municipal is insuring both mowers: Husqvarna Rider 175 AWD Mower, 212F603 6/3/14, John Deere 1435 Front Mower NK14 ZR

02-08-07 **Pensions Regulator - Parish Council Automatic Enrolment**

The law on workplace pensions has changed. All employers are legally required to automatically enrol certain staff into a pension scheme and make contributions. Councils will also have to tell their staff about the scheme they put them in and allow other staff to join if they request to do so. The staging date for the Council is 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 and the Council must nominate a contact by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The Clerk (primary contact) will be sent all future letters from The Pensions Regulator. The Chairman will be the secondary contact.

02-08-08 **Audit**

**Accounts and Audit Arrangements and Conclusion**

**Internal Audit**

This has taken place and there were no issues arising. The Clerk was asked to thank C Earnshaw for his services and ask him to continue as Internal Auditor.

**External Audit**

The Annual Audit in accordance with Audit Commission Act of 1998 and the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (Regulations 12-16) the audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 was completed on 1<sup>st</sup> July and the audit opinion having been given by BDO LLP. There were no matters arising.

**Conclusion of Audit**

In accordance with Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 the accounts are now available for inspection by local electors and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit publically displayed for at least 14 days.

02-08-09 **Roads**

**Local Transport Plan Programme 2015-2016**

NCC Response

C213 Catreen Fell Top near Grave's Wood. *This has been passed to Roadcare*

Birtley road end to High Countess Park. Road requires repair especially at the verges. *Passed to Road Maintenance Section.*

**Local Transport Plan Programme 2016-2017**

The Council is requested to identify top three priorities to include in the NCC draft programme.

The Clerk was asked to submit these priorities:-

Non-Principal Road Maintenance for Birtley Parish Council

05568 8/8/13 Action to resolve flooding on C213 Warkshaugh Bank near the railway bridge

05569 8/8/13 Action to resolve flooding on C214 just east of Middle Cowden

**Deep Water**

The Clerk was asked to contact Water Authority (United Utilities) about the flooding on C213 Warkshaugh Bank between the railway bridge and Tree Topps.

**Grass Verges**

The Council discussed the merits of greater biodiversity and the balance between this and safety on the highways.

02-08-10 **Footpaths**

**Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way Definitive Map Modification Order (No1) 2015**

Bellingham Parish BOAT No 48, Birtley Parish Footpath No 36, Birtley Parish Footpath No 37 and Birtley Parish BOAT No 38 U5027 Road

**Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way Definitive Map Modification Order (No20) 2015**

Bellingham Parish BOAT No 19 and Restricted Byway No 31, Birtley Parish Footpath No 36, Birtley Parish Footpath No 37, Birtley Parish Footpath No 43 and Birtley Parish BOAT No 38 junction of C202 and U5026 Roads.

02-08-11 **Planning Permission**

**15/01300/FUL The Water House Redesmouth NE48 2ER**

Change of use from water pump house to dwelling with single storey extension and internal/external alterations. Granted permission 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**15/01190/FUL Birtley Hall NE48 3HL**

Demolition of existing rear porch and construction of new rear porch. Granted 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015

02-08-12 **Reports**

- **Village Hall** At present the committee is raising money for interior projects.  
**Play Area** The yearly inspection by Tyne and Wear Play Association (RoSPA) had been completed. The picnic table and attached seats were considered unsafe. The Clerk will dispose of it.
- **NCC** Cllr Gibson gave a verbal report.

02-08-13 **Ray Wind Farm**

As construction starts on the 16 turbine Ray Wind Farm, an onshore project situated on the Ray Estate near Kirkwhelpington, work will also start with the local community to establish the project's community funding, around £250,000 will come to the area annually (index linked).

The Council is worried that the disruption and great inconvenience suffered by residents last time the wind turbines were linked up with the Sub-Station at Warden, will be repeated.

The Clerk was asked to find out the route and dates of connection works.

02-08-14 **Fibre broadband**

Fibre broadband is now available in parts of North Tyne & Redesdale. The Clerk was asked to establish whether Birtley will play a part in this Northumberland project.

02-08-15 **FINANCES**

**Approved Payments** The following were agreed: Clerk's salary £200, HMRC £50, Clerk's expenses £34.13 (vat £3), Nalc £59.09, Tyne and Wear Play Ltd £200, Play Equipment Insurance (Village Hall) £139.96, Petrol (364) £52 (£8.67 vat), OneandOne Website £31.43 (£5.24 vat), T Nixon Husqvarna Service £42.00 (£7 vat), A Lowes Planting £130 (12.58 vat), Chollerford Car Sales Petrol £62 (vat £10.33), Robson & Cowan Mower Service £49.51 (£8.25 vat), Top Signs £96 (vat £16)

**Standing Order** It was agreed to pay the rent to The Northumberland Estates for use of the playing field by standing order. This will be £1.00 paid annually on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

02-08-16 **Next Meeting**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 at 8pm in the Supper Room of Birtley Parish Hall

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.25 pm.