



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 4th December 2012.

Present Messrs EN Coulson (Chairman), DRB Burn, J Robson, WG White, A Lowes and

Also Present Unitary Cllr E Heslop, Clerk, Robert Macfarlane and one member of the public.

Apologies Mrs SW Crone

Declaration of Interest

Unitary Councillor Cllr E Heslop all planning matters and Sport Tynedale.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on **7th August** were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

- **Play Field Stone Walls** M Robson, stone mason has repaired the parts of the wall that are damaged and has been paid for his services.
- **Play Area** Awards for All (Big Lottery Fund) has granted £3,000 towards Phase II of the play area project. NCC has granted £2,200 from Cllr E Heslop's Local Improvement Scheme. Baseworks will cost £2,250 plus vat and the Rubber Surfacing £2,950 plus vat.

Correspondence

All councillors were circulated with a full list of correspondence.

Letter of thanks from CAN, War Memorial Trust Bulletin, NCC Election Costs, Poppy Appeal, CPRE, Sport Tynedale Annual Awards' Presentation, CAN News, NALC Annual Report 2011-12, NNPA Looking Parkwide.

- **Winter Services** – The NCC Highways have sent out information about winter services with an accompanying map. The map was difficult to understand and Cllr Heslop will seek clarification.

Roads

There is much concern over the excess water on the Cowden road leading to the A68: a culvert may be blocked. Cllr Heslop pointed out that water off a field and drainage channels alongside the road are the responsibility of the land owner but he will take up the issue NCC Highways. Cllr Heslop explained the NCC Highways strategy for gritting roads and their priorities.

Footpaths

No issues.

Planning

12/01745/FUL application made to NCC. Erect a new sculpture at the site car park with single solar powered LED floodlight. BAE Systems The Steel Bellingham NE48 2EZ Granted 27th July

12/03186/RENE Installation of a single windturbine (40m to hub and 63.5m to tip) East of Buteland House NE482EX This application is invalid and NCC have asked for further information about noise, visual and landscape impact assessments.

12/02072/FUL Construction of two holiday chalets and septic tank Blindburn Hall NE48 3HE This application is still awaiting a decision.

Reports

Village Hall Nothing to report

NCC Cllr Heslop reported that the Tynedale Sport's Presentation evening was very successful and well attended. The Olympian rower, Matt Wells, presented trophies and cups to many worthy recipients. He also provided details of the works to be carried out on Wark Bridge. The Bridge Committee will keep everyone informed by newsletter. Leslie Gosling is the contact for the village. County Budget - To date NCC has had to make £118m savings and will have to cut back £74m on spending in the next 4 years involving £17.8m in 2012/13. The LDF Core Strategy is at pre-publication stage and will be adopted next year. Cllr Heslop also encouraged councillors to attend the LDF Planning meetings. Ready-to-Switch Collective Purchasing Scheme – Cllr Heslop explained how Northumberland has joined eleven other councils to offer residents the opportunity to take part in a collective purchasing scheme which will help save money on gas and electricity.

Grant Application

Because the grass cutting on the playing field has been unsatisfactory and there is concern over Northumberland County Council's delegation of services, the Clerk has applied to County Durham Community Foundation for a grant of £16,000 to go towards purchasing a Kubota Grass Mower. The Tyne and Wear Community Foundation is managing the trust for CDCF.

Code of Conduct

As part of the Localism Act 2011 the Standards Board for England was abolished and parish councils are obliged to make arrangements to adopt a new code of conduct. The Council has adopted the Northumberland ALC code of conduct for local councils and published the details. All members present completed new copies of Member's Interests forms. The Clerk will keep a copy and send the originals to the Monitoring Officer at County Hall.

Finances

Grant Award receipts

The Clerk informed the Council of the successful grant applications from NCC Members Local Improvement Schemes 2012/13 of £2200 and the Big Lottery Fund AFE/1/010440439 of £3000. The Chairman suggested that the work on the Phase II matting for the Play Area starts in the new year when the weather improves.

Bank Statements 1st December 2012: Treasurer's Account £657.05, BMM £10338.50

Approved Payments The following were agreed: Clerk's salary £225, Clerk's expenses £46.19 (£2.83 vat), NCC Hire of Hall £10 (December), Mick Robson (Wall repairs) £120 and A Lowes Flowers £90, Grants Awarded - Sport Tynedale £25, West Northumberland CAB £25, Grants awarded using LGA 1972 section 137 Tynedale Hospice at Home £20 and GNAA £25

Next Meeting

Tuesday 5th March 2013 at 8pm in the Supper Room of Birtley Parish Hall
There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.50 pm.