



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013.

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

**Apologies** None

**Declaration of Interest** None

**Minutes** Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

### Matters Arising

- **Play Area** The Clerk has received a (discounted) quote of £150 for the yearly inspection. The Chairman will pursue other quotes including Playsafe/Boyd's. There has been some issues over the emptying of the park wheelie bin and this is because it is coloured brown. Cllr Gibson will contact NEAT Services to see if it could be replaced by a green one.
- **Weeds – especially Broadleaved Dockweed, *Rumex crispus*,** Cllr Robson thanked Cllr Burn for clearance of dock and pernicious weeds.
- **Dog Fouling** Cllr Robson made some signs and had them displayed at the top of the village but these signs soon disappeared. However the dog fouling problem seems to have gone away.

**Correspondence** All councillors were circulated with a full list of correspondence.

NNPA Park Life, BOSS Project Evaluation Survey, New Councillor Training, Nalc Annual Report, CAN Annual Report, CAN Newsletter, Grace Rape Crisis, Light up a Life-Tynedale Hospice, GNAA, Postal Survey of Housing Needs, CPRE Newsletter, NCC Members Handbook, Local Plan Core Strategy & CD, State of National Park 2012/13, T&W Integrated Transport Authority Quality Contracts Scheme.

- NNPA The Sill Project National Park offered to come to a parish council meeting to provide information on this project. It was thought that a presentation wasn't necessary and the Clerk provided information to the Council instead.

- **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**

Cemex has given the Council £250 making the total received to date of £6,250. Cllr Gibson stated that he would allocate £2,000 from NCC Members Local Improvement Schemes 2013/14. Cllr Burn has applied to Awards for All and he will liaise with Community Foundation to update them and investigate the possibility of applying in the next round of applications. Tarmac has not replied to our application and Hanson has said no. Sir James Knott Trust will only fund charities and the Housing Developer Funders s106 Money didn't like our project.

## **Roads**

### **Neighbourhood Services Road Gritting**

The map sent to the Council is not clear as to which roads will be gritted and cleared. Clerk to contact West NEAT Manager to identify relevant areas.

### **Street Lights**

Clerk was asked to contact the Street Light Manager with a view to having a street light just outside the church.

## **Footpaths**

No issues.

## **Planning**

### **Planning Applications from NCC for consultation.**

**13/03584/FUL** Proposed cover over existing silage pit, Steel Farm NE48 2EZ

The Council has no objections to this application.

### **Decisions**

Application **12/02072/FUL** Construction of two holiday chalets and septic tank Blindburn Hall NE48 3HE NCC granted permission 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Application **13/01710/VARYCO** variation of 11/00274/FUL BAE Systems The Steel Bellingham NE48 2EZ NCC granted permission 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

Application **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 Application was withdrawn.

## **Reports**

### **NCC**

Cllr Gibson reported on the "jet-patcher" machines that will repair roads at a much quicker rate. However there were concerns over the quality of the materials used to patch the roads. He also outlined some other issues including grant funding opportunities, broadband, street lights and winter services.

## **Finances**

### **Budget and Precept**

The clerk provided an outline budget for the following year. It was RESOLVED that the precept should be £2,800 for the financial year 2014-2015.

**Bank Statements** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 Treasurer's Account £1932.33, BMM £9143.01

**Income** Cemex grant aid £250 and North Tyne & Redesdale Committee refund £37.10

**Approved Payments** The following were agreed: Clerk's salary £250, Clerk's expenses £33.58, Hire of Hall £10 (Dec) and GNAA Grant £25 (s137).

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 8pm in the Supper Room of Birtley Village Hall

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

