



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 2nd August 2016

02-08-01 **Present** Cllrs EN Coulson (Chairman), SW Crone, J Robson, DRB Burn and A Lowes. Clerk: Robert Macfarlane and two members of the public.

02-08-02 **Apologies** Cllr WG White and County Cllr RM Gibson

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

02-08-04 **Minutes** Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May were agreed and signed.

02-08-05 **Matters Arising**

- **Water Problem** The issue of fast flowing water at the top of the village was discussed – NCC are aware of the problem.
- **Dog Fouling** This is still a problem caused by some irresponsible dog owners.

02-08-06 **Correspondence**

All councillors were circulated with a full list of correspondence.
CAN Newsletter, Nalc e-news & CPRE newsletter

- **Pension Regulator** The Council has received details re Automatic Enrolment.
- **Village Hall** The clerk has received a very nice letter of thanks from the Village Hall Committee for the recent grant from the Council towards the refurbishment project.
- **NCC Consultation** – Proposals for Alternative Household Waste Recovery Centre Opening Arrangements.
- **Insurance Quotes** Quotes for the parish insurance were received from Aon (Allianz) and Zurich Municipal. The latter being cheaper and also giving better cover.
- **Declarations of Interest** NCC have pointed out that members need to include the Clerk in any notifications they make about changes to their declaration of interests.

02-08-07 **Annual Audit and Annual Return**

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 31st March 2016 was

completed on 12th August; this was presented to the Council. The audit opinion having been given by BDO LLP, there were no matters arising. The Annual Return and the BDO Certificate was approved and accepted by the Council.

The accounts are now available for inspection by local electors in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Audit and accountability Act 2014.

As defined by Section 13 (1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 the mandatory Conclusion Notice will be displayed publicly for the prerequisite period of time (14 days) with the requisite information.

02-08-08 **Roads**

Grass Verges

Clerk had been asked to write to NCC Highways for clarification. Some grass verges have been cut and others not. NCC has replied that their Contractor has carried out some cutting on the C213 C214 & C218. However he was approached whilst cutting by a resident concerned about the effect on wild flowers, and the cutting was not completed. He will be back in the area early August when wild flowers should have flowered and seeded.

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

Local Transport Plan Programme 2017-2018

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

Non-Principal Road Maintenance for Birtley Parish Council

03459 07/08/2014 Action to resolve flooding C213 Catreen Fell Top near Grave's Wood

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

03460 07/08/2014 Road repairs Birtley Road end to High Countess Park

02-08-09 **Ray Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund**

Along with Cllr Burn, Leslie Gosling is a member of the Steering Group which operates under the Guidance of Community Action Northumberland.; she attended the meeting and explained her role and provided some information concerning imminent meetings.

02-08-10 **Footpaths** No issues.

02-08-11 **Planning**

Application **16-02290-FUL** Proposed steel portal framed sheep building: Land north of Broomhope farm Ridsdale West Woodburn NE48 2HA

It was resolved that the Council supports the application.

01-05-12 **Reports**

Village Hall The electrician will soon be installing the defibrillator.

NCC No report.

02-08-13 **Risk Management and Financial Procedures & Regulations Review**

With regard to Financial Regulations Documentation & Risk Management there were no suggested amendments or alterations.

02-08-14 **FINANCES**

Bank Statements 1st August 2016 Current £482.90 Deposit £2448.02

Income NCC Half Precept £1450 Reclaimed vat £98.16

Approved Payments The following were agreed: Clerk's salary £228, HMRC £57, Clerk's expenses £41.96 (vat £3.87), Nalc Annual Subscription £60.57, Village Hall Annual rent £40, A Lowes (Plants Inv 31) £130 (vat £14.23), Chollerford Car Sales (Petrol) £55, Robson & Cowan Husqvarna parts £68.02.

02-08-15 **Next Meeting**

Tuesday 6th December 2016 at 8pm in the Supper Room of Birtley Parish Hall

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.00 pm.