



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 5th March 2013.

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

Also Present Unitary Cllr Edward Heslop and Clerk, Robert Macfarlane

Apologies None

Declaration of Interest

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

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

- **Dog Faeces** There has been a number of reports of dog fouling on the grass areas especially at the bottom of the village. Cllr Heslop offered to provide some notices.
- **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. The project start has been delayed because of the adverse weather conditions and the Clerk will update Awards for All.

Correspondence

All councillors were circulated with a full list of correspondence.

12th Duke Maintenance Fund – Playing Field Rent, HMRC Real Time Training, NHS Shared, Joint NCC/PC Meeting 12th March, LDP, Residents Festival, Become a Local Councillor, Arrangements for Elections, CAN Newsletter, CAN grant aid request.

Correspondence continued

- **CAN – Grant Aid Request** - It was RESOLVED to give Community Action Northumberland £15.
- **HMRC PAYE RTI** – HMRC has “invited” the Council to take part in PAYE Real Time Information. The Council will be registered as an employer reporting PAYE in real time from 6th April 2013. In preparation for this the Clerk will upgrade all existing software and incorporate the appropriate payroll software package compatible to HMRC online.

Roads

Although there have been some considerable repairs to some of the roads north of the village there are still some problems with flooding. There is much concern over the excess water on the Cowden road leading to the A68: a culvert may be blocked, flooding at Middle Cowden, the corner above Black Hills and further flooding at Buteland Bank Foot.

Footpaths

Street light 2BK is not working and has been reported (1101001956717)

Planning

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 The considerable fall of snow has brought down some of the Village Hall guttering and the repairs are in hand.

St Gile’s Churchyard A working party will clean up the church graveyard on Saturday 23rd March.

Northumberland County Council Cllr Heslop supplied the Council with details of the County Council budget for this following year and mentioned that West Highways are due to lose two further members of staff. He stressed the importance of the County’s Local Development Plan and urged Councillors to attend the meeting on Friday 7th March at the Mart Hexham. Referring to the Wark Bridge closure and repairs, Cllr Heslop stated that the work done by the Steering Committee is to be applauded and they will keep everyone informed about the projects progress. Cllr Heslop reported that he will not be standing for re-election in May. The Chairman thanked him for the excellent service he had given over the years and the Council expressed their gratitude for his unstinting help and guidance.

Grant Application

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. The Fund has £36,000 per annum to award (for 20 years)

Financial Matters

Internal Auditor The Council asked the Clerk to contact Jill Duncan to see if she was able to carry out the Internal Audit in April.

Section 137 Expenditure: Limit for 2013/2014 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has advised that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for parish and town councils in England for 2013-14 is £6.98

Income Precept 2x £1250, NCC Precept rebate £13 (to be paid in April), vat and bank interest.

Bank Statements 1st May 2013 Treasurer's Account £657.05, BMM £10338.50

Approved Payments The following were agreed: Clerk's salary £225, Clerk's expenses £58.26, NCC Hire of Hall £10 (March), £1 Field Rent, CAN £15, Border Counties Lawn Mower Insurance £122.90, TVCS Petrol £65, Robson & Cowan Lawn Mower Repairs £492.56

Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th May 2013 at 8pm in the Supper Room of Birtley Parish Hall

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.30 pm.

**Chairman: Mr EN Coulson, Vice Chair: Mr DRB Burn,
Councillors Mr J Robson and Mrs SW Crone, Mr WG White and Miss A Lowes**