

Minutes of Hedgeley Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9th May 2013 in the Breamish Hall Powburn commencing 730pm

Those Present Cllr English, Cllr Burn, Cllr Mrs Birnie, Cllr Mrs Macdougall, Cllr Mrs Wilson, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Clark

Apologies for Absence Cllr J Taylor, Northumberland County Council

New Cllr Robbie Burn welcomed to the meeting.

Election of Officers

Chairman – Cllr English nominated, seconded, carried

Vice Chairman – Cllr Burn nominated, seconded, Cllr Brown nominated, seconded. Cllr Burn voted in as Vice Chairman.

Co-Option Vacancies Three vacancies with six applications. John Bennet, Paul Barton, Graham Williamson, John Brown, Andy Smith and Ian Smith. Private vote carried out, John Brown, Ian Smith and Graham Williamson Co-Opted.

Minutes of previous meeting held 4th March 2013

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising from previous meeting

Flooding Powburn: Environment Agency and Northumberland County Council not able to give permission for clearance works, with neither admitting responsibility for the area. It appears landowners can now carry out cleansing works, agreed to contact John Carr Ellison who had volunteered to assist, and inform EA and NCC the PC will carry out the work. Works to sink tops carried out, agreed to write thank you letter to Northumbria Water. Lynne Dunleavy no longer had funding for sand bags, PC could purchase, but no matching funding available, at £1200 per pallet, half a pallet would be sufficient to cover the village. There is a retailer in Morpeth who may sell such items, and they could be stored in Breamish Hall. Agreed the cost of empty sand bags be priced – Cllr Brown to research price for 500 No.

Glanton Cluster Meeting: Nothing to report, however Cllr English had met with the Chairman of Edlingham, Glanton & Whittingham PC's to discuss speeding vehicles on A697, subsequently they were to survey junctions on A697, with Powburn to be included in its entirety. Cllr Burn had map of problem area.

Speeding: Cllr Burn reported numerous issues with speeding vehicles and overtaking. Two meetings held, with one third of village attending last event, Cllr Burn had addressed NCC Northern Area Committee in relation to a petition to NCC for action to be taken, which could be enforcement or engineering. Enforcement works would only work for the length of time enforcement persons present, and no viable chance of obtaining speed camera. Engineering action would slow down traffic, had asked for gateways at either side of village, illuminated traffic islands, pedestrian crossing or safety island, double white lines, and painted junction detail. NCC wishing to trial a speed camera in Northumberland and it had been requested this be in Powburn, as desperately in need of a speed survey, however refuse to carry out these without persons wearing high viz, and patrol cars have to be marked police vehicles. Suggested Chairman of Glanton, Whittingham and Edlingham be invited to next Speedwatch meeting 7/6/13. Jonathan Radgick Glanton PC, contacting police for statistics and national guidelines. Camera van has to be situated in a designated speed area, which can only be obtained further to a speed survey being carried out.

Planning

Planning Application has been received for the following:

- 13/00940/OUT: Mrs J Armstrong, land south east of kennels Cottage, outline permission single bungalow & garage – no objections

Finance: Present Balance - £5732.63

- Clerks's quarterly salary & expenses – £240.76
- Inland Revenue – PAYE on above - £48.10
- AON – Annual Insurance - £624.05
- Authorise Audit of Accounts year ending 31/3/13. Annual governance statement 2012/13 read out and Points agreed as follows:
Annual Governance Statement – audit year ending 31/3/13, authorised
- Point One: We approved the accounting statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices: YES
- Point Two: We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and renewed its effectiveness: YES
- Point Three: We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the council to conduct its business or on its finances: YES

- Point Four: We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. YES
- Point Five: We carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required. YES
- Point Six: We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council accounting records and control systems; YES
- Point Seven: We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit: YES
- Point Eight: We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the council and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements: YES
- Point Nine: Trust funds (including charitable) – in our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit: N/A
- Acknowledgement of donation received – Great North Air Ambulance

Correspondence

- Environment Agency – Pow Burn – stating they are not responsible, with NCC stating the same
- NCC – Acknowledgement of Core Strategy comments
- Scott Duffy – Vera Baird invitation – advising Chief Constable responsible for speeding matters, so not able to attend a future PC meeting
- NCC – Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981: Definitive Map Modification Orders

Any Other Business

- It was agreed to contact North East Concrete to ask their vehicles to be sheeted.
- Flowerpots attended to, however they are falling apart, and require new plants, with broken pots requiring replacement. Proposed money be set aside for flowers and plant pots and obtain firm costs for rebuilding. Three quotes to be requested, quorum to meet before next meeting and agree works, with maximum total spend being £1500, Bolton and Beanley will also need to be included, sponsorship may be able to be gained. £200 to be spent immediately to improve appearance of village.
- Entrance to village – hedge at new estate to entrance requires attention, which should be NCC responsibility. Also problems with hedging alongside other areas of A697, Cluster group to look into. Too late to cut this year, however John Frater could be asked for quotation for work after August. Cllr Brown to obtain quotes for concrete nameplates for entrances to village.
- Rats evident at back of railway line, however Environmental Officer had been to site.
- Cllr English had written to Glendale Middle School, who are under threat of budget cuts, offering PC support.
- Agreed to write to past Parish Councillors who are not continuing to thank them for their services.
- Cllr Burn concerned about the visibility of the PC, and agendas and minutes should be publicised. Web-site Cheviot Views requesting to publish a synopsis of PC meetings, agreed.
- Parish Council noticeboards in deplorable state and should have Perspex fronts, with Parish Cllr's names, addresses and telephone numbers on display. Revarnishing works to be carried out by Cllr Burn.
- Signpost knocked over to Branton junction, which had been reported.
- Give Way signs at Beanley road knocked over, broken signs reported last year still not actioned. S Bend sign near to Breamish Hall in dangerous state of repair, wooden signs at Edlingham turnoff disappeared. Agreed all signs in parish would be looked at and discussed at next PC meeting, clerk to report dangerous S Bend signage repair immediately.
- War Memorial Trust details to be sought with possibility of erecting small plaque in Powburn.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Hedgeley Parish Council will be held on Monday 2nd September 2013 commencing 730pm in Breamish Hall, Powburn.