

Minutes for meeting held on 11th July 2023 at 6pm.

Present:Chris Tait(Chair) Nigel Fisher Cath Tait Jill Robson Glen Sanderson- County Councillor Martin King - Area Highways Manager Sue Rollitt(Clerk)

Welcome to all including Cath Tait our new Parish Councillor and Jill Robson who is awaiting formal co option today

Declaration of Interest on agenda other than standard declaration of interest **None**

Glen welcomed and gave his report to Councillors

1.Attended Cabinet meeting regarding the 9 million repatriation scheme for rural landowners and farmers to help support skills providers which follows the commission last year regarding farming and that DEFRA has a voice.

2.Devolution deal involving 7 authorities started 18 months ago will benefit Northumberland. There will be different party political leaders and a rural board chaired by Northumberland to lead on rural and environmental matters. NCC working hard on an action plan.

3 Climate change initiative has been well supported, the government will ban the sale of oil fired burners in the near future. There will be cleaner rivers, more blue flag beaches, an increase in winter litter picking on green spaces and parks, QE walks and trails. Everyone can be involved in Climate change initiatives and to improve our County, also helping to keep the Council Tax down.

4.Glen attended the opening of the newly restored Union Chain Bridge today. Funding acquired from NCC, Heritage fund, Scottish Borders Council, Museum Northumberland and community group Friends of the Union Chain Bridge. The bridge was taken down and totally rebuilt to its former glory.

5. Central Energy Training Hub has been opened to enable people to make something of their lives after attending school and having not acquired the essential skills necessary to continue into work placements. Unemployment levels are at their lowest ever and NCC are receiving more money to fund projects including the Whiskey Distillery at Wooler and the new theatre in Berwick.

6. Glen is not happy with the County's road situation regarding upkeep, repairs and the main reason for the problems is lack of money to attain the best standard for everyone. There is an extra 3.4 million of extra funding part of which will be spent on improving the Todburn area. There is a pilot scheme in the west and north of the county regarding the repair of potholes whereby the pot hole area is cut out and the area replaced to the standard required at a cost of ½ million.

8. Chris asked Glen if the large, intrusive Wingates speed signs could be replaced with more aesthetic looking signs, stating that various villages within the county have Gateway signs, this had previously been discussed by Parish Councillors, Glen is happy to look at this along with Martin King plus the possibility of part funding a new notice board within the Village Hall and the one outside, Sue to contact Glen with more information.

7. OFSTED results are good and we have been in the top quarter for the last 6 years.

Glen thanked for his attendance and ongoing assistance with issues that affect our Parish.

Martin King Area Highways Manager attended the meeting at our request to discuss the stone removal within Wingates. Since the residents were requested to remove all stones/boulders from the County Council verges within the village during September 2022. Martin has had ongoing issues to resolve with a resident and this has resulted in the delay.

Large boulders /stones on the verges do contravene the Highways Act which Martin adheres to but is happy with small stones no taller than 30mm as an acceptable outcome if any resident wishes to replace their stones and he is willing to visit residents regarding this and to email photos before and after . Martin will letter drop all residents within the village and will draw up a legal agreement with Nunnykirk Parish Council regarding the situation moving forwards as to any residents who wish to replace stones in the future. Martin apologised for the delay in being able to inform us of the current situation but has had issues, which are partly resolved, before reaching this decision. Martin will email us shortly.

Councillors raised the concerns regarding turf being destroyed at the top of the village outside North View Cottage when lorries turn and says the only way forward is to replace turf as required, this has been a longstanding issue over the years.

Regarding the Gateway village name/speed restriction signs discussed earlier with Glen, Martin will speak with Neil Snowden (Principal Programme Officer Highways programmes) for the removal of large signs and replacing with the gateway signs when decision is made to have them in situ. Martin is happy for us to contact him with any other matters that may arise. Thanked for all of his assistance.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 25th May 2023 approved and signed by Chair

Cooption of Jill Robson agreed upon and Declaration of Financial and Pecuniary Interests form completed and signed by Jill, to be returned to the Monitoring Officer at County Hall within 28 days. All other paperwork completed and information given to Cath and Jill as required.

10 minute slot for Parishioners Questions, no parishioners present and no questions forwarded prior to the meeting.

Matters Arising

1 Newsletter items discussed including FixMyStreer Pro to enable the public to photograph, locate and highlight problems on the County's road/dangers of disposable barbecues during hot dry weather and that the Parish Council are looking at NCC possibly funding a new notice board for the WVI hallway. Chris to produce the newsletter.

2 Parish Council social media discussed at last meeting and agreed that this is an ideal way forward for communication to residents regarding Parish Council/ Wingates Village Institute news. Requires 1 or more people to administer this, Cath and Chris Tait willing to take on the responsibility. Chris will share log in details with Sue for information purposes.

3 Dates for Graeme Popay Chief Officer from NALC to attend a meeting with us discussed, Sue to contact him with our next 2 scheduled meetings Tuesday September 5th 2023 and Tuesday December 5th 2023 both at 6pm to ascertain his availability. To send questions to him in advance of a meeting.

Training

1 Cath reported on her New Parish Councillor Training which she attended via zoom on July 5th. Found it informative and interesting. Jill to attend next available new Councillor training.

Plans

1 Log cabin Maglin wood approved

Finance

1 In A/c £711.64

2 Cheques sent to BHIB insurance and NALC on 26th May

3 Audit completed and all relevant documentation returned to Mazars Auditors. Information including Public Exercise of Rights published on website, Public Exercise of Rights on the notice board.

AOB

1.Email received today from Gordon Castle North Local Area Committee regarding any issues to be raised at their next meeting.

Meeting closed at 7pm.

Next Meeting Tuesday September 5th 2023 at 6pm.