

Minutes for meeting held Friday 10th December 2021 at 18.00hrs.

Welcome all

Present: Chris Tait (Chair) Louise Kirkwood Nigel Fisher Sue Rollitt(Clerk) Glen Sanderson(County Councillor) in attendance.

Minutes of meeting held Thursday 16th September 2021 approved and to be signed by Chris this weekend.

Declaration of interest on any items other than standard declarations of interest NONE

Parishioner slot for 10 minutes duration, no parishioners present, and no questions forwarded prior to the meeting.

Report from Glen Sanderson County Councillor.

1 Chris raised the issue of non-parishioner contact with the Parish Council, Glen reassured us that it is very much the same everywhere.

2 NCC fixing their budget and are determined not to cut frontline services, an extra 15 million was spent last year on the roads programme. Apologised for still not reaching Todburn and ourselves yet. To let Glen know of any major road concerns.

3 Covid regulations are impacting on service delivery. New Morpeth Leisure Centre is running behind schedule and the Goosehill car park works are awaiting Northumbrian Water to move a sewer.

4 **Storm Arwen.** Everyone agreed it had been a terrible time for all. Glen had spoken with the Prime Minister and declined any visits from politicians and to leave matters with the chief operating officers who were meeting twice a day and were in contact with Glen daily. Has asked for a public enquiry which will not be a full-scale enquiry, but the people of Northumberland will be involved. Glen stated that Northern Power Grid have no idea of the poor infrastructure and there has been very little investment, database and poor communication during the crisis and that EON/NPG very quick to put prices up but did very little during this time. Any enquiry would involve Town/Parish Councils to ask questions of the enquiry committee. Glen applauded the work of the engineers on the ground working tirelessly through horrendous conditions and being very helpful and cheery.

Glen very proud of NCC, Police and Fire Officers through this time.

Councillors discussed issues of contact problems- communication, poor mobile signal and no email contact available between us or parishioners in outlying properties. This comes on the back of BT planning to phase out old landlines by 2025

Glen suggested we also look at local resilience i.e. someone who can use a chainsaw and be indemnified by NCC.

Pressure also needs to be put on the government to increase expenditure in the future.

Louise stated that the library van has returned and is also delivering other services.

Glen thanked for his report and time and left the meeting.

Matters Arising

Storm Arwen/impact on us as Councillors/Clerk re communication and a contingency plan for any further disruptive weather events.

1 Nigel to forward a Community Emergency Plan to everyone for perusal before we meet in January

We need to consider balancing personal /Parish Council responsibilities.

Emergency contact list to be drawn up and Parish Clerk to use this list for contacting parishioners. Grouping is a priority of the public.

At present Nigel sending fire services etc out to vulnerable customers. Also receiving debrief from all agencies involved.

Template for Emergency Plan. To be drawn up at the next meeting, Nigel suggests we invite people to put their names forward. This will be discussed further in the new year and added to the newsletter.

Consider the Village Hall to be a registered reception centre. Nigel to send forms to Sue and Chair of the Village Hall. This will be included in the newsletter. The village hall could be a base to work from or sleep overnight in an emergency. Possibility of a generator discussed; more information required before a decision can be made.

Emergency packs are advised for householders. To include a torch, bottled water, keys and documents etc.

Village Hall committee meeting January 4th. Suggest a coffee morning to be arranged for parishioners to gain more knowledge regarding grab bags, Nigel could bring equipment to be displayed.

Matters Arising

1 All speed signage now in situ on approaches to and within Wingates. Email sent to Highway's programme thanking them for this after our efforts over many years to have this in situ. No reply yet from Neil Snowden re assessment on bend.

2 Co-option policy approved and adopted. To be advertised on the website and noticeboard during January 2022 and to be included in the newsletter.

3 Climate Emergency Declaration discussed and comments/request to attend our next meeting for advice and support sent to NCC 05/10/2021. To request their brief attendance at our February meeting.

4 Planning validation Consultation comments sent to NCC 05/10/2021.

5 Email/letter sent to Glen Sanderson regarding BT landline issue of phasing out all landlines by 2025, and to ask for his views on this. Email from Glen forwarded to Councillors/ Nigel's email discussed. Informed Glen of our by election cost repayment for his thoughts on this. No comment yet.

This is very topical especially after Storm Arwen and the difficulties encountered trying to make contact via mobiles, email and landlines. Chris feels we need to keep track of this issue, obtain response from BT using the recent storm as a great example. and ensure Glen is feeding in with BT.

6 Policies reviewed and readopted.

7 Newsletter discussion to include Storm Arwen and contingency plans and Parish Council/Village Hall involvement in the future. As a Parish Nigel sending us Emergency contingency plan and Chris suggests the Village Hall receives this before we have a discussion/newsletter sent out with them regarding our joint way forward. Chris and Louise to contact Robert Famelton Chair of Village Hall Committee regarding the Village Hall becoming an emergency hub. Also, the Parish Council and Village Hall are both very short on active support from parishioners and need to encourage more interest via a newsletter. Nigel suggests refer to CAN newsletter re action plan after the storm. Co option information to be included in the newsletter.

8 Grit heaps/salt bin refills requested. Some of the grit heaps have been placed in situ some have not. Email/map sent again to Alex Greenhaugh at NCC regarding missing grit heaps on 10/12/2021. Sign replacement at Fontburn(not replaced yet) and grass/tree cutting required at Prince of Wales corner on 12/10/2021 requested.

9 Awaiting feedback from Stephen Rickitt re by election costs. He is still pressing for a response from NCC. Received email from him 09/12/2021 sent to all.

Correspondence

1 Local transport Plan 2022-2023. Request for depth indicator at the burn near Fiddlers elbow sent 05/10/2021.

Plans

1 Healey Mill artist studio plans permission granted.

Finance

1 In A/C as of December 10th 2021 £975.77

2 By election cheques for £45.00 sent September 20th/ October 20th/November 21st

2 NALC briefing via zoom invoice for £25.00 paid October 20th.

3 Budget and precept discussed for 2022/2023. Information sent to Councilors prior to meeting. By election costs of £180.00 still to pay until March 2022 and clerk's wages increase from £8.91 to £9.50 on April 1st, 2022. Assuming we will not receive any refund on by election costs and taking into consideration other increases decision taken by all Councillors to raise the precept by 20%.

Louise suggested we decline any further requests from GNNA for a donation, all in agreement. Decision taken to coordinate efforts with the Village Hall in future which may need some financial input.

4 Clerks wages/ expenses, Email sent to all prior to meeting with details of both. Minimum Living Wage to rise from £8.91 to £9.50 on April 1st, 2022. Councillors agreed to pay Wages £436.58 and expenses £51.05 TOTAL £487.63. Chris and Louise to sign cheque.

Next meeting February 17th Thursday at 18.00hrs

Meeting closed at 19.15 hrs

