

North Gosforth Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of North Gosforth Parish Council held in St Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park on Wednesday 15 March 2017

Present: Councillor Mears, Chairman

Councillors Agnew, Cooke, Duell, Hay, Loftus, Phillipson and Robinson.

In attendance: 1 Humphries - Clerk
Cllr Ashby - Newcastle City Council
2 Officers - Northumbria Police

86. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 February 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

87. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- The Green – Locations for “No golf” signs had been agreed
- Bus setting down point – There was no further news and members noted that the area was becoming a muddy mess.
- Messy Monkeys – The Clerk had been unable to make contact with the Group Scout Leader and members agreed to let the matter rest. However, it was acknowledged that contact with the Scout Group, whose Headquarters was on Parish Council land, had deteriorated in recent years and the “peppercorn rent” had not been paid for some time. While members felt there was no requirement for the rent to be paid in financial currency, members agreed that the Scout Group should provide an annual report which would be “payment in kind”. The Clerk undertook to write to the Scout Group seeking a report to a meeting in the near future.

88. Police Matters

Police Officers were present to report on recent reported crime, indicating that since January there had been an increase in burglaries to dwellings. A team of burglars from outside the region had been arrested and the Officers now felt the situation had improved.

With regard to speeding on Polworth Drive, two Speed-watch operatives would be operating on Polworth Drive the following morning. A discussion ensued regarding speeding on Brunton Lane, Warkworth Woods. Officers were of the opinion that the 20mph speed limit would not be as effective as physical traffic calming features, although it was recognised that the circumstances were not favourable for such features to be installed by the City Council.

Officers referred to a spate of cold callers operating in the area and advised that residents should dismiss them at the doorstep and report it to the police.

The Officers referred to youths congregating in the bus shelter, and advised that they had not been able to witness the antisocial behaviour. They asked that the activity be reported when it happens in order that police may be able to respond.

89. Highways Matters

Ad Hoc pavement works were being undertaken throughout the area.

90 Trees

It was reported that the tree works agreed at the previous meeting would be carried out on 20th March. Trees and wild flowers around the perimeter of the play area would be replaced with grass if the original planting was ineffective.

91. Gosforth Chapel

Councillor Hay referred to a question over the ownership of the Chapel buildings. While the land was registered as Village Green, it was agreed that the parish Council was not responsible for the Chapel ruins. Councillor Hay was concerned she had also been asked by Friends of the Chapel to make decisions on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed no individual councillor had authority to make decisions and that he would write to the Chairman of the organisation accordingly, recommending that any requests be submitted to the Parish Council meetings.

92. Financial Matters

1. Accounts for payment – Members authorised the following payments

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Robertson	£453.10
Clerk	£960.00

2. Members received a quotation for the 6 planter signs at 330 plus VAT each and 2 post mounted signs for the Green £100 plus VAT each.

Resolved: That the quotation for the provision of signs from Hooper Signs as set out above be accepted.

3. Members also considered a request for grant aid from the Community centre to assist with improvements to lighting within the Centre. Councillor Duell declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter and took no part in the decision.

Resolved: That a grant of £3,000.00 be awarded to St Aidan's Community Centre to assist with the replacement of lighting in the Centre.

93. Planning Matters

The Parish Council was consulted on the following planning issues and made the decisions indicated –

28 Park Drive **No objection**

33 Polworth Crescent **No objection**

29 Barmore Drive. **No objection**

Councillor Hay notified members that after 10 years for being responsible for planning applications, she intended to step down from the role after the April meeting. Councillor Agnew agreed to take the role from May.

94. Other Matters

- Councillor Robinson confirmed she now had a key to access the noticeboard and would post agendas etc. as appropriate.
- Concern was expressed regarding cars parking on the bend on Polworth Crescent. Councillor Ashby agreed to request the City Council to provide double yellow lines to resolve the problem.
- The Environment Agency was constructing a roadway to access the Ouseburn.
- Signs opposing a planning application in Newlands Avenue were still in place beyond the issue being determined.
- There was a Facebook page regarding the non-adoption of roads on the development.
- It was still unknown what camera fines would be used for.
- Brunton Bridge resident permits would become defunct once the development was completed.
- Councillor Ashby undertook to investigate a complaint re parking congestion in Grenville Drive.
- The Clerk provided forms to be completed to change the Bank Account signatories.
- NALC training regarding Planning issues was to be provided in Newcastle in the summer – date to be confirmed.
- NALC provided Electricity Monitors which were distributed to Parish Councillors.

95. Date of next meeting

Agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on 19 April 2017 at 7.00pm in St Aiden's Community Centre, Brunton Park.