

ROTHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 2011 in the Parish Hall Rothbury commencing 715pm

Those Present: Cllr Reynalds (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Dawson, Mrs Edes, Mrs Morton, Mrs Tinlin, Bridgett, Fendley, Gilson

14 members of public

2 members of Drop In Centre – PC to work in collaboration with DiC

Apologies: Cllr Dawson

168/11 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded all Councillor's of their duty to declare, at the start of any such item on the agenda, if they have a personal or prejudicial interest. Cllr Reynalds declared an interest in the church clock.

170/11 Public Questions/Whitton View Play Area

Cllr Reynalds noted at the November meeting a decision was not made about Whitton View Play Area, there had been no motion or vote, only a consensus of opinion, as further information was awaited. Cllr Bridgett queried this as councillor's were asked their opinions and a vote cast, therefore in his view it had been voted on. Cllr Gilson disagreed, as it was a scenario given under a certain set of circumstances and had been extremely surprised to see a Facebook entry stating there had been a vote, Cllr Edes agreed with this. With no proposal, seconder or motion, it was agreed to amend the minute, to include: "what would be the opinion of individual councillor's", delete "would the PC be in favour of adopting."

A meeting had been held with Miller Homes/Northumberland Estate/Parish Council. Information required being confirmation of landowner; residents views and maintenance funding available. Informed NE is landowner, and Miller Homes did send letters to residents, however it was understood this would be a survey, but not the case, and they had in fact stated the PC would not be willing to take over a play area but would support a grassed area - thought presumptuous when PC policy had not been agreed. A subsequent petition had resulted in 60 out of 90 households in favour for a play area, agreed massive majority, and Miller Homes to produce up-to-date current plans. Section 106 agreement – looks unless/until NCC/PC take over/maintain area it is responsibility of landowner, however if NCC agreed previously to take on are they not legally liable? however NCC solicitor had confirmed this not the case. If developer/land owner should invest a sum of money it could provide enough income for maintenance, and if anybody offers a valuable asset and the means to maintain it to Rothbury it would be arrogant of the PC not to accept as representatives of people of Rothbury. Melanie Thew NCC had confirmed amendment to plan to move equipment to one side, with 8 weeks to determine, will be topographically limited. Developer appears reluctant to fund 60K originally discussed, but PC still cannot agree/disagree until firm financial information received. Schoolchildren should be consulted on preferences.

Public Questions/Comments

One resident stated they had purchased their property bought on the basis of a play area being created

Peter Aviston had commented on original play area Planning Application that the design would not work, and advised a play specialist should conduct workshops/engage young people, with local Planning Authority undertaking consultation, with the onus on Miller Homes to resolve the issue with Northumberland County Council. There certainly seems to be inconsistency with NCC's approach in different parts of the county, Peter urged PC to remind NCC of their needs to recognise county wide responsibility, and if no solution forthcoming, the ombudsman should be contacted, PC agreed with these comments.

Cllr Bridgett advised at present the developer is in breach of Section 106 as last section of housing should not be occupied until the play area built. PC pleased to see members of the public present, and minutes of meetings are available in the library and web-site.

171/11 Minutes of the meeting held 9th November 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record, subject to change discussed earlier.

169/11 Police Presence

Police volunteer in attendance and reported Crime/Anti Social behaviour remaining low. Areas of concern being thefts from farms - metal, fuel, machinery, sheep, with continued vigilance encouraged. Non emergency telephone number – 101 - available from 13/12/11 to contact police, who continue to work with partners and will offer support if severe weather conditions occur. Motorcycle signs removed for winter period, has been reduction in fatal and serious accidents across county. Encouraging everyone to take sensible crime prevention measures in festive season - locking doors/windows, setting alarms, leaving light on when out and parking in approved areas. Warning given when warming up cars to not leave ignition keys in. Speed watch had today measured 76 cars outside Rothbury House with 4 being over speed limit, and letters will be sent to offenders. Next police forum April 2012, although there had been a poor turnout at Longramlington's meeting.

172/11 Matters Arising

- Congratulations given to Lights Committee for Christmas lighting. Residents particularly pleased with lights placed further up the street than usual. Cllr Tinlin reported lack of help with installing/taking down lights with volunteers required, and could Drop in Centre help.
- Christmas Eve celebrations had always been down to individual Councillor's efforts, not the PC, and all welcome at Parish Hall 5pm Christmas Eve. Donations had been received - £25 from Gordon Evans, and £50 Anthony Sutton for children's parcels. Cllr Dawson commented there used to be posters displayed requesting donations around village stating money could be paid into local bank.
- Street lighting requests – Bridge Street/Garleigh/Addycombe – Garleigh had been actioned.

172/11.01 Chairman's Announcements

- Cllr Reynolds had attended NALC & County Committee meeting 19/11/11, NALC appear well informed how central government may affect PC's/ NCC.

172/11.02 Urgent Business

- Week commencing 28/11/11 Rodsley Court had had no heating for several days, Cllr Tinlin said WRVS can be called to help in such situations. Cllr Bridgett said residents need to contact Homes for Northumberland directly, not NCC, and he will provide information to all RC residents.

172/11.03 NCC Provision of Local Services

Cllr Gilson had looked at Beggar Rigg & Haugh seating and they seem to be in reasonable condition, PC could accept and move them into annual maintenance scheme. Agreed to formally accept with NCC, and suggest village greens be particularly tidy on Diamond Jubilee, Music Festival & August Bank Holiday 2012.

172/11.04 Church Clock Update

Richard Chapman, experienced bell man from Hepple, had worked bells for Remembrance Day. Smith's of Derby now think hammers can be adjusted, which will be considerably cheaper, and on that basis they are to look at all hammers to see if they can be adjusted rather than refurbished. Hours are now chiming accordingly. PC do not have formal contract with Smith's, therefore can request alternative estimates. Cllr Reynolds has asked for meeting to be arranged with DCC.

172/11.05 Dog Bins

To be taken off agenda.

172/11.06 Parish Cluster

Meeting 12/12/11, proposal 14 PC's will be asked to opt in or out, fee to be 1.5% of individual PC's precept.

172/11.07 Bridge Works

Temporary traffic lights at Garleigh bank due to NEDL fixing power sub-station. NCC had given initial guestimate of finish, dependent on weather, would be gradual process. Retention of current one way system open to discussion. Archaeology group had visited bridge, and were willing to attend History Society to give report.

172/11.08 Community Policing

Nothing to report.

172/11.09 War Memorial

Repairs requested from J Gregory & Sons.

172/11.10 Electric Car charging points

Nothing to report.

172/11.11 Boundary Commission

PC views forwarded to Commission by Cllr Reynolds.

172/11.12 Whitton View Development

Discussed earlier.

173/11 Planning

173/11.01 Planning Applications have been received for the following:

- 11/02933/FUL: Mr N Caisley, Musandum – raised wooden deck to 1st floor – sub-committee to look at

173/11/02 Other Planning Matters

Cllr Gilson commented rules on planning do not take into account increase in dentists/doctor's patients. This also the case with gas/water/etc services. A Letter to NHS and copied to Alan Beith would be beneficial - Cllr Bridgett to provide NHS contact details.

174/11/01 The following invoices are to be authorised:

- C Miller – quarterly salary & expenses - £735.35 & Inland Revenue - £156.20
- UCCT – November bus hire - £80.00, income £71.00
- T W Alderson - £7.95
- Request for Donation – Vitalise - £50 donated November 2010 – with present financial position not in a position to donate
- M Evens – gardening - £101.75
- J Ayre – gardening - £116.35

174/11/02 Set Precept 2012/13 — finance sub-committee to meet 14/12/11 6pm, Cllr Morton's house, with all councillor's welcome. Initial look at figures suggested an increase of £7K.

175/11 Paths/Verges

Complaint received about uneven footpath between Orchard house and Chinese Restaurant, causing trips and falls - Cllr Morton confirmed it is very uneven. The PC could conduct a survey on the state of all footpaths. NCC have increased their budget 2012/13 to deal with footpaths, had never been classed as priority before.

176/11 Seats/Trees

Seat at Thrum Mill to be taken off agenda. Estimates had been requested from tree surgeons for churchyard/village green remedial work – return date 1st week in January.

177/11 Unitary Councillor Report

- There had been a massive response to the "Helping neighbours in Winter" scheme, next stage to advertise and pass on details to Care Trust Manager. If H&S issues raised, scheme will be dropped, however individuals will have to check their vehicle insurance.

- Vodafone looking for 12 communities across the country to trial 3G technology, to give greater mobile phone coverage and also provide broadband capabilities for mobiles. Rothbury, Thropton & Whittingham had been submitted, and Cllr Reynolds had written a letter of support on behalf of PC.
- Broadband rural project covering Rothbury and Upland area had been given state aid approval to go ahead, and can start working with private sector. Defra confirmed they are accepting expressions of interest for their rural broadband fund, could be 300million available to connect the last 10% of communities to obtain faster broadband.

178/11 Correspondence

178/11.01 NCC/Rothbury House/A Beith – West End traffic – manager concerned about speeding traffic, however some NCC Officers will not consider using speed indication devices. A motion the Scrutiny Committee and Speed Camera Partnership discuss issue had been scuppered by police not able to deploy any resources. Cllr Gilson referred to earlier figures quoted by police presence which suggests it does not warrant taking any action. NCC are to look at installing an Elderly Person’s Crossing warning sign at Rothbury House.

178/11.02 Community Action Northumberland Newsletter – green energy

178/11.03 War Memorials Trust – Newsletter

178/11.04 J Dowson – Whitton View Play Area

178/11.05 J Brown – Whitton View Play Area

178/11.06 Tarmac – Harden Public Exhibition – public consultation 9/12/11 9am – 8pm

178/11.07 Northumberland & Newcastle Society – AGM Minutes

178/11.08 NCC – Precept request 2012/13 – discussed earlier

178/11.09 Archeology in Northumberland – Lordenshaws/Debdon/Drover Roads/Barrowburn included

178/11.10 Civic Christmas Carol Service 19/12/11 – invitation – Cllr Dawson to attend

178/11.11 NCC Highways – winter services

178/11.12 Request for allotment received

178/11.13 NCC Transport Strategy – available for comment on web-site by 31/1/12 – Cllr Reynolds to summarise for next meeting

178/11.14 NCC – Northumberland Local Development Framework – comment by 23/1/12 – available on web-site

178/11.15 Digital switch over information – September 2012

178/11.16 NCC – Recycling small electrical items information

179/11 Cllr Sandford Retirement

Cllr Mrs Dawson had spoken to Tony’s family who are happy for PC to go ahead with award and plaque suggestion, Stuart Athey to help. Could also purchase memorial seat. Cllr Bridgett mentioned previous suggestion of bestowing the title of honorary freeman, which can be awarded posthumously, to mark Tony’s service to the people of Rothbury, which could be in the form of noticeboard/plaque in village. Cllr Reynolds personal view not in favour of this, to be discussed further. Cllr Gilson agreed posthumous award could set precedent for others who have passed on.

180/11 Any additional agenda items

- Outstanding invitation from Otterburn ATE to attend meeting – agreed, Cllr Reynolds to respond
- Donkin’s Lamp – resident comments received this should be re-painted.

181/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Rothbury Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 11 January 2012 commencing 7.15pm in the Parish Hall, Rothbury

FUTURE MEETING DATES

2012	January 11 th	2013	January 9 th	February 13 th	March 13 th
	February 15 th				
	March 14 th				
	April 11 th				
	May 9 th				
	June 13 th				
	July 11 th				
	August 8 th				
	September 12 th				

October 10th
November 14th
December 12th