



WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 17th APRIL 2023 AT 7PM

Present: Councillors A Armstrong, D Carney, John Hanley, and C Percy (Chair)

Also present: County Councillor H Waddell, M Hadden (Village Handyman), T Wood (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public.

Questions from Members of the Public

The member of the public was in attendance for the Oaks update, covered in section 7. M Hadden requested an update on the latest LTP. Councillor Waddell reported that the LTP is in draft form and will still change. M Hadden asked if dropped kerbs were included. Councillor Waddell has funding available through the Local Improvement Scheme fund, which could be used for dropped kerbs.

Report from County Councillor H Waddell

Councillor Waddell reported that an extra £3.8m had been allocated to LTP schemes countrywide and the final LTP to be sent to the Clerk for circulation to members. Councillor Waddell to obtain an update on the speed survey results and report to the Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence

S Duckworth, M Jones

2. Declarations of Interest from members on items on the Agenda

C Percy declared an interest in item 7 as it related to the Allotments.

3. Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13th March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Minutes of the Ovingham Joint Burial Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st March 2023 were received and ratified.

5. Update on Actions arising from the Meeting on 13th March 2023

The update on actions taken since the last meeting had been circulated to Members.

The action document was discussed.

Resolved that

- i. The report be received, it be updated to reflect actions agreed at this meeting and circulated to Members for information and action as necessary.

Signed: David M Carney
Chairman of Meeting

Date: 15 May 2023

6. Report of the Village Handyman

M Hadden reported the fallen fence in Dene Road remains down. D Carney to take photographs of the fallen fence and the Clerk will confirm the owner of the fence.

M Hadden also reported damaged fences on Engine Dene and Foster Gardens. Clerk to contact Gentoo Homes for an update. The Boathouse is using the area between its northern boundary and the public right of way to deposit refuse. D Carney and the Clerk to check.

Resolved that

- i. D Carney to take photos of the fence and send to the Clerk.
- ii. The Clerk to confirm ownership of the fence and contact owners in relation to the repair.
- iii. The Clerk to contact Gentoo Homes in relation to the damaged fences.
- iiii. D Carney and the Clerk to inspect rubbish in area next to Boathouse.

7. Report of the Volunteer Tree Warden

The report from the Volunteer Tree Warden had been circulated to members. L Bray reported on trees that had been cut down that were unknown to her, L Bray to report back to members if this continues to be an issue. Cherry Laurels in the village need to have a maintenance programme in place. L Bray will bring a costings report for Charlie's Corner to the next meeting. L Bray reported on the work that had taken place in the Nature Reserve and thanked M Jones for updating the chalk boards. The Climate Actions Group's Nature Recovery sub group are keen to do more work to promote biodiversity, engaging with landowners in the Parish. The group to prepare proposal to be sent to the Parish Council. L Bray to be present at the Annual Village Meeting to discuss any questions in relation to trees in the Parish.

Resolved that

- i. L Bray to continue to monitor unscheduled tree felling.
- ii. Charlie's Corner costings report to be prepared for next meeting.
- iii. Biodiversity proposal to be prepared by the Climate Action Group's Nature Recovery sub group and circulated to members.

8. Haughs LNR Tree Work Consultation - Oaks

At this point D Carney took the Chair.

A paper on the Oak trees on the western border of Wylam Allotments had been prepared by D Carney and circulated to members in advance. A copy of the paper was given to the member of the public present for this item. Factors in the decision making were highlighted. The consultation process had resulted in a range of options being presented, to felling all the oak trees to taking no action. The paper outlined certain key factors, that need to be taken into account to achieve a balanced outcome.

1. The role of semi-mature trees in carbon capture.
2. Biodiversity, which the PC has a duty to promote.
3. Importance of local food growing.
4. Prudent use of public money.

Members discussed the options and agreed that some felling was necessary.

Resolved that

- i. Oak trees 2,4,7 to be felled to grown level.
- ii. Oak trees 1,3,5,6,8: crowns to be reduced in height and width and to the fence line by 2-3 metres. Deadwood in canopies to be removed and the canopies lightly thinned.
- iii. The Clerk to inform interested parties of the decision.

Signed: Diana M Carney
Chairman of Meeting

Date: 15 May 2023

9. Village Plan

It was noted, that while both planning approaches would involve a structured process with assistance from Northumberland County Council and full engagement with the local community, a Neighbourhood Plan would be a statutory document and would therefore carry more weight with the Planning authority. It was emphasised that both exercises would need financial resourcing as well as full commitment by members of the Parish Council. It was noted that the Parish Council currently needs three more councillors to bring it up to full strength and this should be a consideration when deciding whether to proceed. Members agreed that a Neighbourhood Plan would be preferred and this option would be further explored with NCC and neighbouring parish councils. It was noted that NCC would present an online webinar on Neighbourhood Planning on 11th May, which members were encouraged to attend.

Resolved that

- i. The proposal for Neighbourhood Plan for Wylam be further explored with NCC and other parish councils.
- ii. C Percy to circulate details of the NCC Neighbourhood Planning webinar

10. Annual Village Meeting

It was agreed that the Agenda at the Annual Village Meeting should include the Chair's Annual Report, information on the role of the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Planning. Information tables would be available for the Parish Council's Nature Reserve and Road Safety Advisory Groups and the Clean Tyne Group.

Resolved that

- i. Chair to prepare Annual Report.
- ii. Clerk to draft and circulate the Annual Village Meeting Agenda.
- iii. Agenda to be circulated on village notice boards and social media.

11. Advisory Groups Update

- **Road Safety Working Group:** No update

Resolved that

- i. C Percy to contact the Road Safety Working Group to organise the next meeting.

- **Climate Change Action Group:** The group would like a map of sewers in the village and a map of land ownership to enable them to progress work on pollution and the River Tyne and a nature recovery plan. D Carney reported on a webinar she had attended hosted by the Carbon Literacy Project. The webinar had launched the Carbon Literacy Toolkit for Town and Parish Councils. Implementation of the toolkit would need resourcing, which would be best provided by NCC to parish councils. The Parish Council could usefully lobby NCC for this to happen.

Resolved that

- i. The Clerk to contact Northumbrian Water and the Land Registry in connection with sewer mapping and land ownership.
- ii. D Carney to provide updates on the Carbon Literacy Project as they become available.

- **Haughs LNR Working Group** – No update, item covered during item 8 of the agenda.
- **Nature Reserve Advisory Group** – No update, item covered during item 7 of the agenda.

Signed: Diana M Carney
Chairman of Meeting

Date: 15 May 2023

12. Bicycle Mayor

Hexham Town Council have support from nine councils along the Tyne Valley. A working group will be created to support the network. J Hanley expressed an interest in joining this group.

Resolved that

- i. J Hanley to confirm his interest with Hexham Town Council.

13. WPC – Email and Website

Parish Council website is under construction and the Clerk will contact members individually for support with content and report back to the next meeting.

Resolved that

- i. Members to provide support for content creation.
- ii. Clerk to update on progress at the next meeting.

14. Village Litter Pick

Village litter pick was very successful. Wylam Parish Council is registered with NCC as for future litter pick events. NCC will support the Parish Council with items needed to continue the programme. The next event is planned for Monday 8th May.

Resolved that

- i. Date of next litter pick to be advertised on notice boards and social media.

15. King's Coronation

Coronation celebration confirmed as 7th May at 2.30pm on the Jubilee Playing Field. Volunteers from the village will support the event.

Resolved that

- i. Posters and invitations to be circulated to the village.

16. Summer Globe

Members were reminded this is a Parish Council publication and members should begin to prepare articles for the summer edition.

Resolved that

- i. Members to write articles for the Summer Globe.

17. Finance

Members reviewed receipts and payments, the Budget Update to March 2023, bank reconciliations to March 2023. The Clerk reported that the year-end shut down will take place on 18th April, the current year will be audited by the current auditor. The quotation for seasonal planting and grass cutting from Wylam Nurseries was approved.

Resolved that

- i. The payments detailed in Appendix A be approved.
- ii. The Budget Update for March 2023 be received.
- iii. The bank reconciliations for March 2023 be received.
- iv. The quotation for seasonal planting and grass cutting be approved.

18. To review correspondence received

Correspondence received was reviewed. A response had been sent to Wylam First School, a response is awaited.

Resolved that

- i. The report at Appendix E be received.
- ii. The correspondence received since last meeting be noted and actioned where appropriate.

Signed: Drana McCarney
Chairman of Meeting

Date: 15 May 2023

19. Planning Matters

Planning matters received was reviewed.

Resolved that

- i. The report at Appendix F be received.
- ii. No comments be submitted in relation to the applications for Cherry Tree Lane 23/00798/FUL, The Orchard 23/00840/PRUTPO, Oakwood Hall 23/00877/LBC, Bluebell Close 23/00848/FUL, Oakwood Hall 23/00134/FUL, Oakwood Hall 23/00749/LBC.

The Council passed a resolution excluding the press and public from the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (sensitive information).

20. Riverside Footpath

The parish council received the report from the latest monthly inspection.

21. Minor items & items for the agenda of a future meeting

Wylam Community Flood Plan: Members would meet with Colin Hall, Flood Resilience Engagement Officer, Environment Agency on 20th April to discuss the Wylam Community Flood Plan. A report would be made to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

22. Date of next meeting

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council: 15th May 2023

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed: Drana M Carney
Chairman of Meeting

Date: 15 May 2023