



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 12th February 2024**

**Present:** Councillors A Armstrong, L Barker, D Carney (Chair), J Hanley, M Jones, C Percy

**Also present:** T Wood (Parish Clerk)

**Questions from Members of the Public.**

Gareth Davies-Jones, one of the directors of the Wylam Winter Tales Festival, gave a presentation. He reminded members that 2025 is the Stockton and Darlington Railway 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Wylam Winter Tales would like to spearhead a celebration of this anniversary with a week of events across the village running from 31st January – 7th February 2025 to showcase Wylam's railway heritage. These events could involve Wylam First School as well as the Parish Council and other village groups. The Parish Council thanked Gareth for his presentation and members indicated that they would look very favourably on any application for grant funding from Wylam Winter Tales. This should be submitted as soon as possible. It was noted that, for the project to go ahead, grant funding (from the Parish Council and other sources) would need to be in place by April 2024.

**Resolved that**

- i. The proposal would be noted and Wylam Winter Tales encouraged to submit a grant application.
- ii. The Parish Council would consider what form its involvement in the 2025 celebrations might take.
- iii. The Clerk would contact Wylam Winter Tales to discuss how best to progress the project.

**Report from County Councillor H Waddell.**

County Councillor H Waddell was not in attendance.

**Report of the Volunteer Tree Warden (Liz Bray)**

The Volunteer Tree Warden's report was received by members. Following the removal of Oaks in the Nature Reserve during 2023, new oak trees are to be planted in locations yet to be decided. The vegetation management work at the Jackson Road green space in the village has been agreed, and quotes are to be approved by the Parish Council - see Item13(iv). The Tree Warden noted that during the tree work at Tyne View one of the trees had fallen down, and wondered whether the bill for the work would be cheaper as a result. Volunteers are to begin the work at the western edge of the Pit Heap, removing the cherry and elm saplings.

**Resolved that**

- i. Clerk inform the Volunteer Tree Warden of the approval of quotations for vegetation management at Jackson Road and work required at the Nature Reserve during 2024.
- ii. Clerk to contact Tyne Valley Woodlands regarding the cost of work at Tyne View.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

County Councillor H Waddell

Signed: Drava M Carney Date: 11/03/2024  
Chair of Meeting



- **Haughs Local Nature Reserve Management Group**

Formal meeting of the group had taken place on 14<sup>th</sup> January. Minutes from the meeting will be circulated to members. New gates and signage had been discussed as work to be completed in 2024. Further discussion to take place regarding replacement of the gate next to the allotments. The gate replacement would need to be an accessible gate. Management Plan would be updated and the Risk Assessment for volunteers would be amended to include working at height. It had been noted that the Memorial benches in the Nature Reserve are in a state of disrepair.

**Resolved that**

- M Jones to update group's terms of reference.
- M Jones to amend volunteer Risk Assessment document to include working at height.
- Replacement of gate to be discussed at a future meeting of the Parish Council.
- Clerk to contact NCC regarding the replacement of the fence adjacent to the gate.
- Clerk to contact families to enquire if Memorial benches are to be repaired or replaced.

- **Wylam Litter Group**

Members discussed village litter picks. Spring litter pick is confirmed as 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Resolved that**

- M Jones to update Wylam Litter Pick poster.
- Clerk to circulate date of next litter pick on village notice boards and via posters and social media.
- Clerk to circulate dates to interested groups.

- **Climate Action Group:**

J Hanley reported that the group is in hibernation. There are a number of good ideas which have not turned into tangible projects.

**Resolved that**

- J Hanley to prepare a report outlining all activities of the Climate Action Group be prepared.
- This report and future of the group to be considered by the Parish Council at its March meeting.

A review of Parish Council Working Groups is to take place and updated terms of reference to be approved by the Parish Council.

## 7. **Charlie's Corner**

D Carney gave a review of the report that was originally tabled at the November Parish Council Meeting. The proposed plan for Charlie's Corner had been published in the Summer edition of the Globe, notice boards, social media and the gates leading to Charlie's Corner. Of the responses received the majority were against the proposed changes to Charlie's Corner. It was noted that the space is used and valued by dog walkers and that useful alternative suggestions from residents should be incorporated as far as possible, such as a commemorative Coronation bench and planters for bee friendly plants.

**Resolved that:**

- The original design is not approved.
- Residents' alternative suggestions be taken up as far as possible.
- Clerk to source costings for a Coronation Bench.
- Clerk to source costings for Bee Hotels.
- Clerk to source costings for Bee Squares.

## 8. **Village Grassed Zones**

The Clerk gave a review of previous discussions and initiatives regarding grassed areas and nature recovery. During 2023 some areas of grass across the village were not mown but left to grow wild.

Signed: *Diana M Carney*  
Chair of Meeting

Date: *11/03/2024*



**15. Planning Matters**

The information on planning matters was received.

**Resolved that:**

- i. The report at Appendix I be received.

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).

**16. Riverside Land**

The Parish Council received the report from the latest monthly inspection.

**17. Minor items & items for the agenda of a future meeting**

- D Carney and the Clerk informed members of the DJBC discussions relating to Cemetery Lodge.
- The damaged 'soldier' memorial and Remembrance Sunday wreaths at the War Memorial were discussed.
- The bin in the Old Station car park continues to be used for rubbish that should be taken to a Council Recycling Centre, resulting in fly tipping when the bin is full.

**Resolved that:**

- i. The damaged 'soldier' memorial and the Remembrance Sunday wreaths be removed.
- ii. NCC be asked to remove the large bin from Station Road car park.

**18. Date of next meeting**

**Ordinary Meeting – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed: *Diana M Carney*  
Chair of Meeting

Date: *11/03/2024*