



## HUMSHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL

**Bi-Monthly Parish Council Meeting  
Humshaugh Village Hall  
7.00PM ON THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2023**

### MINUTES

PRESENT: Cllr Herbie Newell (Chair), Cllr Chris Robinson (Vice-Chair), Cllr Peter Woodward

APOLOGIES: Cllr Rupert Gibson, Cllr Jerry Oliver

IN ATTENDANCE: Kaeti Seth (Clerk), County Cllr Nick Morphet. Three residents were also in attendance.

- 1. INTRODUCTION TO COUNCILLORS:** Councillors introduced themselves.
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** As above.
- 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:** There were none.
- 4. PUBLIC FORUM:** No residents raised issues not on the agenda.
- 5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting on 12 January 2023 were agreed.

### 6. MATTERS ARISING:

**6.1 Haughton Lane grass verges** The Parish Council (PC) has had a discussion with NCC about putting in a kerb to protect the wall which collapsed some months ago. Nick clarified that there was no further progress with NCC and it was also identified that putting a kerb in had drainage implications.

**6.2 Dog waste bin** requested from residents at Chollerford end of the village. After consultations with various dog owners they have identified a spot for a dog bin adjacent to the lane way leading to the sewage treatment plan which is prone to dog fouling. The Chair asked for councillors agreement for the PC to buy another dog bin and this was agreed *nem con*.

**ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

**6.3 PC representative for Village Hall** this has previously been discussed and following further discussion Cllr Robinson will continue to be the PC representative which all councillors agreed to.

**6.4 See Clerks Report** the Clerk took the meeting through the report, updating on actions taken. Grit bin: the residents have declared they do not need a grit bin. This item is closed. HCVL have a board meeting and the telephone kiosk will be put on the agenda. Cllr Robinson will contact HCVL to arrange this. The Chair expressed the thanks of the PC to Cllrs Holbrook and Batey for their work on the PC, particularly Cllr Batey who has served a number of years as councillor.

## **7. UPDATE FROM NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR NICK MORPHET**

**7.1 Accessibility issues:** The Chair, Cllr Morphet and the Clerk met with representatives from the Highways Department at NCC regarding the issues around the bus shelter. Previous designs by NCC existed and were discussed, but it was acknowledged that the work needs to be re-costed. Cllr Morphet has not yet received an update but did suggest that NCC would be very grateful for a contribution from the PC to the costs. No other bus stop accessibility issues were discussed. A footway accessibility audit was carried out last year and as part of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) the PC requested a ramp replace the steps at Hadrian Court. This has been agreed and will be installed in next financial year (2023/3). Cllr Morphet will share the plans when he receives them. The PC need to confirm that this change won't cause problems with access at the bus stop. The plan also agrees more drop kerbs in the village. The draft LTP had a cycle path between Acomb and Chollerford but this has been rejected on the grounds of expense.

**ACTION: CLLR MORPHET**

**7.2: Interactive speed sign:** This has been ordered but no installation date has been given yet.

**ACTION: CLLR MORPHET**

**7.3: Traffic calming:** Cllr Morphet has received complaints of speeding around the corner by East Lea, and asked if this was a significant issue to raise with NCC. It was confirmed that together with the issue of parking by the Surgery and the speeding, a speed audit would be useful.

**ACTION: CLLR MORPHET**

**7.4 Footway improvement - Chollerford roundabout to New Houses:** Cllr Morphet had submitted an expression of interest to the Borderlands Scheme for funding to carry out this work and it has been rejected, as anticipated. The next step is to try to get funding through NCC's ten-year investment programme, and this was agreed.

**ACTION: CLLR MORPHET**

**7.5: AD122 Sunday bus service:** Still no date on commencement.

**7.6: Drainage work by War Memorial:** Cllr Morphet asked for confirmation that the work done had been successful. It was confirmed that it had appeared to have improved, but there had been a lack of rainfall to fully test out the work.

**ACTION: CLOSED**

**7.7: Valley Court – flood drain:** Cllr Morphet will follow up on this.

**ACTION: CLLR MORPHET**

## **8. PLANNING**

**8.1 Review of recent planning approvals:** There were no recent approvals to note.

**8.2 Review of recent planning applications:** There were no recent planning applications to note. However, the Chair reported that local residents have noted a traffic monitoring device by the school and the Leggit field, which is something developers do before a planning application is submitted. This has now been removed, however, an application from Tantallon Homes Ltd is expected and the planning portal will continue to be monitored. The Chair reminded the meeting that the PC had objected in principle to development following early conversations with Tantallon homes. The view remains that there is no need for the type of development that is likely to be proposed.

## **9. FINANCE**

**9.1 Current Account as of 23 February 2023:** Of note - a further grant has been received for the

Neighbourhood Plan work that continues.

**9.2 Deposit Account as of 23 February 2023:** Following a transfer, the account has a balance of over £14,000.

**9.3 Payment Schedule:** The Chair took the meeting through the payment schedule which enables the clerk to make payments without recourse to councillors for approval. This was agreed *nem con*.

**9.4 Groundsman costs for St Peters Church and general grass cutting services:** The paper clarifies which areas the groundsman covers and payments for such. The Chair confirmed the costs of the work done for the Church. The proposal is that the situation continues with the contribution from the church is held at £900. The Chair asked that councillors agreed this and this was approved *nem con*. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

## 10. BUSINESS

**10.1 Policies Update – to approve draft training and education policy:** The Chair asked if councillors agreed to approve and adopt the policy and this was agreed *nem con*.

**10.2 Footpath and gutters cleaning:** Cllr Woodward put forward an options appraisal and a further document which outlined the work done by NCC. Cllr Woodward has received feedback from Cllrs and the conclusion is that NCC should not be relied on to clean gutters. Cllr Woodward therefore proposed; to monitor NCC to ensure schedules are adhered to, and also to find out when they are visiting, to ensure they have access to areas as required. Cllr Woodward explained that a team of volunteers (unconnected with the Parish Council) in Wark clean the village. Cllr Woodward suggested that volunteers in Humshaugh are requested to identify work to tidy the village and this would be done a needs basis. Some funding for equipment was requested from the Parish Council. Suggested that this is trialled for a year. Cllr Robinson stated that Hexham Town Council had equipment to clean footpaths and wondered if this equipment could be hired. The Parish Clerk to follow up with Hexham Town Clerk. The Chair asked the Clerk to confirm the arrangements with NCC and the councillors approve to grant funding requested to volunteers. A resident asked where the rubbish collected would go and it was confirmed that if compostable then volunteers would take it, otherwise it would go in a domestic bin or to the dump. If there are significant issues with rubbish, then NCC will be called to remove the rubbish. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

**10.3 Northumberland Town, Parish and Community Council Charter:** The Chair confirmed this item was not for discussion as this has been agreed. The Charter identifies what is expected of NCC and town and parish councils. Cllr Robinson asked if it could go on the parish website and this will be done. Cllr Morphet raised the issue of the area councils and the one covering Humshaugh would be Tynedale. These meetings are once a month in Hexham and invitations have not been received. The Parish Clerk will follow this up with NCC. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

**10.4 2023/24 Parish Council Timetable:** The timetable was discussed and no issues were raised.

**10.5 Risk Assessment Schedule:** The Chair took the meeting through these and all confirmed they were happy with the assessment.

## 11. COMMITTEES

**11.1 Emergency Plan:** Cllr Robinson informed the meeting that the plan has been agreed and a meeting of volunteer emergency wardens was held. Alex Chylak (present) had agreed to be lead warden. Six areas in the village have been identified and wardens allocated. Alex confirmed that residents would be expected to raise the request for help. Although areas were identified, all wardens would help should one area only have an issue. Cllr Robinson

identified that Humshaugh are in the vanguard in this area. There will be equipment which will be loaned out to residents who wished to stay in their home, and the Village Hall would be a hub for residents, having its own generator. The PC is still waiting for NCC to identify if the George Hotel has agreed to be a rest centre. The next parish newsletter in April will ask residents to self-identify if they wish to have wardens check on them. A resident asked what an emergency was and it was clarified that this would be declared by NCC. Cllr Morphet informed the meeting that Northumberland Communities together have launched a grant scheme, but parish councils cannot apply but community groups can. Cllr Morphet will send information on this.

**ACTION: CLLR MORPHET**

**11.2 Neighbourhood Plan:** The Chair reported that a residents survey with a high response rate had informed a vision and objectives which was circulated through the parish newsletter – no comments have been received. The steering group is working up policies and there will be further events for residents to comment on these policies. Funding for Design Codes (which future developers would have to adhere to) is being sought and a requirement for a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) has been approved. The HNA will generate information on which policies can be based.

## **12. REPORTS AND UPDATES**

**12.1 Humshaugh Net Zero:** Solar PV farm a planning application response is expected in the next few weeks. The next public meeting at end of March will be on the PV farm, presenting the business and funding models for the PV farm. A home energy survey is being offered to residents to identify areas in properties with poor energy efficiency.

**12.2 Evans Trust:** No update as Cllr Gibson was not present.

**12.3 Village Hall:** Cllr Robinson informed the meeting that a generator had been acquired which will allow the hall to function up to five days without power, battery availability dependant. The EV charger should be up and running by 10<sup>th</sup> March. The Village Hall Board meeting is on 8 March.

**12.4 Giles Heron Trust:** Cllr Batey had represented the PC on the Heron Trust and he has now resigned. This is a Trust based in Simonburn which has no properties or interests in Humshaugh. The Chair had spoken to the Chair for the Trust, who felt there is no requirement for a Humshaugh PC representative on the Trust. The Chair proposed there is no longer representative and this was agreed *nem con*.

**12.5 Humshaugh Community Ventures Ltd (Village Shop):** Cllr Robinson informed the meeting of a board meeting later this month. The shop now has new display cabinet, and the plan is to display items from May to September that are focused at tourists, but are produced locally.

**12.6 Humshaugh Children's Playing Field Trust (HCPFT):** The Chair has represented the PC on this trust and is now standing down. The Trust are being asked to consider having another councillor on the trust and will be informed when new councillors are co-opted.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE** A range of correspondence had been received; to note unless discussed.

**13.1 Q&A's from Northern Powergrid's Emergency Power Cut December 2022 Stakeholder Briefing**

**13.2 Rural cost of living survey – closing date 31 March. Details on Humshaugh PC website**

**13.3 Local Government Boundary Commission – responses to proposed changes 31 January**

- 13.4** Bicycle Mayor – further communication to be circulated
- 13.5** Northumberland Net Zero Event 7 March – details shared with councillors.
- 13.6** Rural Business Awards – deadline 5 March
- 13.7** Devolution deal – NALC to arrange event on 9 March (event held 15 February, details shared with councillors )
- 13.8** North of Tyne Combined Authority letter on precept.
- 13.9** Communication with Karbon Homes – the PC has been approached by residents regarding rubbish and vandalism, unfortunately Karbon Homes have not responded, and following an initial response from Home Group nothing has happened. The Chair proposed NCC are contacted to clear the area and councillors agreed *nem con*.

#### **14. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**14.1 Parking at the surgery:** East Lea residents have raised concerns on parking as has the surgery. There are currently 13 spaces and the surgery requires 20 spaces for staff and patients. Cars are frequently parked on the pavement close to the junction. The Chair proposed an options appraisal be developed for the next meeting. This was agreed. Cllr Woodward stated that the Village Hall had offered two parking spaces which are not used by the surgery. It is also not known who owns most of the parking space opposite the surgery.

#### **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**15.1 7.00 PM Thursday 11 May 2023, Humshaugh Village Hall – Annual Public Meeting and Annual and Bi-Monthly Parish Council meeting. To confirm earlier start time.**

**15.2 Meeting schedule 2023/24**