

Otterburn Parish Council

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 6 June, 2007

Between 7pm and 7.30pm at Otterburn Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Present

John Hartshorne Chairman
Val Corbett Vice Chairman
Sarah Robson
Ron Holden
Harry Scott

Apologies

Absent

In attendance

Miss Emma Anderson Parish Clerk
Clive Emerson
Brian Corbett
John Riddle

Copy to

Brian Corbett
John Riddle

1. Election of Officers

The Parish Clerk invited nominations for the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year.

Mr. John Hartshorne was proposed as Chairman by Mrs. Val Corbett and seconded by Mr. Ron Holden. **Members agreed.**

Mrs. Val Corbett was proposed as Vice Chairman by Mr. John Hartshorne and seconded by Mr. Harry Scott. **Members agreed.**

2. Co-option of sixth member

Mr. Clive Emerson expressed his willingness to be co-opted to fill the vacancy left following the recent Parish Council elections. **Members agreed.**

3. Declaration of Office and Register of Interests

The Clerk circulated copies of the new Code of Practice, Declarations of Office and Register of Interests forms. A brief explanation was provided. The Clerk asked that completed forms be returned to her on or before Wednesday, 20 June, 2007. **Members agreed.**

4. Reports from District and County Councillors and questions

Mr. Brian Corbett provided an overview of his work as a District Councillor during the last four years. He believed that Tynedale Council, being predominately a one-party council, was able to get on with its work more effectively. In the last four years the region had seen the proposal for a North East Assembly defeated in a referendum. He suggested that the present discussion to introduce a unitary authority in Northumberland had its roots in this defeat. Tynedale Council supported the two-council proposal. The reorganisation of Tynedale Council's Housing and Leisure departments had been very successful and the latter was now running leisure facilities for other councils. Following the recent elections, Mr. Corbett had been appointed as a Cabinet member in the new council.

The Chairman hoped that more assets would be made available to Otterburn by Tynedale Council Leisure Department.

Mr. John Riddle reported on aspects of his work as a County Councillor. He believed the restructuring of Councils in Northumberland would be best served by two authorities. Restructuring should not be about politics but the delivery of services. The County Council had experienced another difficult year financially. Despite this, it had been possible to make progress on the installation of the new footbridge across the River Rede. Phase one of Willowgreen had had street lighting and sewers adopted. A bond of £25,000, held by the NHBC, would cover the cost of any further measures necessary to complete the adoption. The adoption of phase two was not going well. No bond had been lodged by the developer in respect of phase two. The sewers could not be adopted and it was unlikely that phase two as a whole would be adopted.

Some discussion followed on that part of Councillor Riddle's report regarding Willowgreen. The Chairman thanked both councillors for their reports.