

Otterburn Parish Council

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 7 May, 2008

Between 7pm and 7.30pm at Otterburn Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Present

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

Apologies

Cllr. John Riddle

Absent

Cllr Brian Corbett

In attendance

Miss Emma Anderson Parish Clerk
Tom Walling Hexham Courant
PC Nigel Daly Northumbria Police

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. Clive Emerson.

Members agreed.

Mrs. Val Corbett was proposed as Vice Chairman by Mr. Ron Holden and seconded by Mr. Harry Scott.

Members agreed.

2. Summary of the year's activity

The Chairman reported that resurfacing work on the A696 had now been completed. This has caused considerable disruption in the village and a package of items in reparation had been proposed to Northumberland County Council (NCC). The package included two items which had been ongoing during the year namely the footpath to Otterburn Mill and the resurfacing of Dennis' Lane. Additionally, it had been suggested that a second solar powered speed sign be installed to compliment the one already agreed and to avoid the cost of recurring relocation costs.

The Chairman was pleased to report that, following an intervention by Sarah Robson, slow signs had been painted on the A696, north and south of Otterburn First School and that the flashing school signs had been reactivated. The power/lamp posts in the village had recently been repainted.

3. Reports from District and County Councillors and questions

Councillor John Riddle had sent a written report to the Chairman on the matter of *Parish Councils and the new County Council structure*. Councillor Riddle reported that there was still some uncertainty as to who would be forming the political administration in the newly elected council. He understood that Community Action Northumberland had been asked to consult and lead on revising the Charter for Local Councils. There should be an open dialogue to consider extra responsibilities (without obligation) for Community Forums in which Parish Councils would play a leading role, perhaps with clusters of parishes performing an enhanced role on Community Forums. Above all, nothing will be imposed. Councillor Riddle had made it very clear that there was widespread concern about unelected individuals or bodies having control over public money. He believed Parish Councils, being elected bodies, must become the second layer in Local Government. It was still 'early days' but some areas may have Forums and others may not.

4. Any other business

There was no other business