

---

**PEGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL**

---

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 November 2008**

---

**Present:** Councillor Peter Angus (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Juliet Oakley  
Councillor Rev. John Park  
Councillor Ms Julie Stephenson  
Councillor David Woodard  
Mr Hughie Hislop (Allotments Representative) - part of meeting.  
PC Mick Leybourne (part of meeting)  
Clerk: Peter Basnett

There were three members of the public present for the public session together with Mr Norris Athey of Ulgham Red Squirrels and Julie Brown, Health Trainer.

Mr Athey said that the purpose of his group was to trap and destroy grey squirrels to protect the native red squirrel. He was seeking a donation to help continue their work.

Three local residents gave details of the anti-social behaviour by local youths which were affecting their quality of life. PC Leybourne gave details of the police response. They had some names and would be contacting parents and using the pressure of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and possible loss of social housing.

In the longer term it was realised that young people needed to be engaged and facilities provided. The Chairman said that this was a necessary part of the Village Plan and requested that the problems be reported to the Village Plan Steering Group.

Julie Brown the Health Trainer and part of the Health Promotions Department introduced herself and explained the background to her work and the initiatives that were being undertaken. These included going into the community and giving blood pressure checks at Project House and the social clubs. Alcohol Awareness was an important part of her work.

The Chairman said that health was an important strand of the Village Plan and asked Julie to attend the next meeting of the Village Plan Steering Group.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the public session.

Following the public session the Parish Council meeting started at 7.15pm.

**1165 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs Proud, Councillor Miss Rothwell, Councillor Sambrook and Councillor Willcox. It was resolved to accept the apologies.

**1166            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest save for the Chairman's blanket declaration of interest in planning matters.

**1167            MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 October 2008 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**1168            POLICE REPORT**

PC Leybourne gave the report for October. There had been five crimes recorded, two of which had been detected. They include a burglary at the Village Store, two assaults, damage to a window and theft from a car including the stealing of the car bonnet. The same number of crimes had been committed in September.

Police and Community Support Officers were still carrying out regular patrols in the Village and targeting disorder hotspots following reports of increased youth disorder.

The Chairman thanked PC Leybourne for attending and giving his report.

**1169            ALLOTMENTS**

Mr Hislop reported that four full and one half allotments had been allocated to new tenants.

The Clerk reported that he had spent time at the County Archives checking Parish Council minutes from 1895 to 1929 for allotment references. He had not been able to ascertain the details of the lease of allotments from Welbeck Estates.

It was resolved to refer the suggested new rent structure to the Allotments Committee for consideration.

The notes of the recent meeting with the allotment holders had been distributed. The Chairman reported that a meeting with representatives of the allotment tenants was to be held on 18 November 2008. This was to discuss the draft documents for the Allotment Regulations and the Allotment Tenancies.

The appeal against a decision by the Allotments Committee was to be heard in closed session.

**1170            CLERK'S REPORT/ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Ref</b>		<b>Action</b>
1	Shrub beds maintenance- meeting with Stan Timmins – members thought that it was important to retain shrub beds where possible and to plant more shrubs at West View roundabout. To consider when setting budget	Chairman & Clerk to meet Stan Timmins
2	Flooding problem at Butterwell Drive – Councillor Woodard said the Northumbrian Water were to ring him the next day with details of the drainage system. There had been 12 floods there since 1978. Councillor	To note

	Mrs Oakley said that the problem had worsened with the closure of the local mine and stopping of pumping.	
3	Age Concern Northumberland – donation – 27 people in village assisted in various forms last year	Resolved to donate £100
4	Allotments water bill £509.33 – rebate of £379.99 promised using revised meter readings supplied by Mr Hislop	Noted
5	Old computer – to clear hard disk and donate to suitable person – Councillors Willcox & Rev Park.	Not yet done
6	Tom Oliver – Pest Control copies of insurance cover and risk assessments received	Noted
7.	Energise – copies of Autumn 2008 newsletter received from ENRgI	Distributed
8.	Northumberland County Council – By-pass Village Improvements – to include provision of additional litter bins	Noted
9	Welbeck Estates – acknowledgment of latest letter relating to allotments asbestos problem	Noted
10	Former Clerk – NACODS solicitors are presently taking steps to sell 12 Chevington Close	Noted
11	Allianz Insurance – asbestos problem affects small area of allotments— Parish Council taking all reasonable precautions	Noted

**1171 FINANCE**

**Agenda item 7.1 Invoices received & paid out of meeting – it was resolved that these be confirmed**

		<b>£ p</b>
0810/78	Predator Pest Control – allotment pest control	77.50
0810/79	Climb ‘n’ Slide – playground repairs (inc. VAT £93.63)	628.63
0810/80	Society of Local Council Clerks - publication	22.00

**Agenda item 7.2 Invoices received/internal vouchers – it was resolved that these be approved for payment**

		<b>£ p</b>
0810/81	PB Basnett - postages & teas	53.12
0810/82	B Parker - bus shelter cleaning £120; dog bin emptying £78; inspect and clean play area £72	270.00
0810/83	R Tasker - office cleaning October 2008	30.00
0811/84	Grassroots – village plan admin. work	818.25
0811/85	Local Government Association – publication on allotments management	15.00
0811/86	Northumbrian Water – allotments water charge debit £509.33 & credit £379.99	129.34
0811.87	ABS Business Supplies – Stationery £58.25; Village Plan £47.90 & VAT £18.58	124.73
0811/88	British Telecom – internet service (inc. VAT £14.16)	95.13
0811/89	Age Concern Northumberland - donation	100.00
0811/90	Pegswood Toddler Group - grant	400.00

**Agenda item 7.3 Receipts received**

	R Tasker
	B Parker

**Agenda Item 7.4 Income Received**

		<b>£ p</b>
22	Allotment rents	68.00

**Agenda item 7.5 Cleared Balance** as at 10 November 2008 - £78,320.98

**Agenda item 7.6 Bank Reconciliation Statement** – as at 10 November 2008 - it was resolved that this be approved

**Agenda item 7.7 Budgetary Control Report** – as at 10 November 2008 – it was resolved that this be approved

**Agenda item 7.8 Internal Check report** – September completed by Councillor Willcox; Councillor Ms Stephenson to carry out November check

**1172 PLANNING MATTERS**

**The Chairman declared an interest and left the room.**

**It was resolved that Councillor Mrs Oakley take the chair.**

CM/20080662 Amended application – provision of 2 No. Football team changing rooms, 2 no. Referee changing rooms, meeting room, kitchen, male & female toilets at Pegswood Pavilion, Pegswood Welfare.

After a discussion it was resolved to approve this application and to press for the boundary fence with the railway to be made vandal proof

CM/20080771 Mr Anthony Stevens – proposed living/kitchen extension and pitched roof in lieu of flat roof over garage and bedroom – 18 Cheviot Grove Pegswood

It was resolved to make no comment on this application.

CM/20080784 Mrs Mary Ann Lye – proposed conservatory at the rear – 27 Patton Way

It was resolved to make no comment on this application.

**Councillor Angus returned to the meeting and retook the chair.**

**1173 CORRESPONDENCE**

**9.1 Correspondence to Consider**

		<b>Action</b>
1	AMCO Rail – Clerk met with Service Site Manager and agreed access over play area land to carry out maintenance work. Offer of £200 for access over parish council land accepted.	Approved
2	Pegswood Community Project newsletter	Received
3	Wansbeck District Council – publication of Draft Supplementary Planning Documents	Received
4	ENTEC – Ellington & Lynemouth Public Consultations – public exhibition 12 & 13 November 2008	Noted
5	Patton Way play area – monthly safety inspection report – whole area waterlogged.	Noted
6	Anonymous letter concerning the use of buildings behind Co-op and chip shop – Chairman to report to the next meeting.	Closed Session
7	Northumberland Early Years and Childcare Service – expressions of interest invited for Year 2 of the Playbuilder programme – 3 year funding programme to help improve and develop free play areas – can be a combination of new and refurbished play areas.	To consider making an application
8	NALC – copy of revised pay scales as from 1 April 2008 report	Accepted

**Agenda Item 9.2 Circulars, agendas etc – available at the Parish Council office for members to inspect**

		<b>Action</b>
1	Castle Morpeth BC agendas	Received

**1174 MEMBERS REPORTS**

**1174.01 Chairman**

The Chairman reported that he had recently attended a meeting at Alnwick and suggested that Bondgate Print be approached for a quote to print the Parish Council newsletter. Members expressed a preference for it to be printed in Pegswood.

The Chairman reported on his attendance at a Local Strategic Partnership meeting.

**1174.02 Castle Morpeth Borough Council – Councillor Woodard**

The Borough Council had recently been placed fourth in a national competition for best local authority. The transition to the Unitary Authority appeared to be going smoothly.

Lessons had been learned from Hull and Carlisle in handling the aftermath of the flooding and resources had been quickly in place to help families and businesses. It was hoped that funding would be received from central government towards the additional extraordinary expenditure incurred by the Borough Council.

**1174.03 Northumberland County Council – Councillor Woodard**

The Unitary Authority was consulting on a new name for the Council.

He suggested that the Potland Burn Liaison Committee be contacted with the suggestion that the Parish Council to be represented.

**1175 PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE BOARDS**

The Chairman suggested that new notice boards be erected at various sites in the Parish and that £1,000 per annum be allocated for this purpose over each of the next three years.

It was resolved that this be considered with the budget review process.

**1176 PEGSWOOD VILLAGE PLAN**

The Chairman reported that the questionnaire response had not been very good and it was planned to send out a simplified questionnaire with the next edition of the newsletter. A questionnaire was to be sent to businesses. The next meeting of the Steering group will be held at Project House on 18 November. A social evening, to include wine and a light buffet, was to be held on 4 December. It would include a display of photographs of assets in the Village. Following the distribution of the questionnaire 18 persons had expressed interest in being involved and were to be invited to the social evening.

**It was resolved that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.**

The Chairman and Councillor Mrs Oakley being members of the Allotments Committee withdrew from the room whilst the next item was considered

**It was resolved that Councillor Woodard take the chair.**

**1177 ALLOTMENTS APPEAL**

Due to the special circumstances involved it was resolved to allow a tenant to keep two dogs on his allotment with an assurance that when the older dog died or was otherwise removed it would not be replaced.

**Councillor Angus retook the chair.**

**1178 ANONYMOUS COMPLAINT**

This had been addressed to the Chairman and had been referred to the Borough Council Enforcement Officer for consideration.

**Return to open session**

**1179 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**Pegswood Toddler Group**

It was resolved to make a grant of £400 towards the cost of an excursion to see the CBeebies at the Arena.

**Robin of Pegswood**

Members had expressed support for the project at an early stage and had understood that it was to be funded entirely from public subscription with no funding expected from the Parish Council.

It was resolved to advise Welbeck Estates to contact ENRGI, the Coalfield Trust and UK Coal for donations.

At this point Councillor Rev. Park made his apology and left the meeting.

**180 HANDYMAN – DUTIES AND COSTINGS**

The Chairman apologised for not having prepared a report on this subject.

The Clerk said that £6,000 could be drawn from other budgets and suggested that an additional £1,000 could be budgeted for in 2009/2010.

**1181 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2009/2010**

Members were requested to study the draft budget in detail in preparation for the December meeting.

**1182 WELFARE PARK AND CHANGING FACILITIES**

The planning application for the new changing rooms had not yet been approved. A decision needed to be made on whether or not the Parish Council should take over the management of the new facility. This would have an impact on the 2009/2010 budget. Net of income this could be some £700 to £1,000 in the first year and rising in following years as repairs and maintenance work becomes necessary.

**1183 DRAFT CMBC EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY**

Councillor Ms Stephenson had examined the draft and gave the following report:

The report was very positive and the aims of the Council to utilise empty properties to minimise housing deficits was admirable.

However, the policy intends to give the Council a great deal of power to utilise space that they feel is not being used to its full potential e.g.

“An elderly person may own a large house and may only live in several of the rooms”

“A space above a shop may lie idle”

The policy says that “It will be difficult to identify if a property is empty and, IN THE SHORT TERM, it will not form a major part of our approach.”.

Councillor Ms Stephenson felt that these properties should not be included in the policy at all. It is up to the householder or business person how they use their property and she would not like to see an elderly person being forced to share their family home just because they now live alone, or a business being forced to make part of their premises available to let when it could materially affect their working practises. i.e. noise, parking etc.

Therefore she strongly recommends that priorities 6 and 7 concerning empty homes which are not causing a nuisance should be deleted from the policy document completely.

**1184 NORTHUMBERLAND HOMEFINDER**

Councillor Ms Stephenson had completed and returned the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council

**1185 UNITARY AUTHORITY ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NORTHUMBERLAND**

Councillor Woodard said that the case for an additional 12 councillors had not been accepted. This meant that the new Authority would operate with 67 members. It was planned to make another application for an increase in numbers in the light of experience in two years time.

**1186 NORTHUMBERLAND CHARTER FOR LOCAL COUNCILS**

It was resolved that this be deferred until the next meeting when it will be discussed prior to the budget discussion.

**1187 URGENT BUSINESS**

Councillor Ms Stephenson said that it was disappointing that no scouts or cubs had been present at the Remembrance Service. This had been due to shortage of leaders. It was suggested that an appeal for new leaders should be made in the next edition of the newsletter.

**1188 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8 December 2008.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Minutes Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_