
PEGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 January 2010

Present: Councillor Simon Willcox (Chairman)
Councillor Peter Angus
Councillor Rev. John Park
Councillor Mrs Pauline Proud
Councillor Alan Sambrook (part of meeting)
Councillor Mrs Julie Stephenson (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor David Woodard
PC M Leybourne
Clerk: Peter Basnett

There being no members of the public present the meeting started at 6.45pm

1492 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Miss Rothwell. It was resolved that the apology be accepted.

1493 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Woodard declared an interest in planning matters, as a member of the County Council Planning Committee but said that he would remain in the meeting but take no part in the consideration of any planning applications under consideration.

Councillor Sambrook declared an interest in any discussions relating to Pegswood Community Project.

Councillors Sambrook and Willcox declared an interest in any discussions involving Pegswood First School.

1494 POLICE REPORT

PC Mick Leybourne delivered the report for December 2009. The current low trend continued with only two recorded crimes. These were damage to a vehicle at Whitefield Crescent where a door lock had been tampered with and a burglary at Sanders Plant Hire at Butchers Lane where a van had been stolen but was later recovered by the police.

There had been several reports of disorder involving snowballing and the parents of several youths identified were to be visited.

PC Leybourne said that he had followed up a complaint made to the Parish Council about the injudicious parking of a car and spoken to the driver concerned.

PC Leybourne promised to check on the loss of manhole covers at Butchers Lane.

Following a request from PC Leybourne to the Parish Council the Union Depot meeting room had been booked for two PACT liaison meetings to be held on 16 April 2010 and 22 September 2010 lasting from 7 to 8.00pm.

The Chairman thanked PC Leybourne for attending.

1495 ALLOTMENTS REPORT

Following the Allotments Committee meeting a meeting has been arranged with allotments tenants at the Welfare Hall on Saturday 23 January starting at 10.00am with the intention of forming a Pegswood Allotments Garden Association with the eventual aim of managing the allotments site. Letters to every tenant will be sent out this week.

The Clerk reported on a burst water pipe arising from the recent extremely cold weather. The water had been turned off and the necessary repair will be made when it thaws.

1496 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting were amended to alter the wording relating to Councillors Woodard's report on the County Council budget setting process. It was then resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record for signing by the Chairman.

1497 CLERK'S REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS

Ref		Action
1	Patton Way play area –December monthly report - no problems reported	Noted
2	Access road to allotment subway access badly potholed – awaiting reply to letter asking when the new access road will ready for use	Noted
3	NCC Service Integration & Support Officer – re Pegswood Community Park – letter re improvements to safety of lake	Received
4	Bus shelter at Hebron Avenue – replacement of damaged pane l ordered	Noted
5	Castle Morpeth Housing – environmental improvements at John Street – installation of boundary fencing – type and funding to be design finalised but funding not yet secured – copy letter sent to residents of John Street – next meeting with Dave Stilling 25 February at 11.00am	To discuss with Dave Stilling
6	Northumberland County Council – revised additional grass cutting charges – reduced from £3,911 to £2,607 (note budget provision £4.000)	Accepted
7	Pegswood Fire Station – application for extended training hours– County Planning Department seeking further information on type of training and plant to be used	Noted
8	Cost of vandalism in last 12 months – the Clerk reported that there had been six episodes involving damage to bus shelters in the last two years. Repair costs had been met by Northumberland County Council but are now the responsibility of the Parish Council.	Noted
9	Age Concern Northumberland – letter of thanks for donation	Received

10	Dog waste bin – received to be installed when weather improves	Noted
11	Pat Pierpoint – letter of thanks for gift made to her for publishing the Parish Council newsletter	Received

At this point Councillor Sambrook made his apologies and left the meeting.

1498 FINANCE

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

		£ p
0912/114	Groundwork North East – office rent £91; service charge £117.33 & room hire £69	277.33
0912/115	Azure Charitable Enterprises – parish council newsletter	292.00
0912/116	Age Concern Northumberland - donation	720.00
0912/117	B Oakley – deliver newsletter	150.00
0912/118	Azure Charitable Enterprises – village plan & executive summary	1,877.00
0912/119	P Basnett – travel £3.90; postage £1.83 & gift for newsletter editor	32.98

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

		£ p
1001/120	B Parker – bus shelters £150; Play area inspection £90 & dog bin service £94	334.00
1001/121	R Tasker – parish office cleaning	30.00
1001/122	Unity Trust Bank – quarterly service charge	30.00
1001/123	Groundwork North East – office rent £91; service charge £117.33; room hire £33	241.33
1001/124	Glasdon UK Ltd – new dog waste in (inc VAT £49.99)	335.65

Agenda item 7.3 Receipts received

	R Tasker
	B Parker
	Age Concern Northumberland

Agenda Item 7.4 Income Received

		£ p
17	Unity Trust Bank – quarterly interest	23.61

Agenda item 7.5 Cleared Balance as at 11 January 2010 - £83,420.81 to payment ref.1001/122 & income ref. 17

Agenda item 7.6 Bank Reconciliation Statement – as at 11 January 2010 – it was resolved that this be approved

Agenda item 7.7 Budgetary Control Report – as 11 January 2010 – it was resolved that this be approved.

Agenda item 7.8 **Internal Check** - December check completed by Councillor Miss Rothwell and January and February checks to be made by Councillor Rev Park and Councillor Angus

Agenda item 7.9 **Internet Banking** – it was thought that all designated members were now authorised to access the internet bank account.

1499 **PLANNING MATTERS**

There had been no applications or determinations received since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

1500 **CORRESPONDENCE**

		Action
1	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England - winter 2009 newsletter	Received
2	Northumberland County Council – Northumberland News now available on County website	Noted
3	Northumberland County Council – Draft Northumberland Landscape Assessment – Early Engagement – dividing County into 44 landscape types – it was resolved that Councillor Angus draft a report and report back.	Councillor Angus
4	Community Action Northumberland – Annual Report; latest edition of Northumberland News & request for a donation (note that £100 donated 9 February 2009). It was resolved to defer consideration of a donation until the February meeting	As detailed

1501 **MEMBERS REPORTS**

Chairman

The Chairman said that the move to a larger office in the Union Building was to go ahead on The 24 January and asked for volunteers to help move furniture and equipment across the corridor. Arrangements had been made for the transfer of the telephone and broadband

Councillor Woodard - Northumberland County Council

Councillor Woodard reported that there was to be a presentation of the Morpeth Flood Defence works on 21 January. He had arranged to meet the Environment Agency and Northumbria Water Authority to discuss drainage flooding issues. This would include discussion of the Pegswood problem.

He reported on the problems caused by ice and snow during the recent cold weather. The County Council had responded and had coped pretty well. Members considered that Pegswood had been well served with grit bins being filled and pavements gritted.

Councillor Woodard said that where the County Council could not reach agreement with parish councils on planned transfer of responsibilities, the County Council would carry out

the work and charge the cost directly to the parish council.

Ashington Leisure Centre was used by Pegswood residents but it was proving to be expensive to run and maintain. The existing funding of £150,000 was to be continued in 010/2011 when options would be considered.

Councillor Mrs Oakley

Councillor Mrs Oakley reported that the latest stage of the Play Builder grant application had been completed and a decision from Northumberland County Council was awaited.

The information received from Monster Build on a draft lay-out and costing had been used as part of the bid although it was anticipated that the eventual lay-out would be different and more natural to meet the latest Play Builder criteria.

Members congratulated Councillor Mrs Oakley on her hard work and on the tremendous effort made in taking the bid to the next stage.

1502 GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Pegswood Art Initiative

It was resolved to defer consideration of this application pending the receipt of further information.

Pegswood First School

This application was for a grant towards the provision of outdoor canopies for the reception and nursery classes. The costs ranged from £5,185 to £7,750 depending on the size of the canopies.

Members had concerns that the whole of the cost was sought whilst there did not appear to have been any funding sought from other sources.

It was resolved to ask someone from the School to attend the next meeting and explain the background to the application.

1503 PEGSWOOD VILLAGE PLAN

It was reported that there would be a meeting of the Steering on 18 January followed by the public launch at the meeting to be held at Pegswood Welfare on Monday 25 January. Invitations had been prepared and were to be distributed.

1504 HERITAGE TRAIL

Councillor Angus reported that whilst it had been intended that it would include Longhirst and Bothal, there was more than enough material from Pegswood alone. He gave examples of the history of the village. He felt that it was worth taking time to make sure of a good job. He suggested that information boards could be created at suitable spots on the trail.

1505 PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

It was agreed that it was not necessary to consider having advertisements in the newsletter as this would mean larger editions at increased cost. There was more than enough material to fill each edition.

Councillor Angus suggested the following editorial deadlines for this year's editions: 17 February; 19 May; 18 August and 17 November.

It was agreed to work towards these deadlines.

1506 WINTER GRITTING

The Chairman introduced this topic. We had been caught napping by the recent cold spell with some grit bins not being filled. He suggested that a map be made of grit bins and that Councillors adopt the bins and make sure that requests were made in good time for the bins to be filled.

He also suggested that the Parish Council make a budget for filling the grit bins and deal direct with the local contractor to make sure that the bins were regularly filled. Members spoke of the problems in neighbouring parishes where local people were taking grit from the bins for their own drives.

It was suggested that the Parish Council develops a policy with Northumberland County Council for dealing with the issues caused by severe winter weather.

1507 REDUCING SIZE OF AGENDA

Members were concerned that the last meeting had overrun past the scheduled time and some agenda items had been deferred to this meeting. The Chairman made the point that in the past few years not many meetings had overrun and that the last meeting had dealt with the budget and precept. He said that, if necessary, the budget could be the subject of a separate meeting.

It was suggested that routine items such as the Action Report and Correspondence could go through "on the nod" subject to members raising specific issues.

Considerable time was taken to consider planning applications and it was agreed to circulate applications to four members who would make comments and recommendations on the applications.

The members nominated were Councillors Ms Stephenson, Sambrook, Mrs Proud and Angus.

1509 WELFARE PARK

The latest stage of the Play Builder grant application had been covered in Councillor Mrs Oakley's report.

It was noted that work on the new pavilion had been at a standstill during the recent cold spell.

It was agreed that a Working Group be formed comprising Councillors Angus, Woodard and Mrs Oakley.

1510 URGENT BUSINESS

1. Properties at Cavendish Square

Councillor Mrs Proud commented on the run down appearance of these properties. She was told that the properties were in the Castle Morpeth Housing Association's schedule for improvements. Dave Stilling had been asked for a copy of the programme for Pegswood. This would be raise with him at the next meeting planned for 25 February 2010.

2. Robin of Pegswood

Questions were asked as to when the statue would be re-erected. It was agreed to contact Welbeck Estates for a progress report.

3. Bins not being emptied

Councillor Ms Stephenson reported on a complaint that bins at an address in Hebron Avenue had not been emptied since October and that there was rubbish lying in the back garden.

She was asked to supply details to the Clerk and Councillor Woodard for action.

4. Web Services upgrade

The Chairman reported that an application was being made for the Parish Council to have a .gov email address. The website was also to be upgraded, removing the advertisements at a small annual cost.

1511 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 8 February 2010.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Minutes Approved by: _____ Date: _____