
PEGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 April 2009

Present: Councillor Peter Angus (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Pauline Proud
Councillor Miss Mary Rothwell
Councillor Ms Julie Stephenson
Councillor Simon Willcox
Councillor David Woodard
Mr Hughie Hislop (Allotments Representative) – (part of meeting)
PC M Leybourne (part of meeting)
Dr David Francis - Secretary Northumberland Association of Local Councils (part of meeting)
Clerk: Peter Basnett

At the public session preceding the meeting a local resident complained of the nuisance arising from the public footpath adjoining his property including anti-social behaviour and underage drinking by teenagers and noise and bad language from the nearby enclosed sports court.

PC Leybourne said that the police had put on additional patrols.

The Chairman said that the complaint would be discussed at the Parish Council meeting.

1276 POLICE REPORT

PC Leybourne gave the report for March.

There had been four crimes comprising; a theft of golf clubs from an unlocked vehicle; a window broken with a stone at Front Street; range rover stolen from a car park behind the Ex-Servicemen's Club and a forged prescription at Pegswood Clinic. The last offence had been detected and a local female had Benn arrested and charged.

Due to an increase in juvenile disorder the Police and Support Officers were still patrolling the Village. Two youths had been arrested last month for threatening behaviour towards an elderly man.

Letters had been sent to parents of children suspected of anti-social behaviour in the village. The police and Castle Morpeth Housing Tenancy Enforcement Officer had visited the homes of children who have come to the notice of the police on more than one occasion and reminded parents of their tenancy agreements. The police have also visited the homes of children who do not reside in Castle Morpeth Housing accommodation.

1277 ALLOTMENTS REPORT

The Clerk reported that over £900 had been taken in allotment rents since 1 April.

Other allotment matters were referred to the next meeting of the Allotments Committee.

1288 QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL SCHEME

The Chairman welcomed David Francis to the meeting and invited him to speak.

David said that it was a national scheme with national recognition for those parish councils that achieved the set criteria. The criteria included having a qualified Clerk, meeting the electoral mandate, having more than six meetings a year, communicating with the public through a newsletter, website, having a parish plan and a statement of intent on training.

Although it was a national scheme there was a local panel that did the assessment.

David answered questions from members and it became clear that the parish council met most, if not all, of the criteria for quality parish status.

Becoming a parish council would assure the public that the parish council was effectively and properly managed.

The Chairman asked David to speak on the Northumberland Charter.

David said that the Charter was a statement of intent on the partnership between the new Northumberland County Council and the parishes.

There was a discussion on the services that local councils were expected to take responsibility for and finance through the precept (Appendix 2 of the Charter) and on those services that and activities that the County would consider devolving to local councils (Appendix 3 of the Charter).

David said that the County would assess the capability of parish councils to take on additional responsibilities.

Councillors were concerned that the parish council would eventually have to take on responsibility for the cemetery and the Welfare park playing field maintenance with this being an unwelcome direct charge on local council tax payers.

The Chairman thanked David Francis for his interesting talk. There was much food for thought.

1289 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs Oakley (hospital treatment), Councillor Rev Park (Holy Week) and Councillor Sambrook (working). It was resolved that the apologies be accepted.

1290 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1291 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 2 March 2009 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1292 CLERK'S REPORT/ACTION ITEMS

1	Flooding at Butterwell Drive – letter sent to Welbeck Estates requesting a meeting between Mr Sample, Councillor Angus, Councillor Woodard and the Clerk	To await outcome
2	Teen shelter - nearest REKK shelter at Crook – Councillor Stephenson said that she was awaiting information	To note
3	Narrow estate roads – see 5	
4	Request for dog waste bin at South View – it was resolved to erect a dog waste bin at this location.	Approved
5	Ellis Square – possible closure of footpath – request for meeting with Castle Morpeth Housing Association – As no reply had been received it was resolved to seek an urgent meeting with Tina Drury, Chief Executive of Castle Morpeth Housing Association on this and other issues.	Approved
6	B Parker – Patton Way play area inspections March 2009 – no problems	Noted
7	Mr & Mrs Hackett – £200 grant to be made to NFK	Approved
8	Community Action Northumberland – receipt and thanks for £100 donation	Noted
9	NCC email notifying of additional highway improvements – the resurfacing of the road from the rail bridge to the roundabout in the middle of the village – work to be done 30 March to 4 April – a letter drop will be done to warn everyone of the works.	Noted
10	David Auld & Co – land opposite Drythropple – requested transfer document and plan from Dickinson Dees in order to progress and advises not to claim for fencing as land being transferred at nil cost.	Advice accepted
11	Pattinson Scientific Services – analysis of allotments asbestos	Allotments Committee

1293 FINANCE

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

		£ p
0903/141	Predator Pest Control – pest control at allotments	77.50
0903/142	British Telecom – office phone (inc £7.17 VAT)	59.48

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

		£ p
0903/137	Pegswood Welfare Centre – grant towards repairing hall floor	1,200.00
0903/138	B Oakley – delivering Spring newsletter	150.00
0903/139	Ashington Sea Cadets – donation using S.137 LGA 1972	50.00
0903/140	R Tasker – office cleaning	24.00
0903/143	B Parker - play area £90; dog waste bins £78; bus shelters £120	288.00

0903/144	Groundwork Northumberland – service charge £351.98 & room hire £60	411.98
0903/145	NE Weed Control – spraying allotment weeds	80.00
0903/146	ABS Business Supplies – stationery (inc. £7.62 VAT)	58.41
0903/147	PB Basnett – postage £ £3.64 & travel £2.50	6.14
0903/148	SLCC Northumberland – Clerks training course	15.00
0903/149	Grassroots – village plan	222.00
0903/150	Unity Trust Bank – service charge by direct debit	30.00
0903/151	ABS Business Supplies – stationery (inc VAT £2.40)	18.38
0903/152	NFK (Northern Freestyle Karate) – competition expenses re Hackett Bros.	200.00
0903/153	P Angus – re asbestos analysis by Pattinson Scientific Services Ltd (inc VAT £10.50)	80.50
0903/154	Glasdon UK Ltd – dog waste bin & litter bin for Post Office (inc VAT £47.76)	366.22
	2009/2010	
0904/01	Northumberland County Council – office business rates	218.85
0904/02	Groundwork Northumberland – office rent April 2009	91.00

Agenda item 7.3 Receipts received

	R Tasker
	B Parker
	Community Action Northumberland

Agenda Item 7.4 Income Received

		£ p
	Unity Trust Bank – interest 1 January to 31 March 2009	42.38

Agenda item 7.5 Cleared Balance as at 31 March 2009 - £60,548.05

Agenda item 7.6 Bank Reconciliation Statement – as at 31 March 2009 – it was resolved that this be approved.

Agenda item 7.7 Budgetary Control Report – as at 31 March 2009 – it was resolved that this be approved

Agenda item 7.8 Internal Check – Councillor Woodard to carry out May check

Agenda item 7.9 Assets Register at 31 March 2009 – for information

Agenda item 7.10 Draft Final Accounts 2008/2009 – for information

1294 PLANNING MATTERS

Councillor Woodard said that he was now a member of the Northern Area Planning Committee and declared an interest and left the room.

CM/20090169 Arqiva Ltd – proposed installation of two dipole antennas surmounting the existing tower, 1 no. Dish antenna, one equipment cabin, one meter cabinet and a feeder gantry for BBC DAB at Arqiva Transmitting Station, Climbing Tree Farm, Pegswood

It was resolved that there is no objection to this application.

Councillor Woodard returned to the meeting

1295 CORRESPONDENCE

1	Local resident – complaint about anti-social behaviour at footpath to Brocksburn Park – It was resolved to make this an agenda item for the May meeting.	May Agenda
2	Anne-Marie Trevelyan – letter to NCC querying disparity in Town Council precepts for 2009/2010	Received
3	Castle Morpeth BC – JBA Independent Flood Review Final Report – includes mention of flooding at Pegswood	Received
	Castle Morpeth BC Monitoring Officer – details of new Northumberland County Council Monitoring Officer & supply of notification of members interests forms	Received
5	Castle Morpeth Borough Council – Ceremonial meeting 19 March 2009 to hand over civic gift to Pegswood Parish Council – small brass miner’s lamp. Resolved that for safekeeping it be retained in the Mayor’s Parlour at Morpeth	As detailed
6	Boundary Committee for England – commenced Stage 1 of the electoral review of the new unitary authority in Northumberland – any views to be submitted no later than 11 May 2009	Noted
7	Councillor Woodard re Pegswood Community Project threat of loss of funding from Northumberland County Council. After intervention funding secured for at least the first year. Councillor Woodard was congratulated on his prompt action	As detailed
8	NCJ Media – request for copy of draft minutes following Parish Council meetings – it was resolved to make the draft minutes available to the media	As detailed
9	CPRE – copy of quarterly newsletter	Received
10	Northumberland County Council – to take responsibility of Uniun depot building from 1 April 2009	Noted
11	FONDT (Federation of Northumberland Trusts) - newsletter	received
12	BDO Stoy Hayward – details 2008/2009 of external audit – audit to be advertised	As detailed
13	Request to swap allotments	Allotments Committee
14	Pattinson Scientific Services – analysis of allotments asbestos sample	Allotments Committee

1296 MEMBERS REPORTS

1. **Chairman** - nothing to report

2. Northumberland County Council – Councillor Woodard

Councillor Woodard said that the transition to the new unitary authority had gone very well with only one small hiccup when the telephone system collapsed. Council tax bills had been sent out promptly.

Councillor Woodard was congratulated on becoming the first Chairman of the new Council.

3. Other members

Councillors Mrs Proud and Miss Rothwell reported on the new councillor training day organised by the Northumberland Association of Local Councils. It had been very enlightening and helpful. They recommended that other members should take the course.

1297 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Clerk reported that although the Pegswood Ex-Servicemens' Club had requested and been given a grant application form, the completed form had not yet been returned. It was explained that the application would be in respect of the all weather sports court facility.

1298 HANDYMAN

The Clerk reported that there had been only two tenders received, one of which did not cover the full specification.

It was resolved that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk meet on Friday 17 April to review and, if possible, to simplify the specification with a view to retendering.

There being insufficient time to complete the business of the meeting it was resolved to defer the outstanding business until the next meeting of the parish council.

1299 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Annual Assembly – Monday, 20 April 2009 - Councillor Miss Rothwell and Councillor Willcox apologised for not being able to attend this meeting

Annual meeting of the Parish Council – Monday, 11 May 2009

Allotments Committee – Wednesday, 20 May 2009

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Minutes Approved by: _____

Date: _____