

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

**Draft Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING, held in meeting room 1, The Spetchells Centre at
7:00 pm on Wednesday 31st October 2018**

PRESENT

Cllr Tracy Gilmore (Chair), Cllr Gerry Price, Cllr Andy Gill, Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Chris Cuthbert, Cllr Jennifer McGee, Cllr Brenda Grey, Cllr Carol Stephenson, Cllr Glenn Simpson, Cllr Duncan Couchman

1819/099 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Holly Kelleher, Cllr Bryan Futers, Cllr Ignasious Varghese, Cllr Russ Greig

1819/100 Declarations of Interest None**1819/101 DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting, held on 26th September 2018**

It was **AGREED** to **RECEIVE** the minutes as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Glenn Simpson Seconded: Cllr Gerry Price

1819/102 Matters Arising**1819/089 County Cllr Reports**

Response received by County Cllr Gordon Stewart in relation to Council Tax Support Consultation.

“A lot of careful thought and legal advice has gone into preparing this consultation based on best practise elsewhere. The council has to tread a fine line between making the consultation easy to understand and being comprehensive enough to get the substantive points across. It’s not possible to change it now. If residents have issues then it may be that our customer service centres would be willing to assist in completing the form.”

1819/092 PCP/PTC Liaison Meeting

A second meeting is scheduled to be held on 8th November at 4:00pm. Cllrs Russ Greig, Angie Scott, Andy Gill and Gill Price attended previously and Cllr Tracy Gilmore gave apologies. Cllr Brenda Grey has been invited as town council representative on PCP.

1819/093 Committee Structure

An extraordinary meeting was held on 24th October, the agreements of which are included as an agenda item.

1819/094 Local Transport Plan Priorities

These were sent as agreed.

1819/095 Revised Speed Reduction Scheme

The agreed response was sent to NCC.

1819/096 Local Democracy Week

Cllrs Jennifer McGee and Holly Kelleher attended. The questions raised were:

- What is your opinion on leaving the EU?
- Do you agree with turning maintained schools into academies?
- How long have we had a council?
- How do you become part of the council?
- Did you always want to be a councillor?
- Why do we have both a county council and parish councils?
- What responsibility do you have for recycling?
- How has the council changed since you became a councillor?

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING, held in meeting room 1, The Spetchells Centre at 7:00 pm on Wednesday 31st October 2018

- What else are you doing for the environment in addition to recycling?
- What are your views on changing schools from three to two tiers?
- If the council had more funding available to it, what would you spend it on?

Cllr Jennifer McGee said the meeting was very good.

1819/103 DRAFT Report of the Planning, Contract and Works (PCW) Committee Meeting, held on 10th October 2018

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE** the draft report for information; this will be received as a true record by the PCW's Committee on 14th November 2018

1819/104 DRAFT Report of the Extraordinary Meeting, held on 24th October 2018

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE** the minutes as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee Seconded: Cllr Chris Cuthbert

1819/105 Matters Arising

Cllr Jennifer McGee proposed that Cllr Glenn Simpson join the Cemetery and War Memorial Committee. **It was AGREED.**

1819/106 County Councillor Reports

County Cllr Anne Dale gave the following report:

- A very good democracy week event at Ovingham Middle School.
- Failed hedging at Leah Gardens, which is part of a 106 agreement, is being re-done.
- Thank you for sorting the defibrillator which Mickley Social Club will arrange to have installed.
- The bus shelter on the north side will be moved across once the base has been installed.
- The planning application for 'holiday lets' at the previous site of Mickley Golf Range brings with it more issues than presented in the planning application; ecology, drainage and it being a site of scientific interest.
- On-going issues with gullies, parking and school transport.

County Cllr Ken Stow gave the following report:

- On-going issues with dog fouling and parking issues.
- Lighting from Western Avenue to Maple Grove is finally complete.
- The Bus Shelter at Eltringham is in place following the joint scheme with the town council.
- Improved signage at Beaumont Terrace has been installed so this will hopefully alleviate the issues with lorries.
- Tree complaints on Western Avenue are the responsibility of Shenstone Housing not NCC, although Shenstone continue to deny ownership and responsibility. In some cases, residents are paying for work to be carried out.
- Both he and County Cllr Gordon Stewart have pledged money from Capital Small Schemes Funding for the much-needed pedestrian crossing on South Road.
- In conjunction with Essity, the Land of Oak and Iron and Prudhoe in Bloom, the badger has been refurbished.

County Cllr Gordon Stewart gave the following report:

- Hillcrest has similar issues as described by County Cllr Ken Stow with trees.
- Great take-up in the town with the dementia-friendly scheme.

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING, held in meeting room 1, The Spetchells Centre at 7:00 pm on Wednesday 31st October 2018

- The Community Centre at West Wylam has a planning application for change of use to a Dementia Day Centre; great news for residents needing this type of service, for jobs and for business.
- Work has begun on Eastwood Park Cricket Pavilion; Capital Small Schemes funding of £10k helped achieve this.
- Friends of Eastwood Park (FOEP) won the bid for the bowls pavilion at Eastwood Park.
- The contract has been signed for the Riverside Café.
- On a walk-about with the Neighbourhood Policing Team on Saturday night it was noted that there were many using the night-time facilities but no disorder.

In response to a question about the running of the Dementia Day Care Centre, County Cllr Gordon Stewart confirmed that this was a professional company.

In response to a question about a parked car on the grass verge at Low Prudhoe/Regents Drive, County Cllr Ken Stow agreed to look into the matter.

1819/107 Accounts**a) Monthly Bank Reconciliations**

It was AGREED to receive statements 8th September 2018 – 9th October 2018

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee Seconded: Cllr Glenn Simpson

b) Statement of Expenditure

It was AGREED to receive statement 1st April 2018 – 25th October 2018

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee Seconded: Cllr Glenn Simpson

Following a question, the RFO confirmed that there were no additional professional expenses expected in the current financial year.

When asked about the increase in spending on mileage, the RFO confirmed that this was due to travel for training and that in future years with more emphasis on training and development, the council should look also increasing the mileage budget.

c) Accounts Payable

It was AGREED to endorse those accounts paid since the September meeting and authorise those account to be paid that were tabled.

Proposed: Cllr Glenn Simpson Seconded: Cllr Chris Cuthbert

Following a question, the RFO confirmed that the cemetery invoice listed was for NCC services in relation to the cemetery SLA and that this was slightly more than half due to a processing error; the 2nd half invoice would be reduced accordingly.

1819/108 Churches Together

It was AGREED that the funding request from Churches Together for a school activity entitled 'The Christmas Journey' should not be considered under the Grant Aid scheme or 'Youth Service Provision' and that any funds should be made from the Chair's Allowance at the discretion of Cllr Tracy Gilmore, as chair.

Proposed: Cllr Bryan Futers Seconded: Cllr Andy Gill

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING, held in meeting room 1, The Spetchells Centre at 7:00 pm on Wednesday 31st October 2018

1819/109 Summer Funding '42 Days of Summer'

It was **AGREED** to receive the clerk's report on feedback received on summer activities for young people.

1819/110 The need for a 'Prudhoe Youth Initiative'

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE** the notes of a meeting hosted by Prudhoe Community Partnership on 10th October regarding the need for a 'Prudhoe Youth Initiative'.

Mr George Hepburn described that there was interest in operating a charity-based youth initiative as a way of bringing more funding into the town, to run alongside and supplement that offered at The East, by West Northumberland Youth Service (NCC). Since the meeting seven people have expressed interest in the knowledge that this would require a monthly commitment for the next 3-5 years.

It is expected that the initiative would operate under Prudhoe Community Partnership at first, running local activities and events and would then apply for lottery funding to employ a full-time Youth Co-ordinator. In order to set up the charity, the initiative would have to operate in the town first and the town council's funding of a detached youth service would be a great opportunity; expecting to be in a position to put this out by Easter. In the long term the initiative would be separate from both Prudhoe Town Council and Prudhoe Community Partnership, but there could be trustees from both.

The issues surrounding a Prudhoe Youth Initiative were discussed in detail and **it was AGREED** that the decision on the next agenda item would be held over until the New Year in order to allow the initiative the opportunity to take this forward.

1819/111 Detached Youth Service

It was **AGREED** that the proposal to seek expressions of interest in providing detached youth work sessions 'out in the town' on a Friday and Saturday evening would be held over to allow Prudhoe Youth Initiative the opportunity to take this forward in the New Year.

Proposed: Cllr Bryan Futers Seconded: Cllr Tracy Gilmore

It was **AGREED** that the money remaining in Youth Service Provision (£8k) would be committed to this project and that further funding would be considered in January 2019.

Proposed: Cllr Brenda Grey Seconded: Cllr Glenn Simpson

1819/112 Prudhoe Town Football Club**a) Annual Inspection**

It was **AGREED** to receive a summary of the landlord's inspection carried out on 17th September 2018, and endorse the action taken as sent out with the agenda. The clerk advised that all minor matters raised had been addressed immediately.

b) Fireworks Display

It was **AGREED** to formally receive notice of the club's intention to host a community bonfire and fireworks display and to commend and support this free public event. The clerk advised that comprehensive risk assessments and planning documents had been received.

1819/113 Edgewell Cemetery

It was **AGREED** to receive the clerk's report of a resident complaint in relation to trees and boundary issues at Edgewell Cemetery west and endorse the planned action for members of the

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING, held in meeting room 1, The Spetchells Centre at 7:00 pm on Wednesday 31st October 2018

Cemetery Committee and the clerk to meet with NCC and propose a way forward. The recommendation would come back to the council.

1819/114 Grant Aid

It was **AGREED** to revise the Grant Aid process to consider requests for Grant Aid in January, following the agreement of the budget, rather than before as has been done in the past. This would allow more time for consideration by the council and give applicants more time. **It was also AGREED** that when setting the budget members would be mindful of agreeing a figure in line with the past five years to make clear the change is not an attempt to reduce the overall Grant Aid figure.

Proposed: Cllr Tracy Gilmore

Seconded: Cllr Chris Cuthbert

Cllr Andy Gill asked for the record to show he was against the proposal to agree a pot of money in advance of applications being made.

1819/115 Council Tax Support Scheme 2019/20 Consultation

It was **AGREED** to respond to the NCC Consultation on Council Tax Support 2019/20 with the following:

Prudhoe Town Council does not support the proposal which is to reduce the maximum level of support for working age applicants from 100% to 92%. This 8% reduction in council tax support will affect the poorest in our communities on the lowest income.

Although it is appreciated that economies need to be achieved, the council finds it difficult to comprehend why savings would be made at the expense of the most vulnerable financially.

The Town Council is hopeful that an alternative to this proposal can be found.

The comments were addressed directly to NCC Cabinet Members who are considering the results of the consultation on 11th December 2018.

Proposed: Cllr Jennifer McGee

Seconded: Cllr Duncan Couchman

1819/116 Reports from Outside Bodies

Reports from the East Tynedale Local Councils Forum and Essity Community Consultation meetings would be presented in November.

1819/117 Correspondence and Publications

It was **AGREED** to **RECEIVE** the following items of formal **Correspondence**:

1. Cllr Holly Kelleher – Resignation from town council.
2. VCS Assembly – West Northumberland Network Meeting, Tuesday 13th November at Hexham Abbey, Prior's Hall.
3. Martyn Johnson (on behalf of Prudhoe Methodist Church) – letter of thanks for Silent Soldier in place at Methodist Church.
4. Northumberland County Council – Parish Precept and Council Tax 2019-20 – letter detailing that the council would be grateful for precept demand by 25th January 2019. **It was AGREED** that the council's budget meeting should be held on Wednesday 23rd January 2019.
5. Walking for Health training day – to be held at Prudhoe Waterworld, 7th December 2018

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING, held in meeting room 1, The Spetchells Centre at
7:00 pm on Wednesday 31st October 2018

It was **AGREED** to **RECEIVE** the following Publications:

1. Tynedale Hospice at Home 2018 Autumn Newslink
2. Campaign to Protect Rural England Autumn Newsletter 2018
3. Rotary North East Autumn 2018

*It was **AGREED** to approve a motion, that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public be excluded for consideration of **the following item**, in accordance with Section 68 of the Council's Standing Orders:*

1819/118 Administrative Officer Vacancy

Cllr Brenda Grey advised the council that following the recruitment process that had resulted in two days of interviewing, the recommendation was to offer Pauline Cant the role of Administrative Officer.

The recommendation to appoint Pauline Cant was formally AGREED.

DRAFT