

East Tynedale Parish & Town Council Forum

Minutes of meeting held on 25th October 2018 at Newton & Bywell Community Hall

Present: Tom Martin (Chair), Charlie Roe (Horsley), Graham Curry (Corbridge), Chris Cuthbert (Mickley), Neville Gray (Ovingham), Louise Pringle (Heddon), Alison Gardner-Medwin (Heddon), Maggi Hunt (Stocksfield), David McKenzie (Riding Mill), Monica Anderton (Bywell and Secretary). Also in attendance for first part of meeting: David Hunt – NCC Neighbourhood Services (Tynedale area) and Stephen Hall – NCC Environmental Health/Dog services.

1. **Apologies:** Lisa Robinson (Albemarle), Mike Senior (Horsley) and Marguerite Perry (SLQ).
2. **Declarations of interest:** None
3. **Minutes** from meeting of 5th July 2018: Agreed as a true record
4. **Matters Arising:** None
5. **Neighbourhood Services/Dog Poo:** Steve Hall talked about the current state of dog fouling, particularly in the east Tynedale area. As shown in the accompanying sheet, the actual number of complaints has fallen as the County Council try to improve people's awareness of the problem. If complaints are received, NCC will take action, or at least, investigate – maybe using the dog mess stencils on pavements which fade after 6 months. There is zero tolerance and £100 spot fines can be imposed if a problem is seen. The enforcement side of matters is another issue as there are only a few officers for the whole county. Costs of employing an officer, between councils are also shown in the appendix. The officers have a programme going into schools and also the Green Dog walking scheme which has been adopted by a number of Councils. Members of the Forum discussed issues they had noted: an increase in problems during school holidays; A Bye – law in Stocksfield to stop dogs going onto the playing field. The Health & safety aspects are important because of the potential health risks especially to children playing games on sports fields which are also used by the public. This is a problem area.

David Hunt summarised the areas covered by Neighbourhood services and some of the recent problems because of boundary changes to their working areas and also to unusual weather patterns. In answer to some queries – gully cleaning is a Highways issue. (Bywell did some of its' own this year after checking the insurance aspects with the CC first). This year, there have been no formal complaints to David as Head of Service. Also queried was if a council can influence how money is spent in their parish: if, for example, they could have less grass cutting but more on schools. This is a political issue and the money allocated for specific tasks is tightly controlled. The importance of having a good working relationship with officers was stressed by a number of Councillors. Public loos were also mentioned but they are not a statutory function of the County Council so action is required by the local council if there are problems. (Changes in Government budget to help with this).

6. **A69 proposals:** MA summarised the proposed changes that Highways England are putting forward to take the A69 over Styford roundabout and under the Bridge End one at Hexham. The main bone of contention for Bywell is the proposed closure of the crossing between Newton and Bywell across the A69 at Shaw House. This will make travelling difficult for local commuters/businesses and the existing roads in

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Newton are totally unfit for the extra traffic that Highways England are suggesting should go through the village. The cut-off date to object formally to the proposals is 9th November. All information so far is on the Newton & Bywell site on a special page and MA would also circulate the specific objections the parish had raised – so far.

7. **Other Agenda Items:** None had been received from the members of the Forum

8. **Reports from other bodies:**

a) Tynedale LAC: – Recent meeting which was where officers were present to answer questions was poorly attended;

b) Prudhoe Community - nothing to report;

c) NALC – latest notes circulated;

d) PLWG/NCC – latest notes circulated

9. **Finance:**

a) Balance – following today's payment will be £205.88.

b) Secretary's payment for current quarter plus expenses for 2018 - £210.60 **Agreed**

c) It was agreed to circulate the letter requesting a financial subscription for the continuance of the Forum. This would be modified (MA) and the invoices would be sent out. These need amending to take account of the new bank details for those paying by BACS (MA).

10. **Chairman's report:** The Chairman would do a report for the next meeting which is the AGM. Some small changes to the constitution would be required and these would be drafted beforehand, for consideration (TM). The Secretary would provide a brief Financial statement for the AGM (MA). As a point of interest, it was noted that there were very few members of the public at most Council meetings, if any, unless there was a matter of significance such as undesirable planning applications.

11. **AOB:** a) Formal thanks noted to Bywell for hosting the meeting FOC;

b) Cllr Gray asked about tree inspections following a note in the last NALC e- News: other Councillors advised him of their policies regarding this matter.

12. **Date of next meeting (AGM)** – 17th January 2019 at 7pm at Newton & Bywell Community Hall.