

NEWBROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7th March 2018

06-03-01 **Present** Cllrs I MW Gibson (Chair), KE Bell , AR Smith, J Annan, MD Newson and HA Walton

Also Present: Clerk R Macfarlane and County Councillor RM Gibson and four members of the public.

06-03-02 **Apologies**

Cllr IS Hunter

06-03-03 **Declaration of Interest**

None

06-03-04 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of Newbrough PC which was held on 10th January 2018 were approved by the Council then signed by the Chairman.

06-03-05 **Matters Arising**

Bus Shelter

Clerk to look for a suitable indoor notice board.

06-03-06 **Public First Focus**

Two members of Newbrough Town Hall Committee put forward suggestions to amend the current planning application for the Newbrough War Memorial. They were advised that NCC are the planning authority.

The Head Teacher and Chairman of Governors of Newbrough Church of England Primary School addressed the Council They outlined Northumberland County Council's consultation on education in West Northumberland and explained the school's position.

It was RESOLVED that Newbrough Parish Council strongly objects to any proposal to close Newbrough Church of England Primary School

The Council fully supports the School's Governing Body as well as the parents, pupils and the wider community who are all keen to keep this school functioning in Newbrough.

It is an excellent school (as reflected in recent OFSTED and SIAMS inspections) with a growing reputation and an increasing number of pupils. This school is financially sound (current Government funding model) and is forecast to remain so for the foreseeable future. NCC states that there is no predicted financial deficit by 2019/20.

In addition to this the school has excellent facilities, it is a very active community school and has valuable nursery provision.

06-03-07 **Communications**

The following correspondence has been received: GNAA newsletter, CAN Newsletter, Nalc Enews, Consultation - Car Parking Studies for Alnwick, Morpeth, Hexham and Berwick, Civic Voice - War Memorials News, Northumberland Local Plan Update and 'Call for Sites', Post 16 Transport Consultation, Ray Wind Farm Community Fund and FOI Data Protection from Nalc, Northumberland County Council's consultation on education in West Northumberland

06-03-08 **Footpaths**

Tyne Rivers Trust is looking into streams "without fish that should have fish". Recent flooding, foot bridge and the damage to the weir in Crow Wood need maintenance and repair. The Trust will work anglers, land owners, NCC ROW Officer, Environment Agency to address these issues.

06-03-09 **Roads**

Mossy Bank

There seems to be a blocked gully north of the road that is causing flooding.

06-03-10 **Annual Audit and Annual Return**

External Auditors - PKF Littlejohn (PKF) are the new external auditors.

NB Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) is a Limited Assurance Review only. The Common Period for Inspection of Accounts (6-week period) must include the first 10 working days in July and will remain in force this year. It may be amended in 2019. The fees have been set by SAAA. The original hard copies of Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR are not required so all information can now be submitted via email.

06-03-11 **Finances**

Payments Approved

Expenses £22.05, OneandOne Website £23.98 and SLCC £61

03-03-12 **Review of Documents**

Financial Regulations, Risk Management, ROI and Transparency

– no suggestions or amendments.

GDPR 2016 and the Data Protection Bill.

Initially there were some indications that a pragmatic approach might be taken so that the clerk for smaller local councils could be the data protection officer. Advice since then indicates the potential for a clerk to be the data protection officer if it is compatible with the duties of the DPO and do not lead to a conflict of interest. At present there is no firm advice or guidance.

Mosel Code of Conduct Nalc's County Committee will soon circulate this model document for consideration.

06-03-13 **Reports**

Northumberland County Council

Cllr RM Gibson gave a verbal report on NCC activities.

Sportsfield Association

Cllr Walton provided the Council with an up-date report.

03-03-14 **External Auditors**

PKF Littlejohn (PKF) are the new external auditors.

NB Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) is a Limited Assurance Review only. The Common Period for Inspection of Accounts (6-week period) must include the first 10 working days in July and will remain in force this year. It may be amended in 2019. The fees have been set by SAAA. The original hard copies of Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR are not required so all information can now be submitted via email.

06-03-15 **Date and Time of Next Meeting** - 7.00 pm, 2nd May 2018

The Meeting was closed at 9.35pm.