

NEWBROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2013

Present Cllrs MD Newson (Chairman), J Annan and D Walker.

Also Present: Clerk: R Macfarlane

Apologies Cllr MW Gibson

Presentation

Laura Sole, Gary Clark and Alison Thornton-Sykes on behalf of the Northumberland National Park Authority provided an update on The Sill Project.

The Sill

The Sill is an exciting £11.2 million initiative of international importance that will create a Landscape Discovery Centre and new YHA Youth Hostel at Once Brewed in Northumberland.

Resignation The Clerk informed the Council that the Cllr Johnson had resigned. The Chairman informed the Council he would send a letter of thanks for his services.

Declaration of Interest Cllr MD Newson – Newbrough CofE First School.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Newbrough PC which was held on 19th September 2013 were approved by the Council then signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Remembrance Sunday

The Clerk has ordered a wreath to be placed on the War Memorial on 10th November. Cllr Walker and Cllr Gibson will liaise to decide who will lay the wreath at the Service.

Sidgate Lane

Isos have inspected the Mountain Ash trees down Sidgate Lane and Easter Egg Hill and some of the lower offending branches have been pruned. The Council contractor has tidied up the approaches to Lowfield.

Request for a Dispensation

Newbrough Parish Council requests the grant of a dispensation under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to enable participation in the discussion and voting on setting precepts for 2013/2014 to 2016/2017. This request is made because members are (or are closely connected with persons who are) council tax payers who will be affected by the precept set by Newbrough Parish Council. The Council considers that, without this dispensation, the number of members prohibited from participating in the business of

setting a precept would be so great as to impede the transaction of business.

Public First Focus Some members of the “Sidgate and Lowfield residents Group attended a preliminary meeting held just before the Council meeting. They will meet again to appoint officers and adopt a constitution in preparation of a public meeting to be held on 8th January in the Town Hall.

Communications

The following correspondence was related to all councillors:

NNPA Park Life, BOSS Project Evaluation Survey, New Councillor Training, Nalc Annual Report, CAN Annual Report, CAN Newsletter, Slaley PC re Mobile PO van, Light up a Life-Tynedale Hospice, Cllr P Johnston, GNAA, Core Music, Postal Survey of Housing Needs, CPRE Newsletter, NCC Members Handbook, Local Plan Core Strategy & CD, State of National Park 2012/13

- **Felling of Trees** The Clerk reported that more safety work had been carried out on the tree above the parish council seat at St Peters.
- **County Council/Parish/Town Council** The next round of joint County Council/Parish/Town Council meetings’ dates were circulated

Roads

Thornton Towers Gullies

Neighbourhood Services have repaired the gully opposite Thornton Towers and attended to drainage problems further down the road.

Information Board

Weir at Newbrough Burn – Cllr Newson explained proposal by the Tyne Rivers Trust to install an information board near the weir on Newbrough Burn. The Council gave this initiative its full support.

Footpaths

The Planning Inspectorate Public Rights of Way, Restricted Byways 1&29&36&11 (Parishes of Newbrough and Simonburn) NCC is carrying out a provisional survey of the use/abuse of BOATS and Byways.

Planning

Northumberland National Park Authority : Development Management–Variation of 12NP0099 in respect of 12NP0114 at Carrow Farm. The Council has no objections to this application.

Reports

Town Hall: No report

Newbrough and Warden Sportsfield Association: No report

Newbrough CofE First School: A written report is prepared on a bi-monthly basis and there is an active website.

Northumberland County Council

Broadband

Cllr Gibson provided a brief update on progress with the iNorthumberland Broadband programme. The Council Executive endorsed the establishment of a digital company to take forward the council's broadband and digital programme. The company went live from the 1st May and is set up within the Arch Group. The company is responsible for the delivery of all broadband related activity including the BDUK, EDRF and DEFRA related schemes, and the promotion of the digital business support as part of increasing opportunities for businesses in the digital economy. Northumberland awarded a £18.9m contract to BT in April 2013 to deliver superfast broadband (24mbps+) to 91% of premises in Northumberland (including 2,650 SMEs) and basic broadband (2mbps+) to the remaining 9%.

iNorthumberland Broadband Loans Scheme – The iNorthumberland programme has launched an innovative loan scheme and has attracted three alternative network providers, Avonline, QSAT and Briskona. The companies are offering a range of services to businesses and residents throughout Northumberland, including superfast broadband.

Finances

Bank Accounts 1st November 2013 BMM £17696.58 Community £4404.43

Payments Approved

S Davies Grass Cutting £28 and Clerk's Expenses £56.15,

Grant awards

RBL Wreath £50, Newbrough Town Hall £500, WNCAB £50, GNAA £200 (s137) and Newbrough CofE First School £500.

Community Right to Bid for Assets of Community Value

Newbrough Parish Council in line with the Community Right to Bid under the Localism Act decided to identify properties it wished to retain either in their current usage (e.g. closure of pub) or perhaps use as a village facility (i.e. school as a new village hall) if they came up for sale. Properties which should be kept within the community will be identified. The Clerk will write to Stanegate Magazine requesting that any residents with views on what properties the Council should identify as "Community Assets" should contact the Council.

Date and Time of Next Meeting – 7.00 pm, 8th January 2014

The Meeting was closed at 9.25pm.