

# NEWBROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019

06-03-01 **Present** Cllrs MW Gibson (Chair), IS Hunter, J Annan, MD Newson and HA Walton

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

### 06-03-02 **Apologies**

Cllrs AR Smith and KE Bell

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

Cllrs MW Gibson and MD Newson (Wharmley mineral extraction)

### 06-03-04 **Minutes**

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

### 06-03-05 **Matters Arising**

None

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

Seven members of the public present. Several issues raised, including the Local Plan (West Wharmley mineral extraction and wind turbines) and the excess water down the Mossey, (state of the rail track and road surface)

### 06-03-07 **Communications**

The following have been received: GNAA newsletter, CAN News, Nalc Enews, Consultation – Healthwatch Northumberland- War Memorials News, Tynedale Local Area Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

### 06-03-08 **Roads**

#### **Highway Services in Winter**

Councillors were given a copy of the NCC Booklet describing the precautionary gritting network in Northumberland, winter driving tips, general information about grit bins, snow clearance and local ploughing and gritting.

#### **Mossy Bank and Warden Crossing.**

NCC and Network Rail have commissioned surveys investigating and establishing the current drainage systems and these will inform future works. This has been a collaboration of four land owners and the possible outcome is likely to be a new system.

Added to this, Network rail have plans to renew the crossing sometime next year.

However it is likely that the crossing will be closed overnight on 11<sup>th</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> August.

### 06-03-09 **Footpaths**

Some concern over ivy growing up street lights and restricting vision. Clerk to liaise with NCC Officer and Neighbourhood Services.

### 06-03-10 **Planning**

#### **The Publication Draft of the Northumberland Local Plan**

It was RESOLVED that the Council would respond to, a) Sand and gravel extraction at Wharmley b) The Identification of Suitable Areas for Wind Turbine Development

#### **West Wharmley Site**

Aggregate minerals site allocations selection and appraisals - Technical Paper.

Newbrough Parish Council has made representation on grounds of Soundness because it has not been prepared, Positively, Justified, Effective, Consistent with national planning policy. The Council disputes the need for aggregate minerals and the Local Plan Assessment takes insufficient account of alternative aggregate sources. These alternatives may raise cross border import issues; however, they could provide resources closer to the areas of use which is one of the aims of the Local Plan. The Council has little confidence in the Site nomination process and selection of sites. The impact on local amenity has been understated especially to the open views across the South Tyne. The Council is concerned about the adverse effect to tourism in the local area, close to the Roman Wall.

A public right of way exists on the north side of the river and directly overlooks the quarry site. The site and surroundings are rich in wild life. The probable detrimental effect on salmon behaviour and loss of spawning areas is a major concern.

#### **Wind Turbine Development**

The Council believes that the NCC approach is inconsistent with national planning policy and guidance, the County Council, is continuing its proposal to identify some 66% of the county's land area (excluding the National Park and AONB's) as 'suitable' for wind turbines up to 40 metres in height (the Angel of the North is 20 metres).

Under current national policy and guidance, no onshore wind development can be considered unless it is in an area identified as suitable for wind turbine development by a local or neighbourhood plan. Newbrough Parish Council is continuing its opposition to the County Council's approach because: (1) it fails the required tests of 'legal compliance' and 'soundness'; (2) policy REN 2 is neither 'justified', 'effective' or 'consistent with national policy'; and (3) it severely puts at risk the county's landscapes.

Government guidance stresses the importance of considering local concerns. So the Identification of Suitable Areas should be left to Neighbourhood Plans. That would not mean that Parish Councils would have to adopt such a plan but, either way, it would vest material control over wind turbine development with those most likely to be affected by it.

Although it was rumoured that the landowner no longer supported the identification of the site for sand and gravel extraction (and thus logged formally by NCC as a response to the Publication Draft Local Plan) it was still thought prudent that representations should still be submitted. The implication of this is that there is no longer a willing landowner for this proposed site, which means that the proposal would not be deliverable.

The Council appreciates and supports the work carried out by Northumberland & Newcastle Society and CPRE NE and Wharmley and Newbrough Action Group.

06-03-11 **Annual Audit and Annual Return**

PKF Littlejohn (PKF) 2018/19 AGAR

Are appointed by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) as the external auditor for the 5 financial years from 2017/18 to 2021/22.

**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.

**Publications and Website**

As required by recent legislation the Parish Council website is fully compliant with GDPR and the Transparency Code.

06-03-12 **Finances**

**Payments Approved**

Expenses £29.39, OneandOne Website £47.98 and SLCC Subscription £61

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 **Newbrough Burn**

Thanks to the involvement of anglers, landowners, volunteers, occasional funds and the umbrella rôle of Tyne Rivers Trust, Newbrough Burn continues to recover its population of salmon and sea trout. It is the envy of other tributaries of the South Tyne and a model for Tyne Rivers Trust's 'My Tyne' project throughout the catchment. The improvements made to fish access and spawning grounds have paid off and other wildlife improvements have followed. However, one mustn't be complacent as the Atlantic Salmon is declining in other northern rivers because of wider threats and climate change.

06-03-15 **Date and Time of Next Meeting** - 7.00 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

The Meeting was closed at 9.30pm.