

# NEWBROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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

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

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

Cllrs MD Newson and KE Bell

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

None

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

The Minutes of the Meeting of Newbrough PC which was held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were approved by the Council then signed by the Chairman.

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

None

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

Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae's First World War poem "In Flanders Fields" inspired the wearing of poppies and refers to the first flowers which grew wild from the earth of soldiers' graves. Remembrance poppies have been worn since 1921 to commemorate military personnel who died during war and this is promoted by the Royal British Legion.

Dave Spearman asked the question, "When should the wreathes be removed from the memorial?" As with many other practices involving war memorials, there are no rules governing when wreaths should be removed from memorials. Some people may be upset by wreaths being removed what they consider prematurely, whereas others may be concerned that wreaths have been left for too long.

It was pointed out that if wreaths are left in place for a long period of time they can begin to deteriorate which can lead to the memorial appearing as though it is not looked after and this can also cause distress. Furthermore, wreaths which are left directly on the stone for prolonged periods, particularly in wet weather, can cause staining on the stone (a listed building) from either the wreaths themselves or from any metal ties in them, which can be difficult to remove. The Town Hall Management Committee, acting for the parish council, has taken on the responsibility for keeping the memorial area clean and tidy. Indeed, the Council praised the Management Committee for doing an excellent job especially with the floral displays. So, the Council is happy that the Management Committee removes the wreathes when they consider it prudent.

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

The following have been received: GNAA newsletter, CAN News, Nalc Enews, Consultation – Healthwatch Northumberland- War Memorials News.

#### **NCC**

Tynedale Local Area Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

Public Spaces Protection Orders (Alcohol Consumption in Public) and Public Spaces Protection Orders (Dog Control)

#### **Purdah - Police and Crime Commissioner Elections**

The elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner are to be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020. This means that Purdah commences on Friday 27 March 2020.

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

#### **Stanegate**

Residents have complained to NCC about the flooding along the Stanegate between the Town Hall and the Red Lion. The kerb is lower than the road hence water gathers and runs along the front of the houses and then runs in front of the Red Lion.

Clerk to contact Dd Hunt NCC West NEAT Services.

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

- Footpaths – Definitive Map Modification Order (No3) 2019 Public Bridleway No 2 (Parish of Newbrough) (17<sup>th</sup> February 2019) Now formally adopted.
- The Council fully supported the proposed public footpath diversion at Prudhamstone House. The NCC Footpaths Officer confirmed that it would now go ahead.

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

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

➤ Application **No. 20/00072/FUL** Erection of wooden garage Newbrough Cottage. The Council has no objections to this application.

➤ Application **No. I 9/04735/LBC** Listed Building Consent: Replacement roof coverings and removal of modern partitions. Newbrough Park NE47 5AR

➤ Ref. **No: 20/00493/TREECA** Newbrough Park Newbrough Hexham Northumberland NE47 5AR Trees in a Conservation Area : T6254 - Holly (fell - proximity to listed building), T6259 - 3no Cypress (fell - proximity to terrace), 6183 - Apple (Fell to allow repair of wall), 6184 - Cherry (fell due to overcrowding), 6185 - 4no mixed conifers and 6186 - 12no mixed conifers (fell as screen of non-native trees no longer required), 6188 - Sycamore (inappropriate location), 6189 - Larch (fell as potentially causing structural damage to adj wall), 6260 - Holly (fell due to poor condition and overhanging of access), 17453 - Sycamore, Lime and Copper Beech (fell due to damage being caused to historic Haha wall), 1 - Sycamore and 2 - Apple (fell/remove as blown down), 3 - Sycamore ((inappropriate location)), 4 - Sycamore (due to proximity to gas tank and green house) and 6 - Oak (fell as tree is dead)

**NB** This application has been withdrawn.

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

**Internal Auditor** – Deb Hoare

**External Auditor** - PKF Littlejohn (PKF) 2019/20 AGAR 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.

**Certificate of Exemption** Smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure does not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 can request a Certificate of Exemption. The Council will follow this procedure and the Clerk and Chairman will complete the requisite application.

**Section 137 limit for 2020-21** The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has notified the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for parish and town councils in England for **2020-21** is £8.32 per elector. (471 electors so s137 capped at £3,918.72)

## 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, including some brief information about improvements to “C” and “U” class roads. NCC has indicated the intention of planting a number of trees equivalent to the number of households in Northumberland. Cllr Gibson has received a complaint about speeding cars.

### **Sportsfield Association**

Cllr Walton provided the Council with an up-date report. He gave the Council a copy of the annual accounts and gave an explanation of the year's activities. A copy of the Annual Statement of Accounts has been submitted to the Charity Commission.

## 03-03-14 **Climate Action Newbrough**

Cllr Newson attended the (second) meeting of Climate Action Newbrough which was held on Monday 13th January at 7.30pm in the Town Hall. (15 people present).

The meeting focused on developing practical projects in the four topic areas agreed at the first meeting: Transport, Community buildings/land, Environment - trees and carbon offsetting, Individual actions. A number of project groups were formed. Laura Waugh and Jane Veitch had attended the recent 'Voluntary Organisations Network North East' (VONNE) meeting concerning Climate Action in the Tyne and Allen Valleys. VONNE are bidding to the Lottery Fund for a 10-year programme that could broker funding for local Climate Action groups. The Northumberland County Council (NCC) Draft Climate Action Plan was discussed.

### **Climate Action Newbrough -continued**

Communications for the group were discussed. There is an email address [climateactionnf@gmail.com](mailto:climateactionnf@gmail.com), a Facebook page 'Climate Action Newbrough and Fourstones' and Neil Veitch is working on a 'Wiki' knowledge sharing platform for the exchange of knowledge and information. A regular slot has been reserved for group news in the Stanegate to be known as Green Notes.

The next open meeting will be on March 12th at 7.30pm in the Town Hall and will include a talk about woodland management and tree planting from the local Forestry Commission Woodland Officer, Ian Everard.

### **06-03-15 The Pensions Regulator**

The Council is obliged to complete a declaration of compliance with The Pensions Regulator under the Pensions Act 2008. This was initially completed 28/9/2017. As this is a triennial requirement the Council will need to check the existing details and submit a re-declaration of compliance on the third anniversary staging date, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

**06-03-16 Date and Time of Next Meeting** - 7.00 pm, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020

The Meeting was closed at 9.10pm.