

NEWBROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2nd September 2020

This meeting was held remotely (virtually), under the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. Cllr MW Gibson opened the meeting at 7.00 pm.

02-09-01 Present

Cllr MW Gibson (Chair), IS Hunter, J Annan, HA Walton, KE Bell and MD Newson also County Cllr RM Gibson, Clerk, R Macfarlane and two members of the public.

02-09-02 Apologies

Cllr AR Smith

02-09-03 Declaration of Interest

None

02-09-04 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Newbrough PC, which was held on 1st July 2020, were approved by the Council, then signed by the Chairman.

02-09-05 Matters Arising

Sidgate Play Area

The dispute over the litter bin is a matter for the County Council and Karbon to resolve.

Stanegate Flooding

The County Engineer is looking into this.

02-09-06 Public First Focus

Topics covered - Town Hall and WI building work.

02-09-07 Communications

CAN Newsletter, Nalc e-news, RVI Children's Trust, Tynedale Hospice newsletter, ADAPT news, NWSA Covid discretionary grants, Green wind Community farm benefit, Temp Traffic Regs Order Warden Crossing.

02-09-08 Planning

Northumberland Local Plan Examination

Newbrough Parish Council made representations to the Northumberland County Council Local Plan document and in particular the 'service village' idea was strongly emphasised. The Local Plan was formally submitted to the Secretary of State on 29 March 2019 and is currently the subject of an Independent Examination. The Secretary of State has appointed Susan Heywood BSc (Hons) MCD MRTPI of the Planning Inspectorate to conduct the Examination of this Plan and to establish whether it is sound and complies with all legal requirements. The Hearing is on 17th September 2020.

Planning Applications for Consultation

No.20/01107/CCM Proposal Extraction of sandstone. Location Prudhamstone Quarry Newbrough. The Council has nothing to add to original consultation submission.

No. 20/00072/FUL Newbrough Cottage NE47 5AS Application Permitted 19th June 2020.

No. 20/02192/FUL Newbrough Park NE47 5AR Some concerns from public over access onto the Stanegate Road. Council otherwise offers no objection.

No.20/02363/LBC Newbrough Bunkhouse The Council supports the application.

02-09-09 **Roads**

Local Transport Plan Programme 2020-2021

The Council is requested to identify top three priorities to include in the Northumberland County Council draft programme and the following was submitted in August -

a) 20mph Zone Sidgate Lane

NCC Response *Speed surveys to be arranged to assess if there is an issue*

b) Extend footpath on the south side of the Stanegate C227 road

NCC Response *Although dropped kerbs are being provided to provide informal crossing point between cricket club car park and school*

Repeater signs and rumble strips B6319 and Stanegate

NCC Response *This will be incorporated in School 20mph scheme*

Newbrough School - Road Safety Scheme

The County Council has submitted the new scheme for the advisory 20mph speed limit for Newbrough School including 30mph repeaters in the form of road marking roundels and rumble strips. (This has been supported by the County Councillor and Warden Parish)

The Council agreed that the following additions should be added to the scheme-

- **Speed Limits and Safety Initiatives**

Newbrough Bridge

With appropriate signage make it a priority for vehicles leaving Newbrough across Newbrough Bridge.

B6319 at St Aidans

Move the speed restriction signs further north

Residents of Newbrough and Fourstones have expressed concerns over the speed of traffic entering Fourstones from the north down past St Aidans on B6319.

Signage

The proposal of moving the Newbrough sign to a “cluttered” area closer to the school could cause other issues.

02-09-10 **Annual Audit and Annual Return**

Conclusion

The Annual Audit in accordance with Audit Commission Act of 1998 and the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (Regulations 12-16) the audit for the year ending 31st March 2020 has been completed; this was presented to the Council. The audit opinion having been given by for and on behalf of PKF Littlejohn LLP, there were no matters arising. The Annual Return (AGAR) and the PKF Littlejohn LLP Certificate was approved and accepted by the Council. The accounts have been available for inspection by local electors in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Audit and accountability Act 2014.

02-09-11 **Reports**

Sportsfield Association

An approach has been made to the Sportsfield Association and the land owners by Blue Flame Cricket Club with the view to moving their club to Newbrough. The present lease does not allow sub-letting and the owners will only lease to Parish Councils.

02-09-12 **Climate Change and Green Issues**

Climate Action Newbrough and Fourstones

The meeting held on 25th August focussed on the formalities of forming a constitution and electing appropriate officers. Relating to this the group discussed arrangements with Friends of the Earth, Bank Account, Insurance and AGM. Updates were given on various projects, including, Promote the bus, Off road cycle track, Food miles, Food waste, Community Energy, Tree planting, Library of things, Hub and Recycling

The Good Verge Guide

Councillors have received a copy of this recent publication by Plantlife UK.

NALC Green Issues

As part of Rebuilding Communities NALC has planned several online events to make communities greener. The first, in partnership with the Woodland Trust, covers how local (parish and town) councils can provide sustainable wildlife habitats, tackle climate change with woods and trees, understanding the Tree Charter and its benefits (free trees!), and how to get involved in Tree Charter Day.

The second event will focus on what local councils can do after declaring a climate emergency, climate action plans, working with principal authorities, how to ensure community assets and biodiversity are sustainable and how to rebuild sustainable green communities.

Tree Charter (Charter for Trees, Woods and People).

The Council agreed to sign up to the Tree Charter project and contribute to delivering the principles of the charter. These include, Plant for the Future, Celebrate the power of trees to inspire, Grow forests of opportunity and innovation, Protect irreplaceable trees and woods, Plan greener local landscapes, Recover health, hope and wellbeing with the help of trees, Make trees accessible to all, Combat the threats to our habitats and Strengthen our landscapes with trees

Haydon Fell Woodland

The Council welcomed the opportunity to participate in this initiative. The Climate Crisis has confirmed the need for more tree cover, but also more attention to all aspects of forest management through the crop cycle. The Council has had very constructive dialogues with developers of other local planting and felling schemes, largely driven by our precautionary attitude to off-site impacts such as scenic values and water quality, notably silt controls. It is very pleasing that the Haydon Fell operations will conform to national guidance on Forests and Water. In particular the Council welcomes the mixture of species, notably at the margins of the plantation, but also the diversity of conifer species within the productive area: a sensible precaution in view of the tree disease risks posed by climate change.

Whitebeam opposite the Red Lion

One of Whitebeam trees opposite the Red Lion, in the Conservation Area doesn't look good. CWT recommend some pruning to reduce the size of the tree and therefore reduce its needs from its roots system; this may help the tree to improve vigour in subsequent years though also may not, and the tree may well need removing at a later date. The other tree is in much better health, though as it is also large and growing in a similar environment to the stressed tree; CWT would like to undertake a crown reduction to this tree to maintain its size. This would also improve its form, as it looks quite untamed as it is. First proposal is that both trees be reduced removing about 1 to 2m from each branch, removing approx. 25% of the canopy. This could then be reviewed to see if the tree recovers next year, and if it does not then remove the tree and replant. Second proposal is to remove the unhealthy tree and undertake a crown reduction to the most westerly tree. The Council decided on the second proposal.

02-09-13 Finances

Section 137 spending limit for 2020/21

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has advised that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for parish and town councils in England for 2020/21 is £8.32.

This is the amount that results from increasing the previous year's amount of by the percentage increase in the retail index between September and September, in accordance with Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act. The electorate is 471 so the spending limit allowance for Newbrough Parish Council is £3,918.72.

Bank Accounts Deposit £15,402.11 and Current £4,749.82

Income Half precept £5000 and vat £326.57

Payments by S/O Clerk's Salary, HMRC and Meeting Room Rent

Payments Approved Nalc £127.30, b) Council Expenses £37.59, c) Grass Cutting £68, d) Oneandone Website £39.56

02-09-14 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Newbrough Parish Council will be held at 7.00 pm, on Wednesday 4th November 2020. The Meeting was closed at 8.50 pm.