

Minutes of meeting of Tarset and Greystead Parish Council held at Lanehead Village Hall on Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 7.30pm

Those Present J Morrison-Bell, (Chairman), S Walton, G Armstrong, R Ward, T Kathiravel, G Liddle

In Attendance C Miller (Clerk), J Holland (Greenhaugh school governor), A Olive (NCC), two members of the public

2018/19 Apologies for Absence
D McCracken

2018/20 Declaration of Interests
There were no Declaration of Interests.

2018/21 Minutes of the previous meeting held 17th January 2018
The minutes of the previous meeting held 17th January 2018 were accepted as a true record.

2018/22 Matters arising from the previous meeting held 17th January 2018
There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

2018/23 Meeting with A Olive of Northumberland County Council regarding tree flailing
T Kathiravel reported verge cutting had been carried out November 2017 from Redmire to Donkleywood road, with areas being hacked quite severely and debris left lying around, and it seemed some works had been unnecessary, with the possibility disease could now set in. Large bits of brush had been left lying around with parishioners having to clear the debris, and work should have been carried out more sympathetically. A Olive Highways Engineer for Western area explained the Highways inspector visits each area, and any hazards noted for pedestrians results in a works order being placed. There is only one tree gang for this part of Northumberland, and in November a tractor and flail was used. Work is scheduled for the NCC gang to revisit and prune back correctly, with workers since being educated in carrying out works correctly and informed tidying up is necessary. Anything on a Highways verge is classed as an obstruction, and would be removed. However, there are parts of the verges classed as conservation, with small notices to be placed in the relevant areas to state this. A Olive confirmed if brash is on the carriageway it would be removed by the County Council, and road signs have to be visible to all road users, a minimum verge width is required, or County Council would then become liable. In future it was asked if the Parish Council could be forewarned when hedge cutters are to attend site, and a parishioner asked if some areas of land could be passed to the Parish Council for maintenance, and it was agreed the Parish Council should write to the County Council and ask if this is a possibility. Road markings were then briefly discussed, and it was confirmed there are plans for road marking work in the Summer. Adding a road to a gritting route queried, and Western Area Highways should be contacted for any requests/issues regarding gritting routes. Parishioner commented some grit heaps are not used which results in road users being pushed into the road. A Olive confirmed such heaps are never cleared by the road sweeper which is based in larger areas such as Hexham and Haltwhistle. With the recent winter weather causing road damage, 1.3million had been awarded for pothole repairs, and areas of concern should be forwarded to A Olive.

2018/33 To discuss the future of Greenhaugh School – moved to the top of agenda
J Holland addressed the meeting. All present were aware of the consultation document, which had been addressed at National Parks and who were to object to the proposals and offer their full support. The option of a multi academy trust would take the school out of the local authority, which would then be funded from Central Government. There is capacity for 40 at the school with 28 pupils at present, with school roll depleting over the next couple of years. However in deeply rural areas, the population goes up and down, and Greenhaugh has always been a school of choice, however it had always been known this time would come, with the school's opinion it would be better off as a primary, if parents agree to leave their children there until age 11. A business plan had been produced and press release sent out, with Andy Johnson, John Riddle and Guy Opperman being invited to visit the school. There were various options available such as it being a free school, a single academy or an infant school,

however it was too small for these options, with two tier system an ongoing option, along with a multi academy trust. Everybody is being encouraged to respond to the consultation, and also to the Hadrian Learning Trust consultation. A letter had been compiled by a number of schools to request a slowing down of the process, as it seems to be at a ridiculous speed, and the Parish Council agreed to "Save Our School" posts being placed within the parish. Nominating the school as a community asset could be an option, which means if a building is put up for sale, it could then be bought by the community, and further information would be sought regarding this. County Council to make their absolute decision early July 2018. A joint school response was felt appropriate and it was agreed the Parish Council would contact neighbouring parishes, and objections would be made to the proposals.

2018/24 Public Participation

Participation had been carried out in above agenda items.

2018/25 Highway Matters

Correspondence had been received from Falstone Parish Council regarding concerns about the condition of the road between Bellingham and Kielder. The road regularly floods because of poor drainage and during the winter quite often freezes and causes a risk of skidding because of ice. The flooding and freezing contributes to deterioration of the road surface and results in potholes. The infrastructure is coming under greater pressure as tourist numbers increase. Falstone Parish Council are suggesting the various affected Parish Councils of Kielder, Falstone, Tarsset and Bellingham jointly approach the County Council, Highways Agency, Northumbrian Water and National Parks and see about improving the road side drainage infrastructure. It was resolved the PC would join in with this suggestion.

2018/26 Financial Matters

2018/26/01 The most recent financial accounts were accepted as a true record.

2018/26/02 The following invoices were authorised for payment: C Miller January, February Salary, £319.07 & Expenses £29.60 (576)

2018/26/03 Authorisation of future expenditure: Tarsset Village Hall Committee had written to ask if the Parish Council would donate towards the replacement parish council noticeboard, and it was resolved the Parish Council would cover an amount of £400.

2018/27 Correspondence received

- Kielder Water and Forest Park – confirmation of free car parking for resident's

2018/28 Planning

2018/28/01 Planning applications received:

- 18NP0012: Tarsset Hall, Construction of agricultural building for housing livestock and general storage – a sizeable structure, and in theory it is not on a flood plain. R Ward had no issue in principle, but slight concern the nearby road is an open space and the building would be imposing. J Morrison-Bell concerned it would affect the gateway view to the upper tyne valley, there is already an enormous pile of black sileage bags there, and it is on the edge of a burn which is environmentally sensitive. It was agreed to comment the area is environmentally sensitive; there would be major visual impact in the main artery of the National Park, with concern over the visual impact on the valley of a sizeable building with black sileage bags already insitu, and to ask whether a full environmental impact survey had been carried out.
- 14NP0031: Variation of Conditions 2 and 3 of planning permission 14NP0031 - Change of use from woodland and agricultural land to campsite, incorporating 3 No yurts, 2 No tipis, 1 No workshop tipi, 3 No shepherds huts, 1 No visitors and 1 No rope bridge at Wild Northumbrian, Thorneyburn Rectory, Tarsset - proximity to church and churchyard could be of concern. Parking area and bins in front of the church lead to untidiness and dog mess prevalent, and visitors walk to the pub, leaving rubbish, cans and dog muck lying, and full disclosure on how to manage the parking and rubbish bin should be requested. It was suggested the Parish Council gently remind business' of such issues. It was resolved to state the Parish Council had no objection, but does have reservations regarding the scale of the development and wish to see the extra footfall is catered for, particularly regarding rubbish.

2018/28/02 Approval of planning applications:

None received.

2018/28/03 To receive update on appeal regarding planning approval conditions stipulated Burnbank Farm, five two storey detached dwellings

To be taken off agenda.

2018/29 Reintroduction of Lynx to Kielder

Nothing to report.

2018/30 Orchard

Pruning to be carried out 23/3/18.

2018/31 Reports

J Morrison Bell had attended DMC meeting, with library planning application receiving approval. Main Authority Meeting had discussed school situation with favourable result, and were to submit a letter in support.

2018/32 Healthcare Issues

Helping Hands had been rebranded and taken over.

2018/33 To discuss the future of Greenhaugh School

Discussed earlier.

2018/34 To discuss consultation on Post 16 School Transport

County Council to introduce free transport to over 16's, with a £50 registration fee payable.

2018/35 Defibrillator

It had been reported a person in Stonehaugh had taken ill, and with no mobile signal, 999 could not be reached, the code for the defibrillator could not be acquired, and person had died. The theory is there should be mobile reception anywhere when dialing 999, defibrillators are kept locked, as it is imperative 999 is dialed to ring for an ambulance, acquire the code, and for the North East Ambulance Service to be aware the machinery has been used as pads then need replaced. J Morrison Bell to speak to company regarding mast erected at Wark which had been discussed at last PC meeting.

2018/36 To receive/discuss information relating to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

New regulations were coming into force 25/5/18 with Parish Council's having to record every piece of personal information they hold. Clerk had carried out a data audit and passed forms to each Cllr who also had to complete a form. A Data Protection Officer would need to be appointed, and it could be possible this cannot be the Clerk. However, NALC are to arrange training sessions where further information will be available.

2018/37 Urgent Business

- Parishioner had raised concerns about a dog grooming hotel which it appeared did not have planning permission. Chairman had contacted owner of property and awaiting further information.
- Community litter pick re-arranged for 21st April 2018, 10am at Holly Bush, with County Council able to collect rubbish. Risk Assessment would need completed before the event occurs. Litter to be left in Charlton.
- 48 person's had responded to the hacking back the verges petition.

2018/38 Date of Next Meeting –

The next meeting of Tarset and Greystead Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 16th May 2018 at 730pm, commenced after the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.

Chiller

The meeting closed at 9pm.