

NEWTON ON THE MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Swarland Village Hall
Wednesday 23rd November 2022

1.	Public Question Time (Max 15 minutes in total): No members of the public present.	
2.	Present: Cllr D. Francis (Chairman) Cllr S. Woolfrey, Cllr G. Anderson, Cllr C. Letts, Cllr L. Clark, Cllr K. Howard-Row, Cllr M. Whiteley, Cllr N. Mansfield, and Cllr D. Rixon. County Councillor Trevor Thorne and the Clerk were in attendance.	
3.	Apologies for absence: Cllr R. Simpson	
4.	Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: None.	
5.	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th October 2022: Agreed subject to slight amendments to 6b (roads) and 7e (Warm Hubs) and typographic errors.	
6.	<p>To consider matters arising from the Parish Council meeting held on 26th October 2022:</p> <p>a. <u>Condition of Swarland Roads</u> - Cllr Francis said that he'd been advised by Rob Murfin that Chris Mead who had been dealing with this matter no longer worked at NCC. Mr Murfin had asked for copies of correspondence which Cllr Francis has sent and he was waiting for a response. Cllr Thorne said he'd emailed Mr Murfin recently to ask for a date for a meeting to inspect the roads. Chris Mead's letter had suggested holding a referendum to check that residents were happy with the proposals. A site meeting is also needed to work out the priority for the works. Cllr Francis will chase up Mr Murfin for a response, for the holding of the referendum and for the site meeting,</p> <p>b. <u>Road markings including 'H' marking in NotM</u> – The 'H' marking had been installed but no response from Neil Snowden in NCC Highways, to queries. Residents in NotM are concerned that there will be nowhere for their visitors to park. Cllr Thorne offered to help getting a response on this and other road issues. Clerk to send Cllr Thorne details of emails sent.</p> <p>c. <u>Traffic monitoring</u> – update. See 6b above. Once information on speed monitoring had been received, the PC will ask for a meeting to discuss them.</p> <p>d. <u>Electricity supply affecting possibility of Xmas Tree in the Square, Swarland.</u> – Update. Despite NCC inspectors saying the bollard lights were beyond repair, Cllr Anderson had checked and the lights are now working including the socket for the Christmas tree lights. Clerk to contact NCC to ask if the streetlight attached to No1 The Square could be replaced, and advise about bollard lights.</p> <p>e. <u>School crossroads visibility impaired by new railings</u> – update. See 6b above.</p> <p>f. <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> – Identification of broader issues, and article for The Column. Cllr Letts had produced an email giving examples of what an NP could do and suggested putting these in a Column article also inviting residents to come up with proposals which could then be taken to NCC Planning to see if these ideas were achievable. Cllr Francis said he'd produce the item for the Column.</p> <p>g. <u>Proposal for New School in Longframlington</u> – The PC had recently obtained a copy of the report produced by NCC on this proposal and Cllr Letts asked if this could be made more widely available. Cllr Francis said he would produce an article for the Column and the report would be made available on the PC website.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Francis</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Francis</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Francis & Clerk</p>

<p>7.</p>	<p>Requested Agenda items:</p> <p>a. <u>Vyner Park update</u> - Cllr Woolfrey said that VP had held a successful bonfire night event with just over 500 people attending and making just over £2000. There had been no accidents, no complaints about fireworks although there were some comments on Facebook about noise. Cllr Woolfrey thanked everyone who had helped and will be writing an item for The Column. A children’s football team from Longhorsley has started using the MUGA and small amounts continue to be made via donations.</p> <p>b. <u>Swarland and Newton on the Moor Action on Climate (SNAC) update.</u> – Update from SNAC meeting 15th November 2022. Cllr Letts provided an update on progress on the new bus service. The additional survey results have been sent to NCC. Proposal is to have bus stops at the Jubilee Hall, and Cook & Barker and in Swarland; The Square, The School and Percy Wood. One return trip to Morpeth (bus station) , and one to Alnwick (Bus station, Infirmary and Willowburn). A proposed return fare of £3-5 seems acceptable but it will be capped at £5. Neil Easton at NCC is just waiting for confirmation of funding and it is expected that commissioning of the service will not take long. Cllr Letts said that the scheme is to be a 12 month pilot and the PC needs to push people to use it. If the scheme is successful, an additional day may be run. The tree planting in Vyner Park has had to be postponed due to wet ground conditions. A joint PC/SNAC visit to the NCC recycling site at West Sleekburn is to be arranged. Cllrs to advise Cllr Clark if they wish to attend. SNAC is considering a project shredding Christmas trees. Cllr Francis said that National Highways has been in touch about the possibility of improving bus stops on the A1 and say the request will have to come via NCC. NCC in turn require a report from the PC. This was briefly discussed, and Cllrs suggested NotM and RasherCap for accessing the X15 bus service.</p> <p>c. <u>PC Budget proposals 23/24</u> – For discussion with the view to deciding budget/precept. See Appendix A finance position attached from PC Finance Group meeting. Cllr Francis said the Finance group consisting of himself, Cllrs Clark and Rixon together with the Clerk, had met and reviewed the financial position of the PC and projected figures for the year end. The Parish Council is sitting on a healthy reserve. Cllr Francis proposed a precept request of £22,000, a reduction of £1,000 from the current year, and also that there should be £250 added for SNAC. No projects had been suggested by the public but ideas were welcomed. Next year is the Coronation and the PC could look at the repair of the planter/bench at Leamington Lane crossroads. Cllr Woolfrey offered to ask local builder to look at the repairs needed. The budget (with the added £250 for SNAC) and precept of £22,000 was agreed.</p> <p>d. <u>gov.uk email address</u> – Decision on whether the PC & Cllrs should move to this email. See report at Appendix B. Cllr Clark’s report was discussed. Cllr Francis said that there may be a formal requirement soon for PC contact points to have .gov.uk email addresses. Advantages are that the gov.uk address is a trusted brand with enhanced security. The PC was happy with the idea of moving to .gov.uk email. Cllr Clark will get details of costs and possible providers.</p> <p>e. <u>Boundary Commission Review - Thirston Parish</u> – Request from Thirston PC to support them in keeping Thirston in Berwick Constituency. There is a proposal to put Thirston/Eshott in the Hexham constituency. Cllr discussed this and agreed to support Thirston as the three parishes (including Felton) work together regarding the joint cemetery provision and there are geographical dependencies. Deadline for comments is 4th December.</p>	<p>Cllr Woolfrey</p> <p>Cllr Clark</p> <p>Cllr Francis</p>
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	<p>f. <u>Warm Hubs</u> –Cllrs Clark and Woolfrey suggested providing somewhere where residents can go for a warm welcome, social space, & cup of coffee. The question is, is there a need for such a provision? There are no set rules. The facilities could open one day/week offering what the community decides. Could link to cold weather alerts or emergency response. If just a couple of people need support they could go to Nelsons or the Cook & Barker. If 40-50 people are interested, the village halls could be opened. An item in the Column was suggested to test out public interest. Cllr Clark will put ideas on paper about what the PC is trying to set up then possibly ask The Club and Jubilee Hall if they would be involved as these premises were easier to heat.</p>	Cllr Clark
<p>10.</p>	<p>Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Thorne said that Longframlington PC has set up a sub-committee to explore the possibility of setting up a new school. A survey was carried out to look at support. 33% of the village voted and 83% were in favour of a new school. Cllr Francis said the proposals were causing extreme anxiety and stress for the school and for the parents who use Swarland school. The NCC officer report had said that a new school wasn't feasible. Cllr Thorne responded that the existing school had been intended as a temporary build and was the only timber school in Northumberland. He said he wanted a building for the future. Cllrs objected to this as the school was not built temporarily and was the same build as Swarland Village Hall in which this meeting was being conducted. Cllr Thorne said he was meeting Richard McKenzie (NCC Highways) on 8th December to look at the provision of a chicane in Leamington Lane. Other news was that the new NCC Chief Executive has been appointed and planning permission has been given for two new solar farms in Blyth and Bedlington each capable of supplying 15,000 homes. A local resident has been in touch as he has been required to pay a wayleave payment of £1000 for bringing a water supply to his home and no one else has been required to pay this. Cllr Rixon asked Cllr Thorne if he could do anything about the mud on the road opposite Quarry House in NotM. Cllr Francis said he had been in touch with the company working in the A1 resurfacing who did the damage when the road was closed off. The Clerk said she had reported the road condition to Graham Bucknall at NCC. Cllr Rixon said problems may recur as the spring in the location has been apparently blocked up.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>a. Clerk's salary for November = £410.55 Payment to HM Revenues & Customs PAYE = £82.40 Payment to Clerk = £410.55 + £36.39 expenses - £82.40 PAYE = £368.56</p> <p>b. Receipts: None.</p> <p>c. Other payments: SVH Grant for 2022/23 £2400.00 Royal British legion (3 wreaths) £90.00 Christmas Tree purchase £150.00 Cllr Anderson said that a tree for the Jubilee Hall would cost about £40.00</p> <p>d. Account balance as at 16th November 2022 £35,501.9</p>	

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	<p>Cllr Anderson requested repayment for timber, and nails in connection with the Square bus shelter roof repair, and for bulbs for the bollard lights totalling £147.93.</p> <p>The Clerk said that in response to a plea on Facebook, a tree was being donated to the Square and would it be possible for the £100 earmarked for this to be put to one side to buy decorations/lights in the 2023 sales for future use. All the above were agreed/noted.</p> <p>Re: request for new flag for The Square, Cllr Anderson has found flags, £69.54 for a printed flag or £99.54 for a better quality sewn flag £99.54. Cllrs agreed the £99.54 flag should be purchased.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Planning:</p> <p>a. Decisions made by NCC</p> <p>22/00196/FUL – Land south of Newton on the Moor. New field entrance and hard standing. The Parish Council objected to this application for a range of reasons including, no information had been provided as to the reason for the application, Highways safety, and errors on the application form. Application GRANTED 27th October 2022.</p> <p>b. Applications pending decision by NCC</p> <p>20/02884/CCMEIA - Land North Of Shiel Dykes, U3050 Swarland Junction To Stouphill Junction, Swarland, Northumberland. Phased extraction of approximately 5 million tonnes of hard rock and importation of inert material for use in restoration using overburden from site and imported inert materials over 30 year period . This application is not within the Parish but may impact on the area. The Parish Council did not object to the application subject to a range of comments. Cllrs Cutforth and Howard-Row objected to the development. As at 16.11.22 decision still awaited.</p> <p>21/04446/FUL - Construction of 7no. detached bungalows and associated road and ground works on former grazing land. Land North Of 3 Nelson Drive, Nelson Drive, Swarland, Northumberland. The PC made a detailed objection to this application on several grounds including overdevelopment of the site. As at 16.11.22 decision still awaited.</p> <p>19/01687/FUL PLANNING APPEAL Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/P2935/W/22/3299391 - Change of use of land for the siting of up to 60 static caravans, along with associated infrastructure and hard and soft landscaping. Archaeological report received 09.2.2021 and amended site location plan received 26.02.21. Land North West Of Springwood, Coast View, Swarland, Northumberland. The PC submitted further objections. As at 16.11.22 decision still awaited.</p> <p>22/02326/FUL – Construction of 5No One and a half storey dwellings. Land South 1 Coast View, Swarland Northumberland NE65 9JE. The PC objected to this app. As at 16.11.22 decision still awaited.</p> <p>22/03128/FUL - Proposed construction of 3 bedroom dormer bungalow, Land South East of 4 Studley Drive, Studley Drive, Swarland, Northumberland, NE65 9JT. The PC did not object to this application but made suggestions regarding more sympathetic perimeter planting. As at 16.11.22 decision awaited.</p>	

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	<p>22/03028/FUL - Demolish existing detached garage and construction of single storey rear and side extension. Cobblestones, 15 Newton-on-the-Moor Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9J. The PC objected to this application on the grounds that it needs a pitched roof instead of the proposed near flat roof. As at 16.11.22 decision awaited.</p> <p>22/03586/FUL Change of Use from Indoor riding arena to 2No (self/custom build) Dwellinghouses. Land South East Of The Park, Old Park Road, Swarland, Northumberland NE65 9HJ. The Parish Council objected to this application for several reasons including the fact that the proposed site is outside the newly agreed settlement boundary. As at 16.11.22 decision still awaited.</p> <p>21/02696/S106A Planning Appeal Notification – Hawkshaw, Old Swarland, Swarland, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9HU. Variation of S106 Agreement relating to planning permission A/2004/0323 dated 3rd February 2005. The PC had objected to this in 2021. No further comments have been submitted.</p> <p>c. Planning matters for Parish Council to consider</p> <p>21/04972/FUL - Tourism development comprising of 9no. timber lodges within woodland setting with associated access, hardstanding and landscaping. Garden And Rush Plantations, Newton-On-The-Moor, Northumberland. The PC did not object to the application originally made in 2021, but made several comments. This is a RECONSULTATION. Comments invited until 28th November 2022. Cllr Howard-Row and Whitely wanted it to be recorded that they objected to the amended application. Cllrs agreed that they were happy with the original application but not the amended application.</p> <p>22/04013/REM Reserved Matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for consideration of 16no detached bungalow style prefabricated dwelling houses on approved application 19/04108/OUT. Percy Wood Golf Club and Country Retreat, Coast View, Swarland. Comments invited until 1st December 2022. Cllr Francis said Jackie Stent had been in touch with NCC Planning and the time for consultation has been extended.</p> <p>22/04035/FUL Proposed replacement rear extensions and front porch, external window and door alterations.34 Park Road Swarland Northumberland NE65 9JD. Comments invited until 1st December 2022.</p> <p>22/04058/FUL Demolition of existing side extension & rear conservatory and replace with new rear extension, side extension & loft conversion.6 Douglas Crescent Swarland Northumberland NE65 9JB. Comments invited until 8th December 2022.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Complaints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leamington Lane drain and manhole outside Swarland Primary school – blockage issues referred to NCC 5.2.2020. Being taken up by NCC/OpenReach. • ‘No footpath’ sign at entrance of The Springwood knocked down Request for ‘No entry’ sign at Cherry Tree Drive due to Percy Wood visitors getting lost. - referred to NCC - 22.9.21. • Broken gritting container on Leamington Lane. Reported to NCC – Replaced 17-11-22 • Request for new Union Jack for the Square. • Damage around manholes in The Avenue, Swarland – Reported to NCC 23-11-22. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mud on road opposite Quarry House, NotM – reported to NCC 23-11-22. 	
14.	<p>Correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google analytics website user report for October. • SVH Request for continued funding from the PC in 2023/24. • NCC Northumberland Collaborative Climate Change Event – date change to 8th December 6pm to 7.30pm Headway Arts, Blyth. • NCC Update on hot composting pilot scheme and invitation to West Sleekburn Recycling Plant. • Warkworth PC – Consultation on Neighbourhood Plan until Noon 9th January 2023 	
15.	Requests for next agenda: None.	
16.	Urgent Items: None.	
17.	Dates of Next Meetings: No meeting in December, 25/1/23 JH, 22/2/23 SVH.	

Meeting finished: 21:15