

# NEWTON ON THE MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

**DRAFT 2** Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Swarland Village Hall.  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

1.	<b>Public Question Time (Max 15 minutes in total):</b> None.	
2.	<b>Present:</b> Cllr D. Francis (Chairman), Cllr L. Clark, Cllr K. Howard-Row, Cllr D. Rixon, Cllr N. Mansfield, Cllr R. Simpson, Cllr M. Whiteley and Cllr S. Woolfrey. County Cllr Trevor Thorne. The Clerk was in attendance.	
3.	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Cllrs C.Letts, and G. Anderson.	
4.	<b>Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:</b> Cllr Simpson declared an interest in item 7f – appointment of new VPC Secretary.	
5.	<b>Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 24th May 2023:</b> Agreed.	
6.	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 24th May 2023:</b></p> <p>a. <u>New Parish Council Website</u> – Cllr Clark said the new website had been live since 1st June with an auto redirect from the old site. The site has a number of new features eg people can comment on news items. There is local information about community events, a gallery of local photos and the new logo. In the next issue of The Column, we’ll encourage readers to have a look at the new site, and also tell us about events we can put on the calendar. After this the PC can start looking at the usage statistics. Next step is to change the Clerks email address to a generic email address, and then over the next month, the website will be handed over to the Clerk to administer. Cllr Francis asked how photos could be uploaded to the Gallery, Cllr Clark said, send to the Clerk to do this.</p> <p>b. <u>Road Issues</u> – Results of speed monitoring and advice on traffic calming measures to be introduced (if any). Cllr Whiteley has circulated the data from the surveys. The speeds found are lower than the PC had thought. The speed monitoring in NotM had been done in the wrong place. Near the Jubilee Hall by the telegraph pole is the preferred location. NCC advised that further traffic calming measures were not needed on Leamington Lane or The Avenue. Monitoring data to be made available to residents if they ask for it.</p> <p><b>19:13 – At this point Cllr Mansfield joined the meeting.</b> Cllr Whiteley to draft news item. The £5000 earmarked by Cllr Thorne for traffic calming is therefore no longer needed. Cllr Thorne said the £5000 was still there for Swarland.</p> <p>c. <u>Condition of Swarland Roads</u> – update on invitation to NCC’s David Laux to attend future PC meeting. A further holding response has been received from Rob Murfin. Clerk to contact Rob Murfin to see if there is a likely timescale as the PC want to report on this in the August Column.</p> <p>d. <u>Installation of defibrillator in Studley Drive/Low Wood area</u> – The Clerk reported this is progressing. Waiting for response on installation from NCC. Clerk to email owners of fence for formal permission to install the defibrillator.</p> <p>e. <u>Missing road direction sign, NotM</u> – Still waiting for installation date.</p> <p>f. <u>Material dumped around Harrisons site and Bari Bar</u> – Site conditions have been circulated but don’t help with tidying of the site. Similarly, concern was raised about the site north of 3 Nelsons Drove (21/04446/FUL) where rubbish had been cleared but just left in plies. Cllr Thorne said he would raise this with Liz O’Brien in Planning Enforcement.</p> <p>g. <u>Complaint about road edges in Old Swarland</u> – There has not been any progress on this. Cllr Thorne said he would raise it with NCC.</p> <p>h. <u>Approach to applicant for 21/04972/FUL Timber lodges to consider footpath</u></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Whiteley</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Thorne</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Thorne</p>

**NEWTON ON THE MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

	<p><u>installation</u> – An email has been sent to the applicant but no response as yet.</p> <p>i. <u>Storm Arwen Recovery Plan</u> – Cllr Clark said feedback from 3.6.23 public meeting with Forestry England (FE) has been put on the PC website. It was a well attended meeting and opportunity was provided for questions. The contractors for carrying out the work have been appointed. There will be some pedestrian access to part of Swarland Woods while felling is being done. There was concern that the wood is not big enough to provide a sustainable squirrel habitat – can we connect via corridors to other woodland? FE have appointed a new Forester to cover Swarland Woods so we have a local contact again.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>a. <u>Vyner Park update</u> - Cllr Woolfrey provided an update. The management committee last met on 20th June. Alnwick Glazing are going to repair the broken window. A burglar alarm is to be installed which will cost about £800. The playground bark has been purchased and spread by around 20 volunteers. Repair work has started in the MUGA with replacement phenolic boards. The Cttee is working on steps to the east side of the playing field to make a safe access. Internet access has been provided foc by Alncom and a play digger purchased with a grant from the NCC Community Chest. Specialist wood and sand will be needed to install the digger in the play area. A camera survey has been done of the pavilion sewerage which needs cleaning. A quote has been obtained for electrical certification in the region of £1000. An application to LOVE Northumberland for a joint Brownie/Vyner Park bird box project received a 'Highly Commended' award and a £50 award. 1st Bonfire 2023 group meeting is to take place in July.</p> <p>b. <u>Swarland and Newton on the Moor Action on Climate (SNAC) update.</u> Cllr Clark provided an update. The talk about alternative power sources on 24th June went well with three residents presenting case studies and around 20 people attending including from other climate groups. As a follow up, SNAC could arrange an open house event so people could see the technology being used in situ. SNAC is looking at setting up an umbrella group for the area in which there seems to be a lot of interest. It would be useful for delivering projects jointly, and sharing knowledge and experience. NCC are supporting this approach. Cllr Francis is writing to NALC about inserting an item in their newsletter to see if anyone has set up similar groups as SNAC wants to contact these groups and NALC want to get an idea of what is going on. The bus service has not been put out to contract yet but SNAC/NCC are still hopeful for it to begin at the start of the school holidays. The Neighbourhood Planning group has been in touch with SNAC and Cllr Clark will attend a meeting in July. Finally, with regard to public rights of way in the area, SNAC want to get a copy of a map that can be annotated but are struggling to get this from Ordnance Survey. The matter is being progressed.</p> <p>c. <u>Swarland Village Hall bookings</u> (Cllr Woolfrey) – Currently the PC does not pay for its meetings at SVH every other month but meeting frequencies have recently increased dramatically with associated groups eg SNAC and Neighbourhood Planning. Could the burden be spread more widely (use the Jubilee Hall too) or would the PC pay? Cllr Francis said the PC Finance Group will look at this.</p> <p>d. <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> – Cllr Simpson provided an update. The group now has core members in place supported by other volunteers. A leaflet has been designed by Richard Stent which is going out in the next Column. The group has split into teams with specific areas to look at; green spaces and environment, transport, planning and history. National funding is available</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

**NEWTON ON THE MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

	<p>through 'Locality'. The Clerk asked if the group needed badges. Cllr Simpson will take this up with Donna Corbin. Cllr Francis said he had offered to go through the planning history of sites in the Parish and asked if this had been discussed at the last meeting? Cllr Simpson didn't know. Cllr Whitely said that he had to resign from the group due to the volume of work but will support it. Cllr Simpson said the workload has reduced now that micro teams are in place.</p> <p>e. <u>Local Transport Plan 2024/25</u> – To discuss and make a decision regarding NCC's request for three priorities by 28th July 2023. It was agreed to resubmit the priorities from 2022/23.</p> <p>f. <u>Changes to PC Clerk duties and consequent need to appoint new Secretary for the Vyner Park Charity and its Committees</u>. – Cllr Francis said that the Clerk had asked to stand down from VPC work. After discussion between Cllr Francis and Woolfrey, the post was advertised and Liz Simpson has applied. It was agreed that Liz be appointed and this role will be on behalf of the PC. Cllr Francis, Woolfrey and the Clerk will arrange the handover.</p> <p>g. <u>Application for National ALC Star Council Awards 2023</u> – Cllr Francis suggested that the PC make an application and offered to pull the application together. This was agreed.</p> <p>h. <u>Coffee and Chat Group Monthly sessions</u> (Cllr Clark) – Over 20 attendees, currently funded from Covid grant. The sessions have been running since October 22. Cllr Clark asked if the PC would consider funding the group when the Covid grant runs out, or facilitating further grant applications. Each attendee will be charged £2.00 a session. The Parish Council agreed a sum of £250 and also to support any additional grant applications.</p>	<p align="center">Cllr Simpson</p> <p align="center">Clerk</p> <p align="center">Clerk</p> <p align="center">Cllr Francis</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors:</b> Cllr Thorne said the refurbishment of County Hall was almost complete, with just one wing left to be refurbished. Solar panels have been installed to charge electric cars. With regard to strategic planning it has been quite quiet. The new rail line from Newcastle to Ashington is progressing with stations and car parks being built. Borderlands project funds have been spent on Lilidorei, but the aim is to get paying customers into the town centre. Projects include pedestrianizing Bailffgate, Xmas lights in Bailiffgate and possibly a retractable roof in the market place for concerts etc.</p> <p>The Old Swarland to Longframlington road is due to be resurfaced this year. Other activities Cllr Thorne is involved with are looking at the possible review of the Shilbottle ward boundary ie taking Felton out of the ward, which he is fighting. The NCC Local Area Committee was concerned about low attendance and was sending out invitations to meetings. Cllr Howard-Row asked what was being done about all the empty shops in Alnwick. Cllr Thorne agreed that this had to be addressed. Alnwick Community Trust is trying to get people back into Alnwick, and help business possibly by rate reductions for long established businesses. Needs to be an incentive for new businesses to come eg Borderlands funding.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p>a. Payment to HM Revenues &amp; Customs PAYE = £82.20 Payment to Clerk = £410.55 plus expenses £117.12 - £82.00 = £445.47 Note: This expenses claim includes £50.00 payment made by BACS for PC Logo.</p> <p>b. Other receipts and payments: Cllr Liz Clark – Coffee and Chat 19/6/23(from Covid Grant) = £57.45</p>	

**NEWTON ON THE MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

	<p><b>c.Account balance as at 21st June 2023:</b> £27,104.32</p> <p>All the above were agreed/noted. The Clerk asked if the Cllrs who were signatories could be encouraged to get on line so BACS payments could be made. Payment by cheque was becoming increasingly problematical.</p> <p><b>d.</b> Cllr Woolfrey made a request for additional funding for the Vyner Park Charity to buy materials to install timber steps and rail at east side of playing field , and also a contribution to the new intruder alarm that was to be purchased. A sum of £700 was agreed.</p> <p>Grant request from the Great North Air Ambulance Service. A grant of £100 was agreed.</p>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <p><b>a.Decisions made by NCC</b></p> <p><b>23/04101/FUL</b> – Bespoke Shepherd Hut and decking. Land Rear Of 9 Newton-on-the-Moor, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9JY. The Parish Council objected to this application citing parking issues and not being in keeping with the Conservation area. Application REFUSED.</p> <p>However a shepherds hut has been installed and this is being pursued by NCC Enforcement Ref: 23/00332/ENDEVT. Cllr Rixon expressed his concern at the work being done at the rear of No 9 with substantial posts over Jubilee Hall drainage and outside village envelope. Photo to be sent to Clerk to pass on to Planning Enforcement.</p> <p><b>23/00896/FUL</b> – Construction of detached car park/store. - 2 Old Park Road, Swarland, Northumberland, NE65 9HJ. The Parish Council had no objections. Application PERMITTED 23.5.23.</p> <p><b>23/00920/FUL</b> - Cobblestones, 15 Newton on the Moor, Morpeth, NE65 9JY – Proposed demolition of existing detached concrete panel garage and flat roofed porch and construction of single storey rear and side extension. The Parish Council did not object to an extension but did object to the proposed flat roof within a Conservation Area. Application withdrawn by applicant 25.5.23.</p> <p><b>b. Applications pending decision by NCC</b></p> <p><b>20/02884/CCMEIA</b> - 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 21.6.23 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>22/02326/FUL</b> – Construction of 5No One and a half storey dwellings. Land South Of W Coast View, Swarland Northumberland NE65 9JE. The PC objected to this application. A 21.6.23 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>21/02696/S106A – Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/P29835/Q/22/3309863</b> Planning Appeal Notification – Hawkshaw, Old Swarland, Swarland, Morpeth, Northumb NE65 9HU. Variation of S106 Agreement relating to planning Permission A/2004/0323 February 2005. The PC had objected to this in 2021. No further comments have been s</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

# NEWTON ON THE MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>As at 21.6.23 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>23/00824/FUL</b> – Proposed 5 bed new build house - Land South Of Bowling Green U3135 Swarland Village Loop Road, Swarland, Northumberland. The Parish Council objected to this application on a number of grounds including that the proposed building is too large for the site. As at 17.4.23 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>23/00949/DISCON</b>   Discharge of conditions : 5 (golf ball mitigation), 6 (light mitigation), 7 (surface water), 8 (SuDS), 9 (drainage), 10 (culvert/crate system), 11 (floor levels), 17 (Phase1 desk top study), 20 (car parking), 23 (highways), 25 (surface water), 26 (construction method statement) and 28 (flood risk) pursuant to planning approval 17/00500/OUT   Land South West Of The Old Tweed Mill Springwood Swarland Northumberland. As at 21.6.23 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>23/01344/FUL</b> - Proposed private dwelling - following outline application 20/01037/OUT dated 22.09.2022 . Land South Of Bowling Green, Swarland, Northumberland. The Parish Council did not object to this application but referred to concerns raised by residents about drainage from the site. As at 21.6.23 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>23/02032/FUL</b> - Demolish existing garage and rear porch and replace with proposed side extension and kitchen extension. Cobblestones 15 Newton-on-the-moor Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9JY. Comments invited until 4th July 2023. The Parish Council had no objections to the application and welcomed the new proposal which satisfactorily addressed the PCs concerns with previous applications. As at 21.6.23 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>23/01742/FUL</b> - Proposed development of 1no. dwelling with associated access and amenity space. Land West Of 20 Park Road Swarland Northumberland NE65 9JD. The Parish Council objected to this application mainly because the proposed site is outside the agreed settlement boundary. As at 21.6.23 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>23/01695/REM</b> – Reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for development of 14 dwellings on approved application 19/04108/OUT.Percy Wood Golf Club and Country Retreat, Coast View, Swarland, Morpeth, NE65 9JW. The Parish Council was happy with the proposed design, layout, materials and landscaping for this proposed development but asked among other matters, that safeguards be put in place to ensure the dwellings were for permanent dwellings, not holiday lets. As at 21.6.23 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>c. Planning matters for Parish Council to consider</b></p> <p><b>23/00106/FUL</b> - Proposed two-storey extension to front and side of existing building and demolition of existing outbuilding. Curry’s Cottage, Old Swarland, Swarland, Northumberland NE65 9HU. The Parish Council did not object to this application but raised a concern about potential noise nuisance from the proposed air source heat pump. This application has been resubmitted for consultation. Comments are invited until 28th June 2023.</p> <p><b>21/04028/FUL – Planning Inspectorate Ref: PP/P2935/C/23/3322246</b>          Planning Appeal Notification – Land To North Of Kiln Cottage Newton-On-The-Moor Northumberland. Appeal against an enforcement notice issued by NCC for the installation of hardcore. The PC had objected to the original retrospective application for hardstanding in November 2021. Further comments invited until 25th July 2023.</p>	
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Complaints:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leamington Lane drain and manhole outside Swarland Primary school – blockage issues referred to NCC 5.2.2020. Being taken up by NCC/OpenReach.</li> <li>• ‘No footpath’ sign at entrance of The Springwood knocked down</li> <li>• Request for ‘No entry’ sign at Cherry Tree Drive due to Percy Wood visitors getting</li> </ul>	

## NEWTON ON THE MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

	<p>lost. - referred to NCC - 22.9.21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage around manholes in The Avenue, Swarland. Reported to NCC 23.11.22</li> <li>• Surface water overflowing down Old Park Road (from woods) south of Douglas Crescent – Referred to the Forestry Commission. 7.1.22 Clerk to chase up.</li> <li>• Request for new bench beside bus stop opposite The Square, Swarland, bench to be levelled.</li> <li>• 'To Newcastle' sign outside 4 NotM had been graffitied and subsequently removed by NCC – Reported to NCC. To be replaced.</li> <li>• Bench/planter outside the school still needs attention – Cllr Woolfrey to get quote for repair.</li> <li>• There was a request from Cllrs made at the meeting for NCC to patch the potholes on the road north of NotM leading to the A1 – This has been completed.</li> <li>• Complaint via Facebook to for removal of abandoned Caravan on the A1 – Removed.</li> </ul>	
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <p>N&amp; N Society – Botanical Talk and AGM reminder 6.6.23.          Jubilee Hall Committee – Thank you for grant from the PC.          BHIB – Documents confirming renewal of PC/VPC insurance cover.          NCC Civil Contingencies – update on switch to digital phones in 2025.          Northern Powergrid - Invitation to Quarterly Regional Forum - June 28th, 10:30-12:00 Online.          Complaint from resident about alleged noise problems from Jubilee Hall 9.6.23</p>	
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Requests for next agenda:</b></p> <p>a.Replacement Cllr representative on the Neighbourhood Planning Group.</p>	
<b>14.</b>	<p><b>Urgent Items:</b></p> <p>a. <u>Swarland School</u> – Cllr Letts had provided notes before the meeting that said that the proposal for a new school is still continuing. The School Governors saw the minutes of the Longframlington PC meeting of 6.6.23 which was attended by Glen Sanderson and Rob Murfin. Cllr Sanderson said he would follow up the PC’s complaint that they had not had a reply about the use of the field for a new school, and Rob Murfin said that he understood the existing school only had a life expectancy of 15 years. Cllr Francis was concerned that Cllr Sanderson was perpetuating the idea that something is going to happen. Cllr Francis said he would ask the Swarland School Head for a copy of the latest school building condition survey and will contact Cllr Sanderson and Rob Murfin to find out what is going on, and the PC’s concern about being left out of discussions. Cllr Francis will suggest to the school that they may wish to raise the issue with the relevant Cabinet Member. Cllr Letts was asked to request that the school write to NCC (Cllr Guy Renner Thompson) and ask for a discussion with them, and tell NCC what is happening.</p> <p>b. <u>Terrorism (Protection of Premises) draft bill</u> – Cllr Rixon said that this bill known as Martyn’s Law, will introduce stronger protection against terrorism in public places but puts a lot of requirements on Village Halls and other venues for over 100 persons. Worth monitoring progress on the bill.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Francis</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Letts</p>
<b>15.</b>	<p><b>Dates of Next Meetings:</b> 26/7/23 JH,23/8/23 SVH, 27/9/23 JH.</p>	

**Meeting finished: 21:07**