NEWTON ON THE MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Nelsons, Vyner Park, Swarland Wednesday 24th January 2024

1.	Public Question Time (Max 15 minutes in total):	
_	No members of the public.	
2.	Present: Cllrs D. Francis, Cllr D. Rixon, Cllr G. Anderson, Cllr N. Mansfield, Cllr	
•	K. Howard-Row, Clir L. Clark and Clir M. Whiteley.	
3.	Apologies for absence: Cllr S. Woolfrey, and Cllr R. Simpson.	
4.	Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: None.	Olarik
5.	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 22 nd November 2023 – Agreed.	Clerk
6.	To consider matters arising from the Parish Council meeting 22nd November 2023; a. <u>Installation of defibrillator in Studley Drive/Low Wood area</u> – Cllr Whiteley said he'd identified a possible alternative lamppost Ref 42NE in Greenlea Road. He will ask the Stephen Carey Trust and NCC if this location is satisfactory. Cllr Whiteley said he had updated the resident who had originally asked for a	Cllr Whiteley
	 Writeley said the had updated the resident who had originally asked for a defibrillator. <u>b. Condition of Swarland estate roads</u> – Cllr Francis had emailed County Cllr Sanderson and Rob Murfin at NCC about the roads, and Rob Murfin had passed on this query to Neil Masson and David Laux (18.12.23) but nothing had been heard since. Cllr Francis had sent off a reminder 24.1.24. Cllr Francis has met with a local resident following an accident they had had in Kenmore Road. The resident has requested copies of emails and letters sent to NCC on this issue by the PC. The Clerk is working on this. c. <u>Repairs to stone planter outside the School</u> – The planter has been repaired but pointing is still needed and this has to be done in dry weather. The PC could review the repairs in the spring and decide whether they will suffice, or if a replacement is needed. d. <u>High fencing</u> – Cllr Whiteley has produced a draft letter which has been circulated to Clrs for comment. The proposed procedure would be that when fences on the highway were seen above 1m in height, the letter from the PC would be sent, and then if the fence was not reduced in height/removed, this would be reported to NCC Planning Enforcement. Cllr Whiteley will compile a list of offending fences. Cllr Clark said that fence specifications could be included in the Parish Neighbourhood Plan currently under development, and she suggested that NCC could be contacted to advise them that the fence problem is growing. e. <u>NALC Star Awards 2023</u> – Cllr Francis said that our Parish Council had been finalists but didn't win an award. Cllr Francis had completed a feedback questionnaire and had pointed out that it was bizarre for the organisers to expect shortlisted councils to get the public to vote for us, given the differing sizes of the finalist parishes. Our intention had been to just share good practice. f. <u>Street Light Opposite The Square</u> (Cllr Simpson) – Nothing had been heard back from NCC yet. <l< td=""><td>Cllr Whiteley</td></l<>	Cllr Whiteley

7.	Requested Agenda Items:	
	a. Parish Council Budget and Precept Request 2024/25 – For discussion and	
	decision. Appendix A attached. Cllr Clark asked for the addition of a £300	
	grant for SNAC in 2024/25.	
	Cllr Whiteley objected to the proposed grant of £7250 to the Vyner Park	
	Charity as the Charity has money in the bank. Cllr Francis said that the	
	detailed report submitted to the November PC meeting did have details of	
	planned projects which would soak up the Charity's reserves. The £7250	
	covered costs that the Parish Council would have to pay even if the Charity	
	was not in operation. Cllr Whiteley said that he thought the PC was not	
	making the most of an asset by charging a commercial rent to Nelsons. There	
	was a long discussion about this and Cllr Whiteleys concerns were noted. The	
	Clerk pointed out that approximately £1000 was coming back to the PC shortly	
	via a VAT reclaim, and that there was about £9,000 left of the PC's £10,000	
	community fund.	
	The Budget and Precept of £22,000 (which is the same as in 2023/24) were	
	agreed with the addition of the £300 grant to SNAC.	
	b. <u>Vyner Park Update</u> (Cllr Woolfrey) – No update.	
	c. Swarland and Newton on the Moor Action on Climate (SNAC) update Clir	
	Clark said that SNAC had met the previous night and plans for 2024 had been	
	fleshed out. The planned bus service for the parish had been put out to tender	
	by NCC but there had been no interest. NCC are therefore looking to negotiate	
	a different arrangement, and have asked for a further brief consultation to be	
	carried out choosing between a Tuesday & Thursday service or one on a	
	weekday and a Saturday, and revising the timetable so less time was spent in	
	Morpeth, and more in Alnwick. A Facebook survey was being sent out that day.	
	d. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Simpson had provided an update. The Household	
	survey was out with a deadline of 31 st January for residents to return it. A	
	Housing needs assessment and a design statement have been produced. Cllr	
	Francis has asked for clarification on this. There may be initiatives coming out of	
	this survey that the PC would be able to fund.	
	e. Tree removal at Percy Wood Country Park – For discussion and decision on	
	way forward. Cllr Francis said permission was granted in 2005 for the trees	
	being felled now with the aim of increasing the number of units on site to 500.	
	He will explain this in the PC's article for the February Column. Cllr Whiteley	
	asked if the PC could open discussion again with Percy Wood and Cllrs agreed	
	with this. Cllr Clark said the Neighbourhood Plan team had been in contact with	Cllr
	Percy Wood via Mick Smailes and offered to find out what the NP team had	Clark
	done.	
	f. Request for replacement bench beside bus stop, Swarland (Cllr Whiteley &	
	local resident) – This was discussed and it was agreed to purchased and fit a	
	replacement bench upto a cost of £500. Clerk to check with Swarland Village	Cllr
	Action (who own the current bench) to see if they are in agreement. Cllr	Whiteley
	Whiteley will organise purchase of bench etc.	
	g. <u>Review of the PC's standing orders</u> – For discussion and decision. Appendix	
	B attached. This was briefly discussed and the only change needed was to add	
	to section 3.11 'this means a minimum of 4 members for our Parish Council.'	Clerk.
	Clerk to amend, circulate the amended standing orders and put a copy on the	
	PC website.	
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8.	Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors: None.	
9.	Finance:	
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	a. Clerk's salary for December 2023 & January 2024= £821.10Payment to HM Revenues & Customs PAYE= £164.20Payment to Clerk = £821.10 + expenses £32.68 - £164.20=£689.58
	b. Vyner Park Secretary salary January 2024 - \pounds 70.38Payment to HM Revenues & Customs PAYEPayment to Sec = \pounds 70.38 + expenses \pounds 5.00 - PAYE14.20= \pounds 61.18
	c. Other receipts: None.
	d.Other payments:Cllr Liz Clark – Repayment for SNAC website:£74.40Information Commissioners Office – Direct Debit 28/2/24£35.00
	e . Account balance as at 19 th January 2024: £32,404.00
	All the above were noted and agreed.
10.	a.Decisions made by NCC 23/04015/FUL – Conversion of existing agricultural building to create a single dwelling with integral garage, installation of sewage treatment plant and improvements to access track. Land West of Laundry Cottages, Warkworth. Northumberland. Application GRANTED 11 th January 2024.
	 b. Applications pending decision by NCC 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 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. As at 19.1.24 decision still awaited.
	21/04028/FUL – Planning Inspectorate Ref: PP/P2935/C/23/3322246 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. As at 19.1.24 decision still awaited.
	23/03421/FUL - Erection of 2no. self/custom build dwellings. Land South East of The Park, Old Park Road, Swarland. The Parish Council objected to this application for several reasons including that the proposed dwellings are outside the agreed settlement boundary. As at 19.1.24 decision still awaited.
	23/01742/FUL - Planning Inspectorate Ref APP/P2935/W/23/3331553 Planning Appeal Notification. Proposed development of 1 No dwelling with associated access and amenity space. Land west of 20 Park Road, Swarland.NE65 9JD. Representations invited until 4 th December 2023. As at 19 th January 2024, no decision received.
	23/04089/VARYCO - Variation of conditions 2 (Samples of brick and roofing tiles), 3 (Boundary Treatment), 7 (Amended Plans) 9 (Surface Water) and 10 (Surface Water/ Drainage) on approved application A/2007/0345. Land South Of 2 Nelson Drive, Nelson Drive, Swarland, Northumberland NE65 9JR. The Parish Council did not object to the application but commented that there appeared to be annexation of the adjacent tree

 'To Newcastle' sign outside 4 NotM had been graffitied and subsequently removed by NCC - Reported to NCC. To be replaced. Tree leaning in towards school following storm - reported to NCC and felled the same day. Correspondence: Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Consultation until 29th January 2024. Christmas wishes from County Councillor Glen Sanderson Felton Cemetery - increase in PC contribution. Local resident - request for copies of correspondence with NCC about upgrading of Swarland estate roads. NCC Town and Parish Council Spring Conference 14th March, County Hall, Morpeth. Swarland & Newton on the Moor Neighbourhood Plan Report December 2023. BHIB (Parish Council Insurance) Change of name to 'Clear Councils'. 13. Requests for next agenda: a. Speed awareness signs (dependent on getting speed awareness information). b. Parking in Newton on the Moor. 14. Urgent Items: The March and the model with the part of the part of	11.	 belt outside the curtilage of the original permission, and the PC objected to the close boarded fence which is intrusive and not in keeping with the local character. As at 19th January 2024, no decision received. c. Planning matters for Parish Council to consider 23/02476/FUL – Retrospective. Erection of Shepherd hut, decking, gravel seating area and planters for use by dwellers of 9 Newton on the Moor only. Land North of 9 Newton on the Moor, Morpeth, NE65 9JY. The Parish Council objected to this application mainly on the basis of the hut being unacceptably elevated and close to a neighbour's boundary. This application has been submitted for further consultation. Comments invited until 31st January 2024. Clerk to send in response on this application. 23/04725/VARYCO - Discharge of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) on approved planning application 23/00106/FUL in order to enable design revisions by replacing top portion of dwelling with Cedral cladding Currys Cottage, Old Swarland, Swarland, NE65 9HU. Comments invited until 6th February 2024. It was noted that this was not a 'like for like' application. The proposal was for more cladding. Complaints: Learnington Lane drain and manhole outside Swarland Primary school – blockage issues referred to NCC 52.2020.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. Damage around manholes in The Avenue, Swarland. Reported to NCC 23.11.22 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. Request for rew bench beside bus stop opposite The Square, Swarland, bench to be levelled. Request for refilling grit bin Old Park Road. 	Clerk
 12. Correspondence: Acklington Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Consultation until 29th January 2024. Christmas wishes from County Councillor Glen Sanderson Felton Cemetery – increase in PC contribution. Local resident – request for copies of correspondence with NCC about upgrading of Swarland estate roads. NCC Town and Parish Council Spring Conference 14th March, County Hall, Morpeth. Swarland & Newton on the Moor Neighbourhood Plan Report December 2023. BHIB (Parish Council Insurance) Change of name to 'Clear Councils'. 13. Requests for next agenda: a. Speed awareness signs (dependent on getting speed awareness information). b. Parking in Newton on the Moor. 14. Urgent Items: 		 NCC – Reported to NCC. To be replaced. Tree leaning in towards school following storm – reported to NCC and felled the same 	
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15. Dates of Next Meetings: 28.2.24 JH, 27.3.24 SVH, 24.4.24 JH.	15.	Dates of Next Meetings: 28.2.24 JH, 27.3.24 SVH, 24.4.24 JH.	

Meeting finished: 20:45.