

# NEWTON ON THE MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Swarland Village Hall  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

1.	<b>Public Question Time (Max 15 minutes in total):</b> No members of the public.	
2.	<b>Present:</b> Cllr D. Rixon, Cllr G. Anderson, and Cllr M. Whiteley.	
3.	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Cllrs D. Francis, N. Mansfield, K. Howard-Row, S. Woolfrey, R. Simpson, and L. Clark.	
4.	<b>Chairing of meeting:</b> It was proposed by Cllr Whiteley that Cllr Rixon should chair the meeting. This was agreed unanimously.	
5.	<b>Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:</b> None.	
6.	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b> – Agreed.	
7.	<p><b>To consider matters arising from the Parish Council meeting 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023;</b></p> <p>a. <u>Installation of defibrillator in Studley Drive/Low Wood area</u> – Map of posts which would be acceptable to NCC for positioning a defibrillator, and a copy of the email from NCC offering to meet to be sent to Cllr Whiteley to take forward.</p> <p>b. <u>Condition of Swarland estate roads</u> – No update. To go to next meeting.</p> <p>c. <u>Repairs to stone planter outside the School</u> – Cllr Woolfrey was dealing with this. Waiting for builder to do repairs. Cllr Whiteley will chase this up.</p> <p>d. <u>High fencing in several locations in the Parish</u> – Several locations in Swarland have fences over 1m high fronting onto roads. Planning permission is required for such fences. Cllr Whitely suggested the pc sends an informal letter to the occupiers of properties with high fences. This was agreed, and Cllr Whiteley will draft the letter for pc to agree before sending to occupiers.</p> <p>e. <u>Aluminium Can recycling</u> – Aluminium cans put into domestic recycling bins are separated at NCC's West Sleekburn Recycling Plant. To next agenda for further discussion.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Whitely</p> <p>Cllr Whiteley</p>
8.	<p><b>Requested agenda items:</b></p> <p>a. <u>Vyner Park update</u> (Cllr Woolfrey) No update.</p> <p>b. <u>Swarland and Newton on the Moor Action on Climate (SNAC) update.</u> (Cllr Clark). Climate Change training has been offered to the PC, a minimum of 10 people are needed – it was agreed to refer this to SNAC.</p> <p>c. <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> – Cllr Rixon provided an update. There will open house sessions on 18<sup>th</sup> November (NotM) and 25<sup>th</sup> November (SVH) to explain the Neighbourhood Plan to residents and answer questions. There still seems to be confusion about the difference between the Parish Plan, and the Neighbourhood Plan the latter having legal standing. There is a need to get over to residents what the Neighbourhood Plan can and cannot do. The Group is hoping to have the first draft plan ready by March 2024.</p> <p>d. <u>Swarland School – Feasibility study by NCC</u> – The PC has been informed by Longframlington PC that a feasibility study of a new school is to be carried out. Parish Cllrs were taken aback by this information. Clerk to ask NCC for information about the feasibility study subject to discussion with Cllr Francis.</p> <p>e. <u>NALC Star Council Awards 2023</u> – Discussion about the PC's shortlisting for this award and how to take this forward. Public vote ends 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. Clerk to repost info on Facebook to encourage residents to vote, contact local radio and TV, and MP as A-M T's newsletter is due out.</p> <p>f. <u>Remembrance Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023 &amp; Armistice Day 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023</u> – Arrangements to be agreed. At NotM the names have traditionally been</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

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	<p>read out by Alan Mitchell who sadly has recently passed away. Cllr Anderson volunteered to read out the names if needed. No contact had been made with the Vicar – Cllr Rixon said he would make check up on this. Cllr Francis to lay wreaths at NotM, Swarland and Felton.</p> <p>g. <u>Purchase of Christmas Trees for the Jubilee Hall, and The Square</u> – In 2022 there were complaints about the donated tree in Swarland. The Clerk said the budget for the two trees was £150 which was probably not going to be enough. It was agreed that the budget be increased to £250. Cllr Anderson to contact Forestry England, and Xmas Tree farm to purchase trees and to keep Cllr Simpson in the loop.</p> <p>h. <u>Digital Telephones</u> – Cllr Rixon had circulated some information about digital phones. Switchover is due in this area in summer 2024 and the BBC is also planning changes in March 2024. British Telecom will provide a battery back up for people with declared health issues. NCC have an information package but Cllr Rixon said the PC needs to alert residents and help identify people who will be affected adversely. Cllr Whiteley suggested bullet points for the next Column issue, posters, and also contacting the Volunteer group in the Parish and all other available publicity methods. These were all agreed.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors:</b>          Felton Cemetery Joint Committee - Cllr Anderson attended the meeting at the end of September. The Committee is investing in a new wheelie bin store, and improving a concreted area previously used for waste by erecting a equipment store. The Cemetery railings have been repainted, and bench seating around a tree has had its seat replaced. The war memorial is being cleaned for Remembrance Sunday. The budget request for 2024/25 is approximately £2204.40 subject to checking household numbers.</p>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p>a. Clerk’s salary for October 2023 - £410.55              Payment to HM Revenues &amp; Customs PAYE = £82.00              Payment to Clerk = £410.55 + expenses £46.34- £82.00 = £374.89</p> <p>b. Vyner Park Secretary salary October/November 2023 - £140.76              Payment to HM Revenues &amp; Customs PAYE = £28.00              Payment to Sec = £140.76 + expenses £10.00 – PAYE£28 = £122.56</p> <p>c. Other receipts:          Groundwork UK (Grant for Neighbourhood Plan group) £1590.00</p> <p>d. Other payments:          Royal British Legion (3 wreaths) £90.00          Swarland Village Hall Grant 23/24 £2,400.00</p> <p>e. Account balance as at 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023: £36,623.10          All the above were agreed/noted.</p>	
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <p><b>a. Decisions made by NCC</b>  <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. Partial Consent/Refusal 28.6.23.</p>	

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	<p><b>23/02476/FUL</b> – 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. As at 19.10.23 a decision is still awaited.</p> <p><b>22/02326/FUL</b> – Construction of 5 No One and a half storey dwellings. Land South Of Woodside, 1 Coast View, Swarland Northumberland NE65 9JE. The PC objected to this application. Application WITHDRAWN 18.10.23.</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. Application GRANTED 6.10.23.</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. Application GRANTED 29.9.23.</p> <p><b>b. Applications pending decision by NCC</b>  <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 years. 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 19.10.23 decision still awaited.</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. As at 19.10.23 Decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>c. Planning matters for Parish Council to consider</b>  <b>23/03421/FUL</b> - Erection of 2no. self/custom build dwellings. Land South East of The Park, Old Park Road, Swarland. Comments invited until 9th October 2023.</p>	
<p><b>12.</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 lost. - referred to NCC - 22.9.21.</li> <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</li> </ul>	

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	<p>NCC – Reported to NCC. To be replaced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bench/planter outside the school still needs attention – Waiting for date for repair.</li> <li>• Repainting of road markings at bottom of hill by Cook and Barker, bottom of hill by Hudson's Croft and top of hill requested 3.8.23. Markings have been completed at top of hill. Orders issued by NCC for other markings to be done.</li> </ul> <p>Clerk to send email to NCC about the road markings that still need repainting.</p>	Clerk
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <p>Query from resident to check if Felton PC had been advised that NotM &amp; S PC did not object to the demolition of the bus shelter at the end of Leamington Lane.</p>	
<b>14.</b>	<p><b>Requests for next agenda:</b></p>	
<b>15.</b>	<p><b>Urgent Items:</b></p>	
<b>16.</b>	<p><b>Dates of Next Meetings:</b> 22.11.23 JH, No meeting in December. 24.1.24 SVH.</p>	

**Meeting finished: 20.20**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Following the meeting it was found the meeting had been inquorate ie a minimum of FOUR Parish Cllrs were needed to ensure decisions were valid. The Chairman, following consultation from all members has subsequently ratified the decisions, using his delegated powers.