

NEWTON ON THE MOOR & SWARLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, NotM.
Wednesday 28th February 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 L. Clark and Cllr M. Whiteley.	
3.	Apologies for absence: Cllrs S. Woolfrey, R. Simpson, K Howard-Row, and N. Mansfield.	
4.	Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: None.	
5.	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 24th January 2024 – Agreed.	Clerk
6.	<p>To consider matters arising from the Parish Council meeting 24th January 2024;</p> <p>a. <u>Installation of defibrillator in Studley Drive/Low Wood area</u> – Update from Cllr Whiteley who said he'd spoken to NCC and a site meeting is planned. He will advise the PC as soon as the defibrillator location has been agreed.</p> <p>b. <u>Condition of Swarland estate roads</u> – Cllr Francis had copied Cllrs in to recent emails to NCC but only holding replies have been received from planning & highways. Cllr Francis said if he hasn't heard back in a few days he will chase this up again and suggested asking for a timetable and confirmation that the funding for the works is secured.</p> <p>As an aside, Cllr Whiteley asked if there was a specification for the standard of repairs as these seem to vary considerably. He will pursue this with NCC.</p> <p>c. <u>High fencing</u> – (Cllr Whiteley) update. A response had been received from NCC Planning Enforcement which Cllrs were not happy with as it seemed to ignore legislation requirements and didn't mention the 'harm form assessment' obtained regarding an earlier complaint. Rob Murfin had said that more weight was to have been given to PC complaints. To take this forward, Cllr Whiteley will take photos of offending fences. Cllr Francis will write a further letter to NCC planning enforcement referring to the harm form assessment. Clerk will obtain details of NCC enforcement action on fence in Embleton Cemetery.</p> <p>d. <u>Street Light Opposite The Square</u> (Cllr Simpson) – Cllr Simpson had sent email advising that no further action had been taken by NCC. Cllr Anderson said that he had installed a solar light on the bus shelter but is not sure that is working. May just need adjustment. Cllr Anderson will check the light. Clerk to write letter to NCC street lighting re reinstatement of original light.</p> <p>e. <u>Replacement bench opposite The Square, Swarland</u> – The Clerk had obtained details of a brown recycled plastic 'Traditional Seat' bench from Marmax at £345 excluding VAT. Cllrs agreed that the purchase should go ahead.</p> <p>f. <u>Request for extension of white line opposite Jubilee Hall</u> – update. A response had been received from NCC that the white line could not be extended as NCC couldn't take action to access to private dwellings. Clerk to go back to NCC as they have already put in a white line. Cllr Anderson will go back to Jubilee Hall Cttee and ask if bollards could be put out on either end of the white line when there is an event on.</p> <p>g. <u>Tree removal at Percy Wood</u> – Cllr Clark said that the Neighbourhood Planning group were meeting with Mick Smailes shortly, and that conversations so far have been amicable and positive.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Whiteley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Francis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Whiteley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Whiteley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Anderson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p>

<p>7.</p>	<p>Requested agenda items:</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 said that confirmation had been received that the new bus service will start on 30th March. The service will provide three 16 seater buses in either direction to Morpeth/Alnwick on Saturdays. There has been confirmation of a small number of bus stops but the service will be a ‘hailed’ service if it is safe to stop. SNAC is organising publicity. SNAC has been back to NCC to say that when the retendering is done for school buses, we want our service to be part of that tender.</p> <p>SNAC have got NCC funding to resurvey the wildflower meadow in Vyner Park including training for up to 12 people. This is being finalised with the VP Cttee and will take place in June.</p> <p>Judy Fortescue at Glantlees has offered her farm as a case study to develop corridors of habitat and will be coming to the March SNAC meeting to talk about this. The new Forester is coming to the Oct/Nov meeting to talk about replanting in Swarland Woods (probably in 2026).</p> <p>SNAC is part of a project on the river Coquet between the coast and Thropton. Kits were handed out on 29th Feb. We will monitor the Hazon Burn which is the worst in terms of water quality, and there are gaps in the data. Testing will be at the beginning of the month, but if there is an event like heavy rainfall, all groups will be asked to test.</p> <p>c. <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> – 150 survey forms were returned including 26 from NotM. Basic analysis of numbers has been done, team now working on analysis of comments. Cllr Clark said that the planning sub group is meeting fortnightly and has drafted some policies on the natural environment which are usable and don’t duplicate what is in the local plan.</p> <p>d. <u>Lack of Fibre broadband in NotM</u> – Cllr Rixon said that the scheme planned by Alncom in NotM was halted. The surrounding area all has fibre. Cllr Rixon said he had been in touch with Openreach who have said they have no plans in the foreseeable future for fibre in NotM. The Jubilee Hall is very keen to get free broadband installed as Alncom did for SVH. Cllr Francis said this issue could be pursued at the NCC Town/Parish Conference. He went on to say that the Government had put a halt to the scheme that Alncom was developing and put the scheme out to tender again. ‘Go Fibre’ had been awarded the contract two years ago. The process should have been completed by now. Cllr Francis said he would give County Cllr Glen Sanderson and Iain Hedley a ‘heads up’ that a statement was needed about what is happening about the installation of fibre broadband. Clerk to contact Sylvia Pringle in the meantime to explain the problem and ask for an update.</p> <p>e. <u>Problems arising from inconsiderate parking in NotM</u> (Cllr Howard-Row). - For further discussion and decision on way forward. Cllr Francis said he thought the problem was minor occurring only when the hall was in use ie for a few hours each month. Cllr Clark suggested seeing if anything had come out of the Neighbourhood Plan survey. Cllr Whiteley said NCC’s speed monitoring in NotM is going in outside the Jubilee Hall in March. (See also 6f above).</p> <p>f. <u>Parish Litter Pick Sunday 24th March 2024</u> – (Cllr Anderson) – Meet at 10am in The Square. Cllr Anderson will issue picks, gloves, bags and hi vis jackets. He will provide a risk assessment for the Clerk. Cllr Francis said that Val Allport had been collecting litter around Swarland and thanked her for what she was doing.</p>	

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	<p>g. <u>Condition of the road at Overgrass and safety concerns</u> – From the recent email update, it appears that NCC have got repair of the potholes in hand. With regard to the installation of a safety barrier, this is an adopted road so it is NCC’s responsibility to decide if a barrier is needed. The public right of way complained about was found to be marked. Mud on the road needs to be referred to NCC. Clerk to advise resident.</p> <p>h. <u>Speed Awareness signs in NotM</u> – For discussion and decision on way forward. Please note, this item is dependent on getting speed awareness information. Speed monitoring equipment being installed by NCC March 2024.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors: None.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Finance:</p> <p>a. Clerk’s salary for February 2024 = £410.55 Payment to HM Revenues & Customs PAYE = £82.20 Payment to Clerk = £410.55 + expenses £20.00 - £82.20 = £348.35</p> <p>b. Vyner Park Secretary salary February 2024 = £70.38 Payment to HM Revenues & Customs PAYE = £14.00 Payment to Sec = £70.38 + expenses £5.00 – PAYE £14.00 = £61.38 Total cheque for HMRC6 £82.20 + £14.00 = £96.20</p> <p>c. Other receipts: Swarland Village Action for The Column = £210.00</p> <p>d. Other payments: SVH for SNAC meeting 20.2.24 from SNAC funds £15.00 NCC for Printing The Column 6 issues 4.23-2.24 £504.00 inc VAT. Northumberland & Newcastle Society subscription £35.00</p> <p>e. Account balance as at 22nd February 2024 £31,580.02 Following a query from Cllr Whiteley, all the above payments were agreed. Receipts were noted. The Clerk said that the invoices had come through from Felton PC for the cemetery, war memorial and the Column. The cost of insurance was particularly high. A meeting had been asked for to discuss the charges but no response had been received. In consequence Cllr Francis proposed withholding payment until a meeting had been held. This was agreed.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Planning:</p> <p>a. Decisions made by NCC & Planning Inspectorate 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. Appeal rejected by the Planning Inspectorate 13th February 2024, mainly to protect the original smallholding layout.</p> <p>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 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. As at 21.2.24 decision still awaited.</p>	

	<p>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 21.2.24 decision still awaited.</p> <p>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 21.2.24 decision still awaited.</p> <p>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 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 21st February 2024, no decision received.</p> <p>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. The Parish Council did not have any objections to the revised plans. As at 21st February 2024, no decision received.</p> <p>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. – Curry’s Cottage, Old Swarland, Swarland, NE65 9HU. The PC had no objections to the application. As at 21st February 2024, no decision received.</p> <p>c. Planning matters for Parish Council to consider: Informal Notification of Prior Approval application for demolition of structure on Garage site, 2 Home Farm Cottages, Swarland. Cllr Woolfrey has asked for this to go on the next agenda. Cllrs had no questions or queries at this stage, and will look at the detail when the formal plans are submitted. Clerk to advise applicant.</p>	<p align="center">Clerk</p>
<p>11.</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. • 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 refilling grit bin Old Park Road. • ‘To Newcastle’ sign outside 4 NotM had been graffitied and subsequently removed by NCC – Reported to NCC. To be replaced. • Complaint about dog mess in vicinity of the Cook and Barker NotM received 6.2.24. • Complaint from resident about road condition, and safety issues at Overgrass 10.2.24. • Water leak in front of Cook & Barker NotM, Reported to Northumbria Water 10.2.24 – NW currently undertaking repairs. 	

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<p>12.</p>	<p>Correspondence: NCC Changes to election requirements and vacancies at upcoming election. County Cllr Glen Sanderson – reminder about Town & Parish Conference 14.3.24. Keep Britain Tidy – invitation to take part in #GBSpringclean. NCC Information about working at elections and Changes to voting posters. NCC Changes to arrangements for disposing of DIY household waste.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Requests for next agenda: a. Parish Council Donations (Cllr Rixon). b. Informal Notification of Prior Approval application for demolition of structure on Garage site, 2 Home Farm Cottages, Swarland.</p>	
<p>14.</p>	<p>Urgent Items: a. Cllr Whiteley said that there were deep ruts appearing upto 10inches deep down Park Road. It is being caused by builders vans/wagons/trainers. The Clerk suggested taking photos and reporting this via NCC's 'Fix My Street'. Cllr Whiteley agreed to do this.</p>	<p align="center">Cllr Whiteley</p>
<p>15.</p>	<p>Dates of Next Meetings: 27.3.24 SVH, 24.4.24 JH, 22.5.25 SVH (Annual Meetings).</p>	

Meeting finished: 20:50.