

# Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Swarland Village Hall,  
Swarland.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025

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| 1. | <b>Questions and comments from Parish residents (Max 15 minutes in total):</b><br>A local resident said that there had been ongoing planning issues regarding a hardstanding built without planning permission to the north of her property. The hardstanding needs to be removed now the planning appeals process has been exhausted but she is being passed from officer to officer (11 emails). Would the PC be able to help get the matter resolved? Cllrs agreed that the Clerk would submit a formal complaint to NCC.  | Clerk |
| 2. | <b>Appointment of new Parish Councillors:</b> Elizabeth Simpson and Louisa Murray had applied for two of the PC vacancies. Their details and application had been previously circulated. Elizabeth Simpson had previously been employed as Secretary to the Vyner Park Charity but had resigned from this position prior to the meeting. Cllr R. Simpson declared an interest and did not vote regarding the appointment of Elizabeth Simpson but apart from this both appointments were agreed unanimously and the required documents signed.  |       |
| 3. | <b>Present:</b> Cllr M. Whiteley (Chairman), Cllr S. Woolfrey, Cllr G. Anderson, Cllr D. Rixon, Cllr E. Simpson, Cllr R. Simpson, Cllr L. Murray, Cllr N. Mansfield.  |       |
| 4. | <b>Apologies for absence:</b> Cllr D. Francis.<br>Cllr Whiteley announced that sadly, Cllr Julie Peacock had resigned, and thanked her for her work on various PC projects which now needed to be re-distributed. Cllr R. Simpson said he would take on emergency planning. Regarding the website, the Clerk said she would deal with this but would keep Cllr E. Simpson advised as she would need to be able to use the system. Cllr Whiteley welcomed both new Cllrs to the PC.  |       |
| 5. | <b>Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:</b> None.   |       |
| 6. | <b>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 –</b> Cllr Woolfrey asked for an amendment to item 6c, that this was subject to agreement from the SVH Cttee. Following this amendment the minutes were agreed.  |       |
| 7. | <b><u>Matters arising from the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 ;</u></b><br>a. <b><u>Condition of Swarland Estate Roads (update)</u></b> – Cllr Whiteley said the Cllr Francis had tried unsuccessfully to get an update from NCC. It was important to remember that even when/if adopted, the road surface probably won't be upgraded. The Clerk said she had just received a complaint from a resident about the condition of Percy Drive.<br>b. <b><u>War memorial/garden of remembrance</u></b> – Cllr R. Simpson said that a location for the garden had been agreed. Once costs have been worked out, an approach will be made to Cllr Thorne for his promised contribution. A whinstone monolith has been obtained from RBS Building Supplies (NE) Ltd free of charge, and another building company in Coast View which has offered sand, cement and help. Clerk to send a thank you letter. The Woodland Trust has donated 450 hedgerow trees. Cllr R. Simpson suggested the following dedication for the garden; ' <i>A place for reflection and to remember those that have served their country and their community</i> '. This was agreed by Cllrs. The plaque will be brass, with green paint. | Clerk |

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|    | <p>c. <u>Lease renewal Swarland Village Hall</u> – Cllr Woolfrey thought the draft lease had been produced by Warcup. The Clerk said she had been in touch with Adam Douglas and is waiting for them to get back to her. Cllr Rixon said he thought there ought to be a comeback as the original lease was not registered and gave the Clerk the details of the Solicitors Regulation Authority. Clerk to pursue once Cllr Woolfrey has checked with Donna Corbin.</p> <p>d. <u>Formal Complaints</u> – Cllr Woolfrey said that final responses had been sent to both of the complainants (with copies to Cllrs) hopefully bringing the matter to a close. The Complaints panel consisted of Cllrs Whiteley, Anderson and Peacock. No fault was found of the people complained about.</p>  | Clerk |
| 8. | <p><b>Requested agenda items:</b></p> <p>a. <u>Vyner Park Update</u> (Cllr Woolfrey) – The VPC Cttee met in July, and the next meeting is September. The Rospa inspection report has been obtained for the playground and lots of items – whilst safe – require attention. The baby swings have been temporarily removed. A sub group has been formed to look into this. Swarland Show is taking place on 30<sup>th</sup> August. Volunteer helpers welcome. Bonfire event will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr Woolfrey said he was currently leading on this but Brian Fergie will take over. Cllr R. Simpson said he daily checks the park and thought it was the best year yet for litter.</p> <p>b. <u>Swarland and Newton on the Moor Action on Climate (SNAC)</u> – The last meeting was cancelled but SNAC will have a stall at the show. SNAC is moving forward on the bus service, and giving advice on rewilding gardens. SNAC is also helping with the peace garden and has been asked to do something in front of the Jubilee Hall.</p> <p>c. <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> – Update. Decision needed for Extraordinary meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 for presentation on draft plan. The meeting was agreed</p> <p>d. <u>Vyner Park Charity</u> – Request for Parish Council to agree to go ahead on installation of solar panels. This requires the extension of the current lease between VPC and the PC. The PC agreed to extend the lease by 25 years (ie to 2056) and permission was granted for installation of the panels and associated equipment. There will be no cost to the Charity and following installation VPC will get cheaper electricity.</p> <p>e. <u>Request for pedestrian crossing leading to Swarland School</u> (Cllr R. Simpson) – the request for a pedestrian crossing across Leamington Lane east of the crossroads has come from parents and the head teacher is supportive. Request to go to NCC. It might be helpful if parents compiled a petition to support the request. Cllr Rixon said it would be worth mentioning this at the upcoming meeting with County Cllr Glen Sanderson.</p> <p>f. <u>NCC Local Plan 'Call for sites' consultation</u> – Consultation closes on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Inviting submission of details of potential sites for housing and other uses. For discussion and decision on response (if any). This was discussed. Cllrs to consider before the next PC meeting but the priority of the PC has to be low cost housing.</p> | Clerk |
| 9. | <b>Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors: None.</b>   |       |

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| 10. | <p><b>Finance:</b><br/> <b>Please note that the pay award for 25-26 has been announced backdated to 1.4.25. This is equivalent to an increase of £0.64/hr.</b></p> <p><b>a.</b> Clerk's salary for August 2025 = £583.10<br/> Payment to HM Revenues &amp; Customs PAYE = £116.60<br/> Payment to Clerk = £583.10 + expenses £25.99 - £116.60 = <b>£492.49</b></p> <p><b>b.</b> Vyner Park Secretary salary August 2025 = £99.96<br/> Payment to HM Revenues &amp; Customs PAYE = £20.00<br/> Payment to Sec = £99.96 + expenses £5.00 – PAYE £20.00 = <b>£84.96</b></p> <p>Total payment for HMRC £116.60 + £20.00 = <b>£136.60</b></p> <p><b>c. Receipts:</b><br/> Refund on annual grant from Swarland Village Hall £600.00</p> <p><b>d. Other payments:</b><br/> Lloyds Bank Service Charges for August (£4.25) £4.25<br/> Liz Clark (Coffee &amp; Chat) £123.77<br/> Vyner Park Charity Grant £8,300.00<br/> Bradley Hall Ltd (SVH). £720.00</p> <p><b>e.</b> Account balance as at 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025 £24,075.46<br/> All the above were noted/agreed.</p>   |  |
| 11. | <p><b>Planning:</b><br/> <b>a. Applications decided by NCC and the Planning Inspectorate.</b></p> <p><b>25/00117/PREAPP</b>- Pre-app Meeting including Head of Planning for comprehensive redevelopment of site including the reconfiguration of the existing golf course, change of use of the 7 Northernmost golf holes to accommodate up to 210 additional new static caravans and creation of a new leisure hub building with associated access and landscaping works. - Percy Wood Golf Club and Country Retreat Coast View Swarland Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9JW. A range of objections were submitted by the Parish Council.</p> <p><b>APP/P2935/C/23/3322246: NCC ref 21/00080/ENDEVT</b> - Land to north of Kiln Cottage, NE65 9LB – Appeal dismissed.</p> <p><b>25/02236/FUL</b> - Single storey extension to existing integral garage and associated internal alterations; Constructing single storey extension to create an entrance hall; Alteration to 1no gable end to a hipped roof arrangement; Installing an additional photo voltaic array to the east roof pitch; Replacing all timber windows with upvc windows; Replacing north elevation sliding doors with windows, french doors and bifold doors. Inserting 'artstone' cills to all windows; Applying render finish to all elevations to terminate above dpc level; Installing wood burner with black external flue on east roof pitch; Construction of timber framed gazebo in rear garden. Mallor, 6 The Old Tweed Mill Swarland Northumberland NE65 9LX. The Parish Council had no objections to this application. Application PERMITTED 20.8.25.</p> <p><b>b. Applications pending decision by NCC:</b><br/> <b>20/02884/CCMEIA</b> - Land North Of Shiel Dykes, U3050 Swarland Junction to Stouphill</p> |  |

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|            | <p>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 21.8.25 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>25/01332/FUL</b> – Inert construction and demolition waste recycling facility (Use ClassB2) - Whittle Colliery, Hampeth, Northumberland, NE66 9LG. The Parish Council objected to this application for a range of reasons including disturbance of the tranquillity of nearby residents. As at 21.8.25 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>25/02163/LBC</b> - Listed Building Consent for conversion of outbuilding to home office Location 4 Nelson Drive Swarland Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9JR. The PC had no objections to this application. As at 21.8.25 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>c. Planning matters for Parish Council to consider</b></p> <p><b>25/02820/FUL</b> – Relocation and Construction of a single dwelling and associated works. Land south of workshop and plant storage – High Hazon Farm, Acklington , Morpeth, NE65 9AT. Comments invited until 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025.</p> <p><b>25/02827/FUL</b> - Proposed lounge extension to previously approved (extant) barn conversion – The Granary, Hazon, Northumberland, NE65 9AT. This application has been withdrawn.</p> |  |
| <b>12.</b> | <p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <p>NCC County Cllr Glen Sanderson Invitation to meeting 9.10.25 at Belford to discuss new Corporate Plan 2026-2030. (Other dates available).</p> <p>Request for additional street sign at the west end of Studley Drive.</p> <p>Request to adjust the timers on the lights in The Square (coming on at 3am).</p> <p>Consultation on Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2036 - Closes 12<sup>th</sup> September</p>   |  |
| <b>13.</b> | <p><b>Requests for next agenda:</b></p> <p>a. One way system around Old Park Road (Cllr R. Simpson).</p>  |  |
| <b>14.</b> | <p><b>Urgent Items:</b></p>   |  |
| <b>15.</b> | <p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> 24.9.25 JH, 22.10.25 SVH, 26.11.25 JH.</p>  |  |

**Meeting Finished at: 8.22pm**