

## **Beadnell – Annual Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 10 May 2017**

**6.20 pm The WI Hall, Beadnell**

### **Present:**

Parish Councillors RJ Batten, JM Hall and AMH Nation

13 Parishioners or Members of the Public

SE Rickitt – NALC Chief Officer

#### 1: Election of Chairman

The Council agreed to elect Cllr Hall as Chairman. In signing her declaration of acceptance of office as Chairman, Cllr Hall stated that she would be resigning as **Chairman** at the start of the July meeting of the Council.

#### 2: Introductions

Cllr Hall explained that the clerk to the Parish Council had resigned. An interim clerk had been identified but she was unable to attend this meeting. Mr Rickitt from the Northumberland Association of Local Councils was present as adviser and minute-taker.

#### 3: Election of Vice-Chairman

This item was deferred.

#### 4: Declarations of Acceptance of Office

4.1 Two Members elected as unopposed were present and confirmed they would not be signing their declarations. Three Councillors (RJ Batten, JM Hall and AMH Nation) have signed their declarations and therefore constituted a quorum to enable business to continue. The sixth Member elected as unopposed had been sent the agenda but was not present and had not responded to attempts at communication from Cllr Hall.

4.2 In these circumstances the Council declined to extend the time for signing the declarations of acceptance of office and resolved that three vacancies therefore existed pursuant to section 87(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### 5: Post-Election Matters

Mr Rickitt reported there was a probable change of administration at the County Council to be confirmed on 24 May. He reminded all candidates to submit their expenses returns to the Elections Office even if they had incurred no expenditure. Councillors were reminded of the need to submit new registers of disclosable interests as ones signed prior to the election did not carry over.

## 6: Declaration of Interests and Request for Dispensation

Cllr Hall disclosed an interest as a neighbour in application. In order to maintain a quorum to enable the Council to consider the application at a meeting the following week, she had submitted a written request for a dispensation to allow her to remain, participate and vote. The Council agreed to grant the dispensation until May 2021 to Cllr Hall for all matters connected with this application.

## 7: The minutes of the Meeting held on 8 March 2017

7.1 These were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

7.2 It was agreed that the Policy Reviews scheduled for consideration at this meeting be deferred to a future Meeting.

## 8: Co-Option

8.1 The Council were informed that the three vacancies declared above at item 4.2 required the formal notice of a vacancy to see if there is a call for a formal by-election. The One vacancy outstanding as a result of only six nominations being made before the election could be filled by the Council.

8.2 The Council agreed to advertise that vacancy and ask for applications in writing accompanied by a CV. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the aim was to have a selection made at the July meeting

8.3 Action on a more formal co-option process was deferred to a future meeting.

## 9: Annual Audit

Consideration of the accounts for 2016/2017, the internal auditor's report and the Governance and Accounting Statements were deferred to a special meeting to be arranged before the end of June.

## 10: Interim Clerk

10.1 The Council confirmed the appointment of Isabel Hunter as interim clerk.

10.2 The Council authorised the Chairman, in consultation with the other Councillors, to advertise for a permanent clerk on the Council's website, in the local newsletter, on the notice-board and in the NALC Enews.

## 11: Future Meetings

It was agreed that meetings would normally be scheduled for the fourth Wednesday in bi-month.

## 12: Public Question Time

It was agreed that this should be at the start of meetings in future.

## 13: Play Area

13.1 Cllr Batten reported his grave concerns at the standard of weekly inspections carried out under the contract by the County Council. Whilst the

Council was clear that it had not got the expertise to make such inspections, some defects were being missed.

13.2 The Council agreed to seek an urgent meeting with senior County Council officers, and to inform the new County Councillor.

#### 14: The North Northumberland Coastal Area Neighbourhood Plan

14.1 Cllr Nation asked that the Council reconsider the proposed settlement boundary for Beadnell before the draft plan went out for public consultation. Cllr Hall opposed this proposal as the Council and others could comment during the consultation period.

14.2 There being no consensus, following discussion, the proposal for reconsideration was put to a vote

- For – Cllr Nation
- Against – Cllr Hall
- Abstain – Cllr Batten

Cllr Hall thereupon exercised her second vote as Chairman against the proposal and declared the motion was lost.

14.3 Cllr Hall confirmed that the consultation would include the statutory consultees, aiming for a referendum in May 2018.

#### 15: Financial Matters

15.1 The Council confirmed that all three Councillors should be authorised cheque and mandate signatories.

15.2 The following payments were authorised

- NALC - £204.19 – Subscription
- Aon - £262.52 – Insurance
- Northumberland County Council - £1655.96 – Inspections
- Duncan McFee - £45.00 – Removal of office equipment
- J Smith - £1488.00 – Urgent Play Area Repairs

#### 16: Memorial Bench

The request by Ms Barron to place a bench between the Lime Kilns and Beadnell Point was agreed, the County Council having indicated consent as landowners.

#### 17: Planning Matters

Cllr Nation drew attention for need for transparency when dealing with pre-application consultations. Further discussion was deferred to a future meeting.

#### 18: The Cemetery

Cllr Batten reported two contacts

- A complaint regarding filling-in which was referred to the funeral director concerned
- An enquiry about adding names to an existing headstone. It was considered that the Council may wish to consider its position on the names of the funeral directors being inscribed on headstones at a future meeting.

19: Public Question Time

19.1 A request was made for a litter bin at the Bull Ring. This will be considered at a future meeting

19.2 A suggestion was made that the cemetery fees be reviewed as they are considerably lower than those charged by Seahouses. The Council responded that the fees are reviewed annually and that the charge for Seahouses includes a grave digger, whilst that cost is included within the funeral director's charges at Beadnell.

19.3 Concern was expressed at that lack of enforcement action by the Planning Authority regarding an unauthorised structure next to the playground. The Council agreed to make further representations and to ask the new County Councillor to intervene.

19.4 The Chairman reported the police had sent apologies, two crimes had been reported

- Damage to a car
- A stolen seat

Those present expressed concern at the lack of enforcement of the new speed limits.

There being no other issues raised, the meeting closed at 7.15 pm

Confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.....  
Date.....