

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 27th November 2019 at 6.00pm in Beadnell W.I. Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: A Nation (Chair); J Hall (Vice-Chair);
C Scott-Roy & J Davison
Neil Easton – Northumberland County Council
Chris Curtis- Arriva
Clerk: I Hunter
Approx. 11 Members of the public

Public Question Time: Members of the public made the following comments:

- Queried when did BCV no longer become a sub-group of the Parish Council and where is this recorded in the Parish Council minutes. *The Chair replied that a reply will be received later in the meeting.*
- Mr G Martindale read out the following:
 - 1- I trust that you agree that PC business should be conducted in an open, honest and transparent way, to this end I would like to know the details of:
 - a) A donation of £4500 from Countylife Homes and its background?
 - b) Have any ‘private’ discussions of any sort been held with Countylife Homes, if so where are the discussions minuted. In September minutes a reference is made to a ‘query the content of Confidential minutes’ is it too much to ask what this ‘confidentiality’ is?
 - c) Lastly and thank you Chair for indulging me the time, there is no reference in the Agenda to the important issues raised in September’s ‘Public questions’

The Chair replied Countylife is covered later in the Agenda,

- Stated at the September meeting he asked why was there a Confidential meeting and what was the subject, not that he queried the content of the Confidential Minutes. *It was agreed to note the amendment when approving the minutes.*
- Is there any progress on the purchase of a camera for the Speed Watch Group that County Councillor G Renner-Thompson was looking to see if he could fund? *The Clerk replied no updates have been received.*
- Raised concerns about the inadequate street lighting especially in Harbour Road. *The Chair replied she will give an update under the County Councillor Agenda item.*
- In the interest of transparency and openness I would like to ask a question about the unofficial Parish Council meeting which took place on 18th September the Parish Council have accepted that Standing Orders were not followed for this meeting and an Extraordinary Meeting should have been called and the public excluded from the meeting by a resolution giving the reasons why the public should be excluded. The minutes from that meeting which were deferred for approval until tonight’s meeting, however, they do not appear on tonight’s Agenda. Any decision made by the Parish Council at that meeting on 18th September will be invalid until the legitimacy of this meeting is corrected and subsequently approve the minutes. What action is the Parish Council going to take to make the unofficial meeting on 18th September official. *The Clerk replied with will be covered later in the Agenda.*

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- I should like to give everybody an update on the flooding issues at Bernicia Way, formerly known as Beadnell Point. At present, Northumbrian Water is pumping out water into tankers from the wetlands pond on a monthly basis and carrying out a hydraulic modelling study to assess the problem. Northumbrian Water has assured me that it is responsible for any necessary upgrade to the infrastructure and will update me with their plan of action by 24th January 2020. Thank you.
- Another member of the public explained the work he is undertaking in contacting agencies regarding the flooding etc at the Dunes Court Area.
- A member of the public stated that he had been contacted by the Vice-Chair asking he had local knowledge relating to possible double yellow lines at the end of the village where he lived. He said he quickly made contact with some of his contacts in that area and collated a response to the Vice-Chair however and questioned if the information he provided to the Parish Council had been used. *The Chair replied that she has contacted Northumberland County Council regarding the information provided and reminded everybody that the Parish Council are only a consultee, Northumberland County Council will accept feedback regarding the length of the double yellow lines. The Vice-Chair responded to say she had made contact in her personal capacity not as the Parish Council; however, it was a few days before a reply was received. By the end of the meeting the member of the public stated that he had replied the same day as he received the request. The member of the public also asked the Parish Councillors if the Parish Council would support his work on this matter in the future or should he deal directly with Northumberland County Council. The Parish Council agreed to support the member of the public's work on this subject. Members of the public can also respond directly to consultations.*

Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillors J Rhind, & M Dawson
County Councillor G Renner-Thompson

Declaration of Interest: None

Request for Dispensation- None

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2019 - The Clerk informed the meeting that NALC had advised her that the meeting on the 18th September was an informal meeting as no decisions were made, therefore there are no minutes which need approval. Members noted that the question raised by a member of the public at the September meeting was why was there a confidential meeting and what was the subject, not querying the content of the Minutes. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th September 2019 previously circulated was agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising-

Min 117/19 (Min 90/19)- Beadnell Public Toilet winter opening- The Chair informed the meeting that the toilets are now open 24/7, however there are no lights in the toilets, and the signage has not been amended to say the toilets are open all year round. Parish Councillors agreed to request the signage should be changed

Min 118/91- Changes to the bus route- The Chair welcomed Neil Easton from Northumberland County Council and Chris Curtis from Arriva to the meeting. Chris Curtis explained the difficulties of their large double decker buses negotiating Beadnell Village especially at the corner near St Ebba's Church saying the buses have been having problems with parking and congestion in that area for the last 2-3 years and Arriva had decided to take action to change the route after the Church wall was damaged when a driver was trying to negotiate parked vehicles. This is when Arriva updated Northumberland County Council of their intentions and made the submission to amend the route. Chris Curtis stated that Arriva still wished to come in to Beadnell village, however the only viable option due to the size of Arriva buses is to go around the Bullring and pickup at a new stop next to the memorial seat. The changes will come into effect from 5th January 2020. However, the door will always be open to re-instate the service in the future.

Neil Easton informed the meeting that he updated the County Councillor and Parish Council as soon as he was made aware of the proposed change of route.

Neil Easton confirmed that the 418 Travelsure service will still come through the village on a daily basis, using the bus stops at the Craster Arms and Haven/ Bus shelter.

Neil Easton agreed that Northumberland County Council will provide a pole flag and raised kerb at the new bus stop at the Bullring.

The Chair asked if the decision could be delayed for 6-months, as the double yellow lines in the area come into force in December. Chris Curtis agreed to take the request back to the Operations Department and report back to Northumberland County Council.

Neil Easton agreed to report any updates received to the Parish Council.

The Chair asked if Arriva & Northumberland County Council would consider installing a bus stop at the bottom of Harbour Road, as this is a popular area for tourists. Neil Easton & Chris Curtis agreed to investigate the possibility.

Chris Curtis informed the meeting that there will be enhancements to the X18 service on a Sunday and Bank Holidays, as well as extending the summer timetable.

Neil Easton agreed Northumberland County Council will accept questions on this matter.

Neil Easton & Chris Curtis left the meeting at this point

Min 119/19 - Community Police: The Clerk read out the following update:
Burglary to container used as coffee shop – no witnesses, no forensics.

Min 120/19- AONB –

- **2019/20 Dwelling Review-** Parish Councillors agreed the Vice-Chair take the lead on this. The Vice-Chair gave a summary of what was involved the last time the review took place.

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- **Conservation Area Appraisal-** The Chair stated that she and the Vice-Chair will meet the AONB Officer leading on this work on 9th December. The draft document will go to Northumberland County Council Cabinet and Committee in February 2020.
- **AONB updates-** The Vice-Chair recommended the Bamburgh Bones exhibition as a worthwhile visit.
The Chairman asked the Vice-Chair to ask AONB to consider extending the ramp at Beadnell beach as this will allow access to the beach for wheelchair users etc.

Min 121/19- County Councillor G Renner-Thompson- The Chair informed the meeting that she and the Clerk are working on a to do list which is circulated to Councillors on a monthly basis. This includes the Street lights on Harbour Road and updates on the sea defences. The Chair stated it was her understanding from County Councillor G Renner-Thompson that the street light situation would be checked on completion of the programme.

Min 122/19 Planning Approvals

19/03759/FUL- Proposed first floor extension and provision of 2no rooflights to east elevation- 34 Harbour Road Beadnell NE67 5BB

Min 123/19- North Northumberland Coast Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group- No updates

Min 124/19- Planning Minutes- The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 23rd October 2019 previously circulated was agreed as a true record.

Min 125/19 Planning training- The Chair suggested the planning training session will take place in Beadnell W I Hall in February/March, the date is still to be confirmed Rob Murfin of Northumberland County Council will lead the session, and there should be representatives from, Beadnell, North Sunderland, Bamburgh & Belford Parish Councils in attendance.

Min 126/19- Financial Statement-

Current Account	£	17155.59
Savings Account	£	6828.75
Marshall Burial Ground Account	£	154.72

Min 127/19- Finance:

Payment already made

- Warcup Law £ 620.00 Legal costs for transfer of play area at Meadow Lane

Payments due

- W I Hall £ 60.50 Hire of Hall September & October meetings
- I Hunter £ 602.81 Salary 74.75 hours @ £ 10.16 per hour

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- HMRC £ 156.65 PAYE & NI
- I Hunter £ 236.40 2-Notice boards
- I Hunter £ 22.96 Expenses
- Stable Yard Landscapes £ 435.00 Grass cutting
- Beadnell WI £ 36.00 Contribution to Defibrillator works
- PC High Interest A/c £ 4500.00 Transfer

The Clerk informed the meeting that BCV have provided 2 emails relating to the Christmas lights which Parish Councillors are considering.

Receipts

- A Turner £ 75.00 Additional inscription on headstone Plot No 663
- NCC £ 3834.00 County Cllr Small Grant for new play equipment
- Countylife Homes £ 4500.00 Donation

Min 128/19- Defibrillator- The Chair asked Parish Councillors if they would be willing to make a contribution to the £72 electrical works, relating the defibrillator on the W I Hall wall. The Vice-Chair proposed £36 which is 50% this was agreed.

Min 129/19- Playgrounds-

- **Legal fees-** Parish Councillors ratified the payment of £620 to Warcup Law for undertaking paperwork on behalf of the Parish Council in the transfer of the Meadow Lane playground to the Parish Council.
- **Hedges/fencing/gate-** The Vice-Chair informed the meeting that she continues to contact Karbon Homes for updates, however due to change of staff there are no updates. Parish Councillors considered the erection of chains over the gap where the gate will eventually be installed. The cost to be between £35- £55. Parish Councillors agreed their preference would be for plastic-coated chains of a colour which would be visible. Parish Councillors to make the final agreement via email.
- **Countylife Homes-** Parish Councillors ratified the signing of the Agreement with Countylife Homes for £4500 for the use of an area of Meadow Lane playground next to the Old School House development for a maximum of 15 months. Countylife Homes had suggested the funding could be used for a community project. This agreement could only be undertaken after the playground transferred to the Parish Council, and Northumberland County Council was involved in the preparation of the agreement. The Vice-Chair thanked the Chair for negotiating a higher figure than that which was originally offered.
- **Countylife Homes contribution-** Parish Councillors agreed to defer making any decisions at the present time for the use of the £4500 received from Countylife Homes for the use of part of the play area. However, Parish Councillors agreed to transfer the £4500 into the High Interest Account.
- **New play equipment-** The Chair reported that the new equipment is due to be installed in the Meadow Lane playground in December.

Min 130/19 Correspondence

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- 1- **NALC-** Local Council Review
- 2- **CPRE-** Autumn newsletter
- 3- **War Memorials Trust-** November 2019 bulletin
- 4- **Clerks & Councils Direct-** Newsletter
- 5- **Barclays-** Interest rate changes
- 6- **EBDA-** Call for nominations for 2019 Award
- 7- **NCC-** Notification of Local Plan hearings
- 8- **Resident-** Letter regarding Parish Council decisions

Min 131/19- Cemetery- The Chair informed the meeting that the work on the Marshall inscriptions may need to be incorporated with other works as there is insufficient funds in the Marshall Memorial Account to complete full work required at present.

The Vice-Chair gave a verbal update from the previously circulated report. The Vice-Chair proposed the cemetery charges should increase as per the draft previously circulated the increases to be phased in over 3 years and will come into force as of 1st July 2020. The Parish Councillors agreed to the increase in charges as per the draft circulated. This to be an Agenda item at the May meeting as a reminder that the charges are being increased.

Min 132/19 Highways- The Chair stated there is no progress at the minute on the works to the trees on the side of the B1340 even though Northumberland County Council had originally promised the works would be undertaken in the Autumn. The Chair confirmed that the “No through Road” sign on Harbour Road still has not been replaced.

The Vice-Chair stated that the road sign on the B1340 at the brow of the hill on Swinhoe Road has still not been replaced even though she has regularly reported the issue. Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk and County Councillor G Renner-Thompson should report this and see if they can have success.

The Chair stated that National Trust have agreed to remove some of the gates and review the signage next to the footpath on the edge of the B1340 between Beadnell and Seahouses.

Min 133/19-Notice boards- Parish Councillors ratified the payment of £236.40 for 2 additional notice boards which have now been erected at the Cemetery.

Min 134/19- Village Greens- The Chair informed the meeting that confirmation had been received that the Bullring is owned and managed by Northumberland County Council. The Parish Council have urged Northumberland County Council to progress resolving the dip issue in the Bullring with Northumbrian Water & BT. The Chair concluded by saying if anybody wished to hold an event on the Bullring they should contact Strategic Estates at Northumberland County Council.

The Chair also stated the Village Green at St Ebba’s Church known as VG49 is under the ownership of Beadnell Parish Council. She also stated that a Tree Surgeon has checked the rowan tree in the area and has recommended it should be removed, the works could be done on 7th December at a cost of £250.

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Parish Councillors agreed the rowan tree should be removed as per the recommendation. The Vice-Chair suggested that the Parish Council remove the 2 self-seeded trees in the area at the same time. The Chair agreed to speak to the Tree Surgeon and update Councillors.

The Chair agreed to add the trees on VG49 to the Tree Management Policy.

Parish Councillors agreed that the Village Green would continue to be called VG49.

The Vice-Chair suggested affordable housing, i.e. 4-homes/units could be an option for the use of VG49, saying it would cost £4900 to lift the Village Green status, and a pre application could be submitted to Northumberland County Council at a cost of £300 to see if this could receive planning approval. Parish Councillors agreed this was an option which would need feedback from the community, therefore it could be considered at the Annual Parish meeting in May.

Min 135/19 Community Conversation spreadsheet:

- **Visit to the Recycling Centre-** The group visit for up to 14 people will take place on 20th February 2020 at 11am, there is currently still spaces available. If anybody is interested please let us know and we will give you the contact details of the organiser.
- **Spreadsheet-** The updated spreadsheet to be placed on the website.
- **Water Fountain-** Parish Councillor C Scott-Roy informed the meeting that a basic water fountain would cost £150 for the unit and the prices for units range up to £2500 +, saying that a dual unit which would include a bottle filler would cost £450. Parish Councillor C Scott-Roy confirmed that so far, she has not researched available funding. She concluded that she will prepare a report. Parish Councillors agreed the next step is the Clerk contact Northumberland County Council and ask for a cost for installing the unit and the cost for regular water checks.
- **Defibrillators** – The Chair informed the meeting there is now an additional one accessible 24/7 to the public in the Beadnell Bay Caravan Park, it is currently being registered with the National Ambulance Service. This adds to the defibrillator on the WI Hall and the one on the toilet block at the Beadnell Bay car park.
- **Toilets** - The Chair informed the meeting that a local resident asked if anything that could be done about the scruffiness of the toilet block and whether BIB would consider planting nearby. The Vice-Chair replied this was not an option. Parish Councillors agreed this may be looked into as part of the consultation.

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Min 136/19- Questionnaire- Parish Councillor J Davison advised the meeting that this could cover everything, including a wish list, what people like and don't like, as the Parish Councillors represent the community.
Parish Councillor J Davison agreed to lead on the preparation of the questionnaire on the condition all Parish Councillors have an input.
Parish Councillor J Davison to report back to the January meeting if there is any progress.

Min 137/19- Policies-

- **Planning Policy-** Parish Councillors agreed to defer this review as the call-in update still has not arrived.
- **Cemetery Charges-** This was covered under Min 131/19
- **Tree Management Policy-** Parish Councillors reviewed the policy and agreed to include the trees at VG49, whilst removing the trees at the Bullring.
- **Co-option Policy-** Parish Councillors agreed the Chair draft a policy ahead of the January meeting.

Min 138/19- Parish Council Volunteers- Parish Councillors agreed there is only one volunteer who will undertake minor jobs on behalf of the Parish Council, using Parish Council tools, and under instructions. The Chair or Clerk to liaise with the volunteer

Min 139/19 Community Updates-

BCV- The Vice-Chair advised the meeting that the winter planting has taken place.

The Christmas lights have been checked and the switch on will be on 6th December – 6pm at St Ebba's, 6.30pm at The Bullring, 7pm at the WI Hall.

Min 140/19- Footpaths/Right of Ways- The Vice-Chair agreed to check with Coast Care to see if they are willing to undertake the walking of the footpaths/Rights of Way as they did in 2019

Min 141/19- Sponsorship/donations/advertising- The Chair advised the meeting that she would continue to work on this subject. Parish Councillors to agree the final letters and the process.

Min 142/19- 2020/21 Budget- Parish Councillors agreed to consider the draft budget previously circulated ahead of the January meeting where the budget and precept will be agreed.

Any Urgent Business-

Min 143/19- Clock maintenance- The Chair asked the Clerk to check to see if the 2019 maintenance report has been received.

Standing Orders were suspended at the 3-hour limit had been reached.

Min 144/19- Sub-Committee/Sub-Groups- The Chair informed the meeting that following the query on this subject from residents, and reference to the 14th March 2012 Minutes she had contacted NALC for advice. NALC has advised that the 14th March 2012 Minutes/ Item 9 Jubilee Garden does not support the case that the Parish Council appointed a Parish Council Sub-Committee/Sub-Group (BCV). However, a Sub-Group of 3 volunteers seems to have been setup to undertake the Jubilee Garden works, and by now any Parish Council Sub-Committee/Sub-Group's would have withered away. The Vice-Chair proposed that all Parish Council Sub-Committee/Sub-Groups are dissolved this was seconded by Parish Councillor C Scott-Roy, following a debate a vote was taken 3 votes for and 1 vote against, that all Parish Council Sub-Committee/Sub-Groups are dissolved the vote was carried.

Min 145/19- BCV- The Chair informed the meeting that the Clerk, herself and possibly Parish Councillor J Rhind will ask to meet with members of BCV to discuss the Christmas lights emails. The Chair concluded by saying she will report back to the Parish Council for Parish Councillors to make any decisions.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 at 6pm

The Council may be recommended to pass a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the media and public from the discussion of the following business on the basis that public discussion may prejudice the Council's position and/or staffing issues may be discussed.

This was agreed.

Min 146/19- Co-option- Applicant interested in becoming a Parish Councillor explained why they wished to the join the Parish Council. Parish Councillors asked some questions.

The applicant left the meeting

Parish Councillors considered the request and agreed to co-opt A Baker as a Parish Councillor on Beadnell Parish Council.

Chairman _____ Date _____