

**NOTES OF THE BEADNELL PARISH COUNCIL/ Iain Robson AONB Partnership
VIRTUAL MEETING held on 9th December at 5pm**

Present: Parish Councillors: A Nation (Chair); J Hall (Vice-Chair),
Parish Councillors A Baker, J Davison & J Rhind
Parish Clerk I Hunter
Iain Robson Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership

Apologies: Parish Councillor C Scott-Roy

The Chair welcomed Iain Robson to the meeting.

Rearrange car park/ relining- Iain Robson informed the meeting that the design has been agreed, and the relining is programmed. County Councillor G Renner-Thompson has allocated £10k from his small grant funds towards the various schemes at Beadnell. However, the cost of the works is going to be £8.5K which is higher than anticipated meaning there is a shortfall on funding for the dune fencing and signage elements of the plan Iain Robson confirmed that the funding has to be spent by March 2021.

Iain Robson explained that the flow of the car park will be rearranged, however, there will be no change to the position of the entrance or exit as the road just after the entrance to the car park is unadopted, and no landowner has been identified.

The Vice-Chair asked if Northumberland County Council could adopt the road.

New signage- Iain Robson stated that the current signage has been in place since about 2005, and the majority of visitors to the area are ignoring the information on the sign.

The current sign is in the wrong place.

He also stated that that new signage should have a more seasonal approach, which can include information on restrictions to the tern's site, and possibly different signage about high tides. Iain Robson concluded by saying that about £2K will need to be found to pay for the new signage.

Protect dunes- Iain Robson stated that the shortfall of funding because of the increased costs of the car park works means that he has been speaking with the Coast Care volunteers to see if they will undertake the works to erect the fencing. The materials will cost £2800- £3K, - 30 x 9mtr rolls of 3 wire, (4ft high) fencing is required to undertake the works, for the perimeter of the car park leaving a gap behind the food outlet to encourage people to use one specific route, and it is hoped the marram grass will eventually grow. He stated one of the main issues is finding a local drop off point for the materials which can be accessed daily. Coast Care hope to undertake the works in February 2021.

Managing motorcaravans- Iain Robson stated that the AONB Partnership are supporting a pro-active. Approach. The AONB Partnership prepared a guiding principles document to ensure that parking for Motorhomes has a positive impact on the AONB. Northumberland County Council and landowners need to lead on this subject, no licences or planning permissions are required for the overnight parking of camper vans in existing car parks.

The Vice-Chair suggested the Parish Council contact Ms D Lally at Northumberland County Council asking who is the contact on this subject for the AONB areas, and if no officer has been allocated to this work then an officer should be allocated to the matter.

Iain Robson stated that Northumberland County Council would need to enforce the overnight parking rule.

Parish Councillor A Baker suggested that the field in front of the Caravan Park could be used for camper vans to park overnight.

Iain Robson stated that 2020 has been an exceptional year and next year there may be an improvement so the issue maybe only during the school holidays.

Tractor- Iain Robson stated he had no update.

Boat Launch- Iain Robson stated that Jim only operated the boat launch at weekends in 2020, however, he hopes to return to the normal practice in 2021. Northumberland County Council will organise an Agreement with Jim, which will include a condition about the tractor. Iain Robson agreed that the area needs to be tidied up.

Disabled Access- Iain Robson reported that through the locked barriers would be an ideal area for a disabled access, there is a charity based in Whitley Bay who would be able to loan the kit required until a kit could be purchased. However, a group of volunteers would be required to manage the project, as they would need to take bookings, hand out the kit and collect the kit when the people are finished with it. Also, local facilities will be required to store the kit which could be the old shower block, office or boiler room.

The Vice-Chair stated that this is not a project for the Parish Council to be involved in and suggested that it could be organised and managed by Seahouses Development Trust, however, there is a resources issue. She questioned who would get the project off the ground.

Iain Robson confirmed the 1st step is a commitment from volunteers, and the AONB Partnership are willing to fund 1 pilot project.

Car park traders- The Chair stated that she has been approached by the traders asking for a meeting with the Parish Council and Iain Robson. Iain Robson queried what they wanted to talk about, as the Partnership have no responsibility for the management of the car park, which comes under the remit of the Northumberland County Council departments. The Chair reported that Kev does have an appropriate licence. The Vice-Chair stated that it is now more professional. Iain Robson confirmed the new gap for the pathway should keep people away from the congested area.

Vision- The launching to be managed

Increase kite surfing – there is about 50+ on a good day.

Northumberland County Council has a duty of care for the area.

AONB to look into improvements for the area.

The Chair stated that all toilet blocks in Northumberland are to be refurbished within 2years.

Other issues- Dog fouling- Iain Robson reported that there are only 2 Environment Enforcement officers covering the north of the county and as such need to act on information, so people need to record dates, times and vehicle registrations as this will help the officers. Dog Wardens do visit Beadnell on a regular basis.

Coastal Mitigation Scheme- Iain Robson reported this is an amount of funding which is part of the Local Plan and the NHP where developers have to pay on planning applications for new houses. This funding has allowed Northumberland County Council to employ 2 rangers to cover the area as it is a requirement of Natural England because the area is a SSSI/European site, it is hoped to increase the number of rangers. The rangers will have

enforcement powers; however, they will be looking to educate and advise people in the first instance, giving a co-ordinated approach.

Information- Defra & Natural England are reviewing the Countryside Code, which the AONB team will promote. The Chair reported that the Café developer has stated that there may be a corner of the new building which could be used as an information centre; however, this will be minimal.

Mr Whippy- Iain Robson agreed to again report the issue of exhaust fumes.

Parking- The café developer has been asking the Parish Council about who he can speak to about the overflow car park.

Parish Council draft access proposal- Iain Robson reported that AONB has a duty of care to the continued protection of the shorebird colony in Beadnell is of utmost importance and alongside the National Trust, they will have a plan in place for 2021 to manage the access, however this will be dependent on resources and volunteer availability. AONB/National Trust will finalise a site access plan after the spring tides as the beach profiles and dunes could change over the winter. Iain Robson explained the measures to protect the nesting birds. Parish Councillor A Baker queried what are the indicators and what if they do not work. The Vice-Chair asked about a dog ban on Beadnell beach. Iain Robson said they would need to build an evidence base on the disturbance to the birds, however Beadnell Parish Council could consider a proposal to ban dogs from Beadnell beach. Iain Robson again commented on access at the Nanny Burn area, and confirmed the best option is correct signage and engagement. There was a discussion on access during the bird nesting season, and Iain Robson stated that using the hut to view the birds should be promoted rather than going on to the beach. Iain Robson thanked the Parish Council for their proposals.

The Chair gave a vote of thanks to Iain Robson for meeting with Parish Councillors, and asked him to keep the Parish Council up to date.