

**MINUTES OF THE BEADNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 6pm in Beadnell W.I. Hall**

**Present:** Chair- G Martindale, Vice-Chair J Hall  
Parish Councillors: J Rhind, C Williamson, A Baker, & A Nation  
County Councillor G Renner-Thompson  
Clerk: I Hunter  
6 Members of the public

**Public Question Time:** None

**Apologies for Absence:** None

**Declaration of Interest:** The Vice-Chair declared a personal & prejudicial interest on the consultation of the double yellow lines on The Wynding.

**Request for Dispensation-** None

**The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Parish Councillors agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were a true record of the meeting. The Chair signed a hard copy.

**Any urgent matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda-**

**Min 26/2023 (Min 16/2023)- Cycle stands-** Parish Councillor C Williamson provided the following updates.

- The preferred location is on Harbour Road between the Parish Council notice board and the BT kiosk.
- There are no objections from AONB or Northumberland County Council, who are not the landowners.
- There is £500 allocated in the budget for this project.

Parish Councillors undertook a debate in relation to the installation of the cycle stands. Parish Councillor A Nation raised concerns as to who owned the land and the Vice-Chair confirmed it is not owned by the Beadnell Fishermans Society.

Parish Councillors agreed Parish Councillor C Williamson to be the lead Parish Councillor and continue to work on the project.

**Min 27/2023 (Min 1/2023) -The Chatterry- The Seating area at Longstone Close-** The Vice-Chair reported that the official opening will take place later this year.

**Min 28/2023 (Min 25/2023)- Benches-** The Vice-Chair informed the meeting that there could possibly be an option of placing 2-3 memorial benches along the edge of the B1340. She agreed to contact Northumberland County Council & AONB to ensure they have no objections. Parish Councillor A Nation advised the meeting that AONB will fund and agree the locations for 1-2 benches near the disabled beach access storage area/ toilet block area at the beach car park.

**Min 29/2023 (Min 2/2023) Parking restrictions on Main Street in Seahouses-** Parish Councillor A Nation

asked County Councillor G Renner-Thompson if there were any updates. County Councillor G Renner-Thompson replied that the scheme was progressing as per the plans.

**Min 30/2023 (Min 7/2023) Motorhome pilot scheme-** Parish Councillor A Nation asked County Councillor G Renner-Thompson if the Parish Council will be consulted on the outcomes of the pilot scheme. County Councillor G Renner-Thompson responded to say that there would be a general consultation before the scheme is adopted permanently.

**Min 31/2023 (Min 7/2023)- Toilet block refurbishment-** Parish Councillor A Nation asked County Councillor G Renner-Thompson if the refurbishment was still on track for the end of the year. County Councillor G Renner-Thompson replied at the minute yes, however, if additional works are required to toilet blocks due to be refurbished ahead of the Beadnell facilities that could lead to a delay the current timeline.

**Min 32/2023 (Min 20/2023)- Beadnell & Seahouses resident's letter-** Parish Councillors ratified the letter which had already been sent.

**The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

Parish Councillors agreed that the Minutes of the planning meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 were a true record of the meeting. The Chair signed a hard copy

**Min 33/2023-Community Police-** The Clerk read out the following report:

Over the last 28 days there have been eight reported incidents and one recorded crime. No incidents of ASB reported. Due to the nature of the incidents, I am unable to give you further specific details. I can confirm however that none of these are relevant or have a wider impact on the community.

Parish Councillors agreed that there is no value to the reports received, therefore the police report will be removed from future agendas. However, the Police will be invited to attend the Annual Parish Council meeting.

**Min 34/2023- Parish Councillor resignation**

- Parish Councillors received the resignation of Parish Councillor M Dawson
- Parish Councillors ratified the display of the vacancy notice.

**Min 34/2023- County Councillor report-** County Councillor G Renner-Thompson provided the following updates:

1. I have reported the bad pot holes on the B1340. Parish Councillor A Baker replied the pot holes have been filled poorly.
2. The Beadnell Towers planning appeal had been dismissed.
3. Affordable Housing. There is currently a planning application by Bernicia Homes for 9 in North Sunderland. The old primary school area in Seahouses will be developed for affordable housing either by Bernicia Homes or Northumberland County Council and Northumberland County Council Affordable Housing Department are looking into this. Also, a pre-application has been submitted for housing in Seahouses which will have an affordable housing element.

**Min 35/2023- North Northumberland Coast Neighbourhood plan-** County Councillor G Renner-Thompson informed the meeting that Northumberland County Council Neighbourhood Planning Officer S Brannigan is reviewing all the documents. There will be a meeting of the Steering Group in April, each Parish will be able to send 2 representatives. He concluded by saying that levelling up bill currently going through Parliament may limit holiday homes.

**Min 36/2023- Planning Approvals**

22/04382/FUL- Single storey extension to front of existing bungalow- 13 Meadow Lane  
Beadnell NE67 5AJ

22/04473/FUL- Construction of treehouse in front garden- 1-2 Elford Farm Cottages C65  
Rayheugh Junction To North Sunderland Junction Seahouses NE68 7UT

22/04708/FUL- Refurbishment of 3 no. existing staff pitches and upgrade of 3 no. existing  
hardstanding pitches to staff pitches- The Camping And Caravanning Club  
Beadnell Bay Caravan Site Beadnell Chathill Northumberland NE67 5BN

**Min 37/2023- Play Areas.**

- Gate – Meadow Lane play area- The Vice-Chair advised the meeting that O Kavanagh is employed on another site for the next few months but will build the gate one weekend. He is happy to invoice Karbon Homes for the cost.
- Parish Councillors ratified the ordering of the spares for the cantilever swing and signing of the SLA for the weekly inspections.
- Parish Councillors ratified the purchase of the child seat from Gametime at a cost of £760 + VAT. Northumberland County Council will fit the seat free of charge.
- Parish Councillor A Nation advised the meeting that the power washer is not removing the moss etc on the wet pour at Longbeach Drive play area and it may be necessary to consider involving professionals later in the year. She agreed to monitor the situation.
- Parish Councillor A Nation advised the meeting that the weekly reports are improving. However, she will monitor them for another week or so, before proposing any action.

**Min 38/2023- Cemetery**

- **The boundary wall.** The Vice-Chair provided the following verbal update:  
Work began to take down the wall but it was found some of the stone wasn't suitable to reuse and was crumbling away. Replacement will take 5 packs of new stone at a cost of £1,650. This extra expenditure has been authorised by Parish Councillors and the stone ordered. However, there is a 2-week delay in delivery.  
The contractor has been given permission to demolish the wall in the meantime.  
It has been agreed that any broken stone will be stored in a neat pile on the grass at the west side of the entrance gate. Northumberland County Council have given their permission for this. Craig Mellor has kindly offered to remove the stone.  
Parish Councillors ratified the payment of £3300 to C Mallaburn for the stone.
- **Drainage-** Still no word from the drainage firm. The Vice-Chair can't find anyone else to offer advice.  
Parish Councillor A Nation suggested the Parish Council explore the idea of a small memorial garden for ashes within the cemetery could maybe on the area where there are drainage issues. Generally the trend is for an increasing number of cremations compared to

burials, “greener“ (leaving no trace/ footprint) and simpler funeral arrangements, for example the scattering of ashes. In the last year there have been deaths in the village, however, no plots purchased at the cemetery

The Vice-Chair stated more details were required before considering the idea. Parish Councillors agreed not to explore the suggestion in view of the work it would entail unless there is a request received from villagers.

- **Trees-** the Vice-Chair had a good look at all the trees last week but couldn't see any problems
- **Commonwealth War Graves-** Parish Councillors agreed the larger sign could be installed on the cemetery gate as per the Vice-Chair's suggestion.  
Parish Councillors also, agreed the Clerk ask the Commonwealth War Grave Commission to amend their records as the cemetery is not the St Ebbas Cemetery.
- **Training-** County Councillor G Renner-Thompson advised the meeting that Northumberland County Council is organising training on cemeteries & memorials.

1 member of the public left at that point

**Min 39/2023- Financial Statement**

Current Account	£ 11538.41
Savings Account	£ 19385.48

**Min 40/2023- Finance:**

**Receipts**

- |                 |           |                          |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| ● BCV           | £ 1500.00 | Donation – The Chatterry |
| ● Barclays Bank | £ 24.03   | Interest – Savings A/c   |

**Payments made**

- |                  |           |                           |
|------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| ● C Mallaburn    | £ 1650.00 | Materials cemetery wall   |
| ● Play & Leisure | £ 468.40  | Replacement cradle seat   |
| ● Marmax         | £ 664.80  | 2 Planters- The Chatterry |
| ● C Mallaburn    | £ 1650.00 | Materials cemetery wall   |

**Payments due**

- |                       |          |   |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| ● I Hunter            | £ 316.04 | Salary 35.75 hours @ £ 11.05 per hour     |
| ● HMRC                | £ 79.00  | PAYE                                      |
| ● Beadnell WI         | £ 24.00  | Room hire                                 |
| ● P Cllr C Williamson | £ 43.90  | Seating area plaque                       |
| ● B Armstrong         | £ 55.00  | Annual email address & website domain fee |

**Min 41/2023- Parish Council Policies-**

- Parish Councillors undertook the annual review of the Memorial Policy. Parish A Baker proposed & Parish Councillor C Williamson seconded the previously circulated amended policy. This was agreed.
- Parish Councillors undertook the annual review of the Cemetery Regulations & Charges Policy. The Vice Chair proposed & Parish Councillor A Baker seconded the previously circulated amended policy. This was agreed including no increase in charges in 2023.

- Parish Councillors undertook the annual review of the Standing Orders. The Vice-Chair proposed & Parish Councillor A Baker seconded the Standing Orders with no changes. This was agreed.
- Parish Councillors undertook the annual review of the Planning Meeting Guide. Parish Councillors agreed to amend the wording ahead of the May meeting, where the revised guide will be adopted.
- Parish Councillors undertook the annual review of the Grants & Donations Policy. The Vice-Chair proposed & Parish Councillor A Nation seconded the previously circulated amended policy. This was agreed.
- Parish Councillors undertook the annual review of the Transparency Policy. Parish Councillor A Baker queried the display of all the annual audit information on the noticeboards, suggesting a QR code to access the paperwork which is placed on the website. Parish Councillors agreed the policy is up to date.

#### **Min 42/2023- Tree Survey**

- Parish Councillors considered the tree survey quote report.
- Parish Councillors agreed to appoint Tilia Tree Consultancy Services at a cost of £410
- Parish Councillors agreed the survey to be undertaken after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The Clerk to advise Tilia Tree Consultancy Services that the Chair or Vice-Chair would be willing to meet on site when the survey is undertaken.
- The Clerk advised it is recommended tree surveys are carried out every three years. This was agreed by Councillors and that the Tree Management Policy be amended accordingly at the next review.

#### **Min 43/2023- Updates**

- Parish Councillors received updates on the following items and considered any actions:
  - a) **Footpath to Swinhoe.** Parish Councillor A Baker reported he will provide an update at the May meeting.
  - b) **Footpath to Seahouses-** The Parish Councillors agreed this is a well-used footpath, which is part of the Coastal Path. Parish Councillor J Rhind to provide photos of the issues, and County Councillor G Renner-Thompson to contact Northumberland County Council Highways Department.
  - c) **Swinhoe junction.** County Councillor G Renner-Thompson stated that he had hoped the 30mph could be extended. However, he suggested we continue with the proposed scheme at the minute and then consult on extending the 30mph at a later date. Parish Councillor A Baker asked about the potential value of organising a petition to be sent to Northumberland County Council Highways Department on this matter. County Councillor G Renner-Thompson replied he did not feel this was necessary. County Councillor G Renner-Thompson reported that the junction is now officially classified as dangerous. Parish Councillor J Rhind proposed that the consultation to extend the 30mph is started now. This was agreed.
  - d) **Northumberland Estates-** Affordable housing. The Vice-Chair proposed the following response to the email which had been received.:  
Whilst we recognise the ongoing need for additional affordable housing in the village and surrounding area, especially those with 3 -4 bedrooms, the council can identify no

suitable sites owned by NE except the area at the end of Swinhoe Road, which initially included an affordable housing element.

The council is also interested to see if the 3 affordable housing properties in The Kilns, priced at £188,000 are bought by local residents or by those further outside the immediate area. This was seconded by Parish Councillor A Baker. This was agreed.

- e) **Bernicia Homes-** Future use of garage area at Longstone Crescent. Parish Councillors discussed possible options for the area. County Councillor G Renner-Thompson agreed to contact Bernicia Homes to ask about the likelihood of the site being used for additional affordable housing.
- f) **Climate Change Initiatives-** Parish Councillor A Nation advised the meeting that she would be taking part in the training session on 20<sup>th</sup> March, and this will be an agenda item for the AONB meeting with Parish Councils provisionally planned for May. The Vice-Chair stated she was disappointed at Northumberland County Council's lack of action. A majority of Parish Councillors agreed there were no actions and not to include this as a standard agenda item on future agendas.
- g) **Planning Application- On the Beach 21/04346/FUL-** Parish Councillors agreed to submit the following additional response along with a copy of the Conservation Area & NNCNP Settlement Boundary maps:  
The current site has approximately 25% tarmac area which is available for parking and vehicle manoeuvring. The plan of the proposed site shows that the area available for parking is reduced to 10% of the total with no room for vehicles to turn. Thus, the incidents of vehicles reversing into the main road are bound to increase. Given the sight lines and visitors' lack of familiarity with the site we would question whether this is safe This is further evidence of over-development of the site.  
It should be noted that the land opposite the site is owned by Northumberland County Council and is designated as a Village Green (VG55) and should not be proposed as additional parking for the development.
- h) **Chathill Station-** Parish Councillor J Rhind informed the meeting that there is a Teams meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March on this subject, and agreed to provide Parish Councillors with feedback following the meeting.

**Min 44/2023- Correspondence-**

- **Belford PC-** Request for support to lobby Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP Re dualling A1. Parish Councillors had already agreed to support a letter.

**Min 45/2023- Website-** Parish Councillors agreed the annual domain fee of £48 & annual email addresses fee of £7 to B Armstrong.

**Min 46/2023- Communication**

- The Vice- Chair proposed the following protocol on dealing with correspondence which requires responses.  
The Clerk sends an acknowledgement and those emails that are more than straightforward, be circulated to all Parish Councillors who agree who should compile a response. No response sent until it has been authorised by a majority of councillors. However, Parish Councillors recognise that a swift response is sometimes necessary and they need to respond accordingly. Parish Councillors agreed to add and no responses to be send to anonymous correspondents. This was agreed.

- Parish Councillor J Rhind suggested was that the Chair increased his participation in e mail debates. The Chair responded explaining his weekly level of time spent on emails. Parish Councillor A Nation questioned whether this was sufficient for the Chair of a Parish Council as busy as Beadnell's and which meets every two months. Parish Councillor J Rhind again raised concerns about the amount of bogus e mails Parish Councillors are receiving purporting to be from the Chair. The Chair replied that his anti-virus system is up to date.

**Min 47/2023- Consultation-** Parish Councillors considered the current Northumberland County Council consultation for double yellow lines on The Wynding. Parish Councillor C Williamson proposed & Parish Councillor A Baker seconded the Parish Council support the proposal with the addition of the double yellow lines on the north side of the junction of Swinhoe Road. This was agreed.

**Min 48/2023- Annual Audit**

- Parish Councillors agreed in principle the appointment of Mr C Brunt as the Internal Auditor for the 2022/23 Parish Council annual accounts. The Clerk to obtain confirmation that Mr Brunt will undertake the Internal Audit.
- Parish Councillor A Baker agreed to update the Asset Register with all suggested amendments from Parish Councillors, confirming the value of the assets on the Asset Register are up to date and can be used for the Annual Accounts. The final updated version of the Asset Register to be agreed at the May meeting.

**Min 49/2023- Annual Holiday let donation request letter**

- Parish Councillors agreed the production of the 2023 letter
- Parish Councillors ratified the printing and distribution of the letter. Parish Councillor A Baker to compile the delivery list.

**Any Other Urgent Business-**

**Min 50/2023- Welcoming Event--** Parish Councillor A Nation asked the Vice-Chair when she thought a decision should be made about a welcoming event for the new residents in The Kilns development. The Vice-Chair replied once ¾ of the houses are occupied.

**Min 51/2023- Planning Enforcement-** Parish Councillor A Nation asked for clarification as to whether the Parish Council report issues to Northumberland County Council Planning Enforcement, or do Parish Councillors individually report issues. Parish Councillors agreed to consider all enforcement issues on a case-by-case basis.

**The date of Annual Parish & Parish Council meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6pm**

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Ch's Initials \_\_\_\_\_