

PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING, held at The Spetchells Centre, Front Street, at
7:00pm on Thursday 28th July 2022

Present

Cllr Tracy Gilmore, Cllr Chris Cuthbert, Cllr Dot Dickinson, Cllr Jane Johnson, Cllr Glenn Simpson, Cllr Carol Stephenson, Cllr Gerry Price, Cllr Kiran Bell, and Cllr Jonathan Wheeler.

Shirley Ann Gaut (Clerk/RFO)
Stephanie Kirby (Deputy Clerk)
County Cllr Gordon Stewart (Prudhoe South)
County Cllr Anne Dale (Mickley)

OM2223/032 Welcome by Chair

Cllr Tracy Gilmore welcomed everyone to the meeting.

OM2223/033 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Bryan Futers, Cllr Ignasious Varghese, Cllr Angie Scott (and County Cllr Prudhoe North), Cllr Duncan Couchman, Cllr Chris Barrett.

OM2223/034 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Tracy Gilmore declared an interest for the item on Town Twinning.

Cllr Jane Johnson declared an interest for the item on Town Twinning.

OM2223/035 Dispensations

None received.

OM2223/036 Public Participation

No items of public participation had been received.

O2223/037 Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 30 June 2022

It was **AGREED** to receive the minutes as a true record.

O2223/038 Draft Minutes of Cemetery Committee Meeting held on 6 July 2022

It was **AGREED** to defer receiving the minutes to the next Ordinary Meeting to be held 29 September 2022.

OM2223/039 Neighbourhood Plan

Chris Anderson, Planning Officer, Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure, thanked the Council for inviting him to speak.

His presentation covered the key aspects of a Neighbourhood Plan which allows Parish and Town Councils to create planning policies, to help manage the use and development of land within a designated Neighbourhood Area.

Over 40 Parishes are involved in neighbourhood planning in Northumberland. These plans are at different stages of preparation: there are currently many 'made' plans, which are being used to determine planning applications in their areas. More plans are expected to be made by 2023.

The Northumberland Local Plan is the starting point for assessing whether planning applications should be approved. Includes any made Neighbourhood Plan.

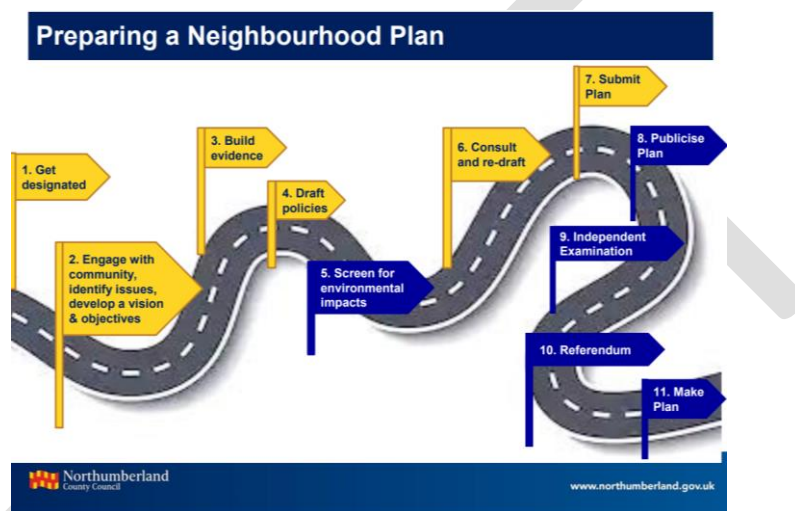
1 | Sign/Initial Chair:

Support is in the form of a dedicated Link Officer, attendance at relevant meetings and events, support with creation of consultation material and key supporting documents, access to digital mapping and paper policies map creation, advice, guidance, and assistance on creating a useable and legal Neighbourhood Plan.

Grant Funding of £10,000 is available up to March 2023. Those considering developing a Neighbourhood Plan can also receive extra support via links to Parish/Town Councils who have gone through the process.

Cllr Gilmore asked if the Council applied for this Grant, would it be considered to roll on. Chris advised the funding would need to be spent before March 2023.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a lengthy process broken into eleven steps.



Cllr Simpson asked after the referendum was held, what would the duration of the plan be. Chris mentioned this is a fifteen-year plan process. However there is no set timescale and depends upon if slimline and number of policies.

Cllr Cuthbert asked if the Local Plan holds weight and decisions made with a Neighbourhood Plan. Once a successful referendum, this is then considered alongside the Local Plan. Cllr Cuthbert also asked as a plan is reviewed and updated, would the process have to begin again. Chris advised if a tweak is fundamentally changing the plan; then this would have to go back to a referendum.

Local Parish and Town Councils can become designated (register interest), and there is no pressure to complete.

It was AGREED to be added to the next Planning, Contract and Works meeting.

OM2223/040 Town Twinning

Representative Derek Gillespie from Town Twinning, thanked the Council for inviting him to speak.

Derek was seeking guidance from the Council; the Town Twinning charter was signed forty years ago between the two towns. Significant changes over the past three years have impacted upon the contact between the towns, there has been little response from Mity Mory.

The Council were asked what their thoughts are moving forward regarding continuing the twinning. Derek mentioned that they have struggled with sports groups to become involved, historically exchanges would take place; staying with families but legislation regarding groups and individuals exchanging have changed.

Previous exchanges including participating in Mitry Mory's Christmas Market, have always been gratefully received and successful.

Discussions took place on how to involve both towns e.g. cultural, families etc.

It was AGREED the Clerk would draft a letter to Mitry Mory to ascertain their thoughts regarding the twinning.

OM222/041 Reports

a) Chair's Report

To be presented at next meeting.

b) Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following verbal report:

Bunting – Anchor Testing

Recent anchor testing has highlighted a brick needs resetting and this cannot be used until fixed, Christmas Plus have removed the bunting on the AM McGee building to the RSPCA, and the Bait Box.

Skatepark Development

Was due to meet Todd Smith from CANVAS regarding update on Highfield Park on Wednesday 27 July 2022, this was cancelled and awaiting confirmation of new date/time.

Bus Shelter – Road Ends

The damaged shelter has now been removed; replacement shelter has been ordered – awaiting confirmation for installation. NCC have been contacted re repair to path – awaiting reply/work to be carried out.

Beaumont Terrace

Partial repair carried out 13 July 2022, awaiting final panel to be installed, date to be confirmed (was advised would be completed within two weeks of 13 July 2022.)

West Wylam

Repair carried out 13 July 2022.

Nest Swing

This has now been ordered, awaiting confirmation for delivery/installation and repair to wetpour.

Crystal Palace Supporters

In memory of Billy Callender, on Sunday 24 July 2022, which marked 90 years from his death, along with Prudhoe Town Councillors, Crystal Palace supporters, representatives from local youth football teams, Prudhoe Local History Society to name but a few, visited his grave to pay tribute to the club legend.

Cllr Tracy Gilmore laid a wreath on behalf of Prudhoe Town Council.

North Seminar SLCC

3 | Sign/Initial Chair:

This took place at Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield 7 July 2022, it was an ideal opportunity to meet with other clerks ranging from Cumbria to Durham. Main take away of the day is Operation London Bridge (death of Queen Elizabeth II), preparation and arrangements which need to be put in place.

Asset Transfer Stonyflat Bank

Karbon Homes have confirmed the asset transfer has been completed.

Miners Race – Sunday 18 September 2022

PTC event/along with sponsorship from Essity. Prudhoe Plodders have already begun organising the event, and centrally taken control of the planning and finances. Met with representative from Prudhoe Plodders to discuss arrangements and what PTC needs to do in support of the event.

c) County Cllrs Reports

A written report was received from County Cllr Anne Dale (Mickley), County Cllr Angie Scott (Prudhoe North) and County Cllr Gordon Stewart (Prudhoe South.)

County Cllr Anne Dale

The County Council has undertaken some cleaning and maintenance at the playparks on behalf of residents.

The County Council is looking into reports about high hedges at various sites in the village.

Thank you for your input into the LTP and in particular Mickley.

The County Council has cut back areas of grass at the request of a resident at West Mickley.

The County Council highways is looking into the exit signage at West Mickley.

Councillors will note the changes to their Declarations of Interest form, gave an update on the at the meeting. A copy was sent to Clerk to circulate to Councillors to complete.

Cllr Cuthbert raised issue with Stonybank road, recent rain fall had caused pitting, and further up bank towards High Mickley the hedging/roadside needed attention.

County Cllr Angie Scott

County Councillor report 13 July 2022

The employment hub that is in Prudhoe at the Community Hub every Friday is going well, I have secured some funding to the Prudhoe Community Partnership who are providing the space for the employment hub staff through my small schemes fund to provide laptops and disabled accessibility to the hub.

It was great to welcome visitors and local people at the wreath laying for Billy Callender who's 90th anniversary of his passing 26th of July. I would like to thank Prudhoe Town Council and the local football teams and supporters of Crystal palace for laying wreaths and flowers.

I recently attended a site visit at the Drill Hall as residents have ongoing concerns about the safety of the building. You may have seen in the press that the road down by the Drill Hall has now been shut as the building is now deemed as unsafe. Northumberland County Council is now preparing an application for a court order, under Section 77 of the Building Act, to

undertake work on the building and/or installation of structural scaffolding to remove the "danger" from the building.

I attended the Inequalities Plan Locality Event today at the Fuse and I completely understand the Leader of The Council, Cllr Glen Sanderson, has inequalities as a key priority and has made a call to action to have a Northumberland Inequalities Plan to be approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in the autumn of 2022. I listened with interest to the speech from Cormac Russel. He is a social explorer, an author, a much sought-after speaker, Managing Director of Nurture Development, and a faculty member of the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute, at DePaul University, Chicago. Cormac explained that Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) challenges the traditional deficit-based approach that tries to solve urban and rural development problems by focusing on the needs and deficiencies of individuals, neighbourhoods, towns, and villages.

It demonstrates that local assets (people, physical assets etc.) and individual strengths are key to ensure sustainable community development, and that people have a life of their own and can have a choice. After hearing him speak, it really hit home to me as a mother of a child with learning disabilities and listening to my constituents, that our children are being failed by the unfair system within Northumberland. Children from Prudhoe and surrounding areas have no choice but to travel an unfair distance to get to Special Educational Schools to enable them to thrive. Our young people find it hard to make friends and access community groups and activities, I believe this is because they don't attend local schools and don't build relationships in their own local areas. This causes social isolation and inequality. I am in discussions with Audrey Kingham Head of Children Services now to arrange a meeting. I have a meeting at Prudhoe West First School on the 26th of July to discuss road safety regarding drop off and pick up times. (Parents picking children up from school) I have met with Sam Talbot to discuss better signage at the riverside park, and we have also looked at where the safety equipment is placed along the stretch of the river.

County Cllr Gordon Stewart

Waterworld playpark

Awaiting outcome of PTC / NCC discussions.

Borderlands deal - Progressing .

See dedicated webpage

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/EconomyRegeneration/Programmes/Borderlands-PlaceProgramme/Prudhoe-Borderlands.aspx>

Land south of Broomhouse Lane Planning applications

- 1) Housing - No further information
- 2) Extra care centre- This is still in a pre app stage. I believe this will be submitted.

Humbles Wood play area.

Discussions have taken place with PTC representatives.

Crimes of note (Public interest)

Prudhoe continues to have low levels of crime, ASB and other incidents. I am in regular contact with the Police and other services.

Litter issues

'Love where you live' idea was very well received and will take place on the first weekend of most months.

5 | Sign/Initial Chair:

Speed monitoring

Problems have been identified in the Stoneyflat bank area & near the Falcon PH. Highways Improvement & Police aware and action being considered. Other areas recently monitored did not show any major concern.

Eastwood park walking 'track'

Progressing well, should be in place by the end of 2022.

EV charging point Waterworld

In place awaiting activation.

Grass Cutting by Karbon Homes

Ongoing.

Cottier Grange planning application.

Relocation of Social / DMV houses. Approved by NCC Strategic planning committee.

Road investment - West Wylam Drive

Will be relayed in August 2022.

Dropped kerb

I am requesting these to be installed in various locations, adding to others recently installed.

Green Flag award.

Eastwoods Park has been awarded this again.

OM2223/042 Financial Update

a) Schedule of Accounts Paid/To be Paid

It was AGREED to endorse those accounts paid via delegated authority, and approve those accounts to be paid, since 30th June 2022.

b) Bank Reconciliation

It was AGREED to receive bank reconciliation from 10th June – 8th July 2022.

c) Finance Committee

Terms of Reference

It was AGREED to receive, consider, and agree the terms of reference of the Finance Committee, formed as a supportive role and will meet quarterly or on an emergency basis.

It was AGREED members will be agreed at the next Ordinary Meeting.

OM2223/043 Apologies Protocol

It was AGREED apologies should be given to the Chair of the meeting, or Clerk prior to the meeting start.

It was AGREED Non-Apologies should also added to the minutes.

OM2223/044 Waterworld

It was AGREED to consider once clarification of site maintenance obtained and to add onto the next Planning, Contract and Works meeting.

OM2223/045 Silent Soldiers

It was AGREED to replace the damaged soldier and purchase an additional two soldiers to be located at Edgewell Cemeteries. Soldier to be removed after Remembrance for maintenance and stored for safekeeping.

OM2223/046 Skatepark Opening

It was AGREED once redevelopment completed, an opening event similar to Highfield Fest will be organised catering for all ages (along with Canvas re demonstrations), as well as re-engaging with original focus group.

OM2223/047 Correspondence

It was AGREED to receive the following correspondence:-

- a) Northumberland County Council Veterans Survey, research on the needs of veterans in the County.
- b) Colin Willis committee member of the Legion asking if PTC could support a marketplace (similar to what used to happen on the Glade) under the Legion – **It was AGREED** the Clerk will contact to sign post to community groups.
- c) Resident concerns regarding flying ants (Karbon tenant, Low Prudhoe) – It was noted that the resident has been signposted to Northumberland County Council Pest Control.
- d) Personal Trainer – use of Highfield Park for children's bootcamp. **It was AGREED** the children's bootcamp could take place; permission subject to appropriate professional qualifications, along with public liability insurance.
- e) Prudhoe Air Cadets – use of BMX area to run mountain biking sessions by qualified instructors in the RAF Air Cadets. **It was AGREED** the Clerk will notify that the BMX area can be used for the mountain biking sessions.

Meeting ended at 8.45pm.