

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL
held on THURSDAY 26TH January 2023, at 7.00pm,
at The Spetchells Centre, Meeting Rooms 1&2

Present

Cllr Bryan Futers, Cllr Tracy Gilmore, Cllr Chris Cuthbert, Cllr Gerry Price, Cllr Chris Barrett, Cllr Dot Dickinson, Cllr Jane Johnson, Cllr Duncan Couchman, Cllr Jonathan Wheeler, Councillor Glenn Simpson, Councillor Ignasious Varghese, Councillor Carol Stephenson, Cllr Kiran Bell, Cllr Angie Scott (and County Cllr for Prudhoe North)

Shirley Ann Gaut (Clerk)
Stephanie Kirby (Deputy Clerk)
County Councillor Anne Dale (Mickley)

OM2223/106 Welcome by Chair

Cllr Bryan Futers welcomed everyone to the meeting.

OM2223/107 Apologies for Absence

County Cllr Gordon Stewart (Prudhoe South)

OM2223/108 Declarations of Interest

None received.

OM2223/109 Dispensations

None received.

OM2223/110 Public Participation

No items of public participation had been received.

OM2223/111 Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th December 2022.

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

OM2223/112 Finance Committee held on 12th December 2022

It was AGREED to receive the Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2022 – for information only. These minutes will be presented for agreement as a true record at the next meeting of the Finance Committee

OM2223/113 Reports

a) Chair's Report

Cllr Bryan Futers gave the following report:-

Cllr Futers recognised he had not followed procedure regarding minute FIN2223/008 (Finance Committee Meeting held 12 December 2022) with reference to the allocated end amounts.

b) Clerk's Report

There were no items to note.

c) County Cllrs Reports

The following written reports were received:

County Cllr Anne Dale (Mickley)

1. Work is taking place to remedy the poor drainage on the A695 on the southern side of the A695 west of West Mickley.
2. Drainage issues are ongoing I am working with residents on these issues.

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3. Concerns were raised about the lack of gritting on some roads in the village
4. Work is ongoing in the village on the implementation of the roll out of full fibre to the village. This is a contract between the Government and Fatco. A subcontractor of Factco are undertaking the necessary work required on the highways or pavements. Any complaints on work undertaken on the highway are dealt with by NCC Streetworks.
5. I am working with those residents who have concerns about the cost of living crisis.
6. I continue to work with residents over any complaints and concerns they have.

A belated happy and healthy New Year to you all.

Cllr Bryan Futers raised that there has always been a problem with poor drainage on the A695 on the southern side of the A695 west of West Mickley, and asked if this is going to be resolve, as the water should be going under the road rather than over it. County Councillor Anne Dale advised there are ongoing issues with water levels throughout Mickley, and works carried out will be decided by the engineers.

Cllr Chris Cuthbert thanked County Cllr Dale regarding the work taking place on the poor drainage problem. She also asked for an update on the handrail at Eastgate Bank. County Councillor Anne Dale advised quotes are being sought along with best way to install the handrail.

County Cllr Angie Scott (Prudhoe North)

The Tyne Riverside Cafe continues in popularity and are getting enquiries for room hire from groups wanting to support mental health and work with young people.

The car park was re-profiled to remove potholes, but the situation will likely be ongoing with the surfacing.

The Oasis group has moved to the parish hall Prudhoe as they outgrew the side room of the visitor centre but continue their good work.

A group of students from Newcastle College are doing a short documentary on the Spetchells and its plant life next month as part of their course.

I have a meeting arranged with Audrey Kingham to discuss the lack of SEND provision in Prudhoe and the fact that children must travel over the county to school. This meeting will be held early February.

I have requested a meeting with NCC Officers regarding gritting issues in areas of Prudhoe North.

Karbon Homes have been contacted regarding work being carried out in the castle area :-
Road blocked
Blocking of paths

Yellow lines on Beech grove West Rd – I've asked NCC for a decision if they are going to carry out a feasibility study.

Road Safety outside of Prudhoe West – This is still at design stage of the process.

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County Cllr Gordon Stewart (Prudhoe South)

Prudhoe Walled Garden

Progressing well.

Cost of living.

PTC is encouraged to signpost residents to support available

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

I am in regular contact with partners / professionals / residents re this issue.

Go North East issues

Services appear to be improving.

Speeding vehicles.

Residents in various parts of the town raise concerns on a regular basis, this type of complaint is common throughout the County & further afield.

Each complaint is dealt with individually & action taken as appropriate.

EV Chargers

Waterworld - Legal agreements have now been signed, and the charger will be activated in the next few months, but as discussions with the NHS took so long the installation of chargers in the Oaklands CP & Eastwoods park CP have been authorised they will be installed in the short term ahead of the above.

Cottier Grange entrance - Street lighting

Work is taking place to replace major power cables in that area.

Warm places

Are operating throughout the town.

A huge number of community events are taking place around town following the pandemic.

PCP

Various projects are progressing.

Coronation

A lot of public interest & early plans are being made.

Essity

£30m investment into the plant, securing local jobs for years to come.

Funding

Borderlands

Playzones

Unlocking Your Place Potential

Adderlane Academy.

A major investment into the School buildings has been agreed. A public statement will be made by the trust asap

OM2223/114 Financial Update

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To receive reports and raise any questions

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 15th December 2022.

b) Bank Reconciliation

It was AGREED to receive Bank Reconciliation from 10 December - 9 January 2023.

OM2223/115 Vacancy for West Wylam Ward

It was AGREED to receive updated information from Northumberland County Council advising they have received the required number electors requesting the vacancy be filled. Should multiple nominations be received an election will take place on Thursday 16 March 2023. Notice of Election will be given and displayed from Thursday 9 February 2023, nominations will then be open until 4pm Friday 17 February 2023.

OM2223/116 Standing Orders Update

It was AGREED to adopt updated Standing Orders for the Council with amendment to Section 3 (i) Meetings Generally, to read as follows:-

A person shall raise his/her/their hand when requesting to speak. The chair of the meeting may at any time permit a person to be seated when speaking.

OM2223/117 Events Committee

It was AGREED to form an Events Committee and the following Councillors have shown an interest:

1. Cllr Jane Johnson
2. Cllr Dot Dickinson
3. Cllr Jonathan Wheeler
4. Cllr Tracy Gilmore
5. Cllr Kiran Bell
6. Cllr Chris Barrett

OM2223/118 Budget 2023/2024

a) It was AGREED to receive the draft Budget Proposals

b) The following Town Council Expenditure Budget for 2023/24 was AGREED.

	2022-23 Budget	Expected OUT TURN	2023/24 General Expenditure	2023/24 Capital Expenditure
MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT				
Employment Costs	£48,574	£85,776	£85,000	
Chair's Allowance	£500	£492	£1,000	
Office Rent, Service and Facility Costs (PCP)	£8,000	£9,928	£10,000	
Meeting Hire (PCP)	£500	£1,750	£1,500	
Stationery Costs (inc. copier)	£4,000	£1,487	£2,000	
Audit Fee	£1,250	£2,250	£2,000	
Insurance PTC	£3,500	-£6,144	£4,000	

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Subscriptions	£2,600	£2,633	£2,700	
Travel - councillors & staff (domestic)	£100	£111	£200	
Travel - Town Twinning	£500	£140	£750	
Bank Charges/Loyalty Income	£100	£141	£150	
Professional Expenses	£1,450	£1,531	£1,550	
RECREATION & LEISURE SERVICES				
Prudhoe in Bloom	£0	£0	£1,000	
Civic Events	£6,500	£9,345	£16,529	
Play Areas	£6,500	£12,626	£14,000	
Allotments General	£4,000	£6,080	£8,000	
Highfield Park	£10,000	£12,490	£30,000	
Highfield Skate Park	£0	£180,912	£0	
The GLADE (power supply)	£100	£142	£200	
Christmas Lights	£8,503	£9,682	£15,000	
Town Twinning	£250	£0	£250	
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES				
Bedding, Planters & Hanging Baskets	£35,797	£40,879	£45,000	
Roundabouts & Shrubbery, Grass Cutting	£12,282	£12,883	£13,500	
Wildflowers	£1,063	£0	£1,063	
Kepwell	£500	£500	£500	
Environmental Improvements	£5,000	£147	£5,000	
Bus Shelters	£4,000	£14,086	£15,000	
Seats	£7,500	£5,504	£6,000	
Litter Bins	£3,130	£0	£3,000	
South Road Public Toilets	£16,500	£20,304	£21,000	
CEMETERY				
<i>Edgewell Cemetery Contract & Running Costs (Still awaiting 23/24 costs)</i>	£15,506	£60,002	£18,000	
Edgewell Cemetery Repairs & Development	£2,500	£534	£10,000	
GRANTS & SUBSIDIES				
Grant Aid (including Youth Provision)	£70,000	£82,383	£70,000	
OTHER SERVICES				
Remembrance (incl Poppy Wreath)	£350	£1,333.00	£500	
War Memorial (Lych Gate) also Veterans Seat c/f	£0	£0	£0	
Town Council Development	£1,300	£300	£1,500	
Training & Development	£4,700	£3,920	£5,000	
Other	£180,000	£0	£0	
Election Costs	£4,500	£3,604	£15,000	
TOTAL	£471,555			
				£425,892

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- c) **It was AGREED** to hold **£80,000** in General Reserves and Contingency and **£107,950** allocated to Earmarked Reserve, towards longer term asset management and replacement.
- d) **It was AGREED** to make a precept demand to Northumberland County Council of **£407,812** which indicates an annual indicative cost to the average Band D household of £117.42. This represents an indicative increase of **£2.88** (2.51%) on 2022/23.

OM2223/119 Correspondence

It was AGREED to receive the following correspondence:-

- Rural Cost of Living Survey - Your Help Needed to Encourage Participation - request to share via social platforms - **It was AGREED** to post on Prudhoe Town Council Website and Facebook page.

Meeting ended.