

DRAFT minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Prudhoe Town Council held in Committee Room 1 of The Spetchells Centre on Wednesday 26th June 2019 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Cllr Tracy Gilmore (Chair), Cllr Andy Gill, Cllr Bryan Futers, Cllr Brenda Grey, Cllr Jennifer McGee, Cllr Gerry Price, Cllr Chris Barratt, Councillor Duncan Couchman.

Also, in attendance: - County Cllrs Anne Dale, Ken Stow and Gordon Stewart

Officers in attendance: - Town Clerk, Administrative Officer and Colin Hall (Community Engagement Officer, Northumberland Flood Resilience – Environment Agency)

OM1920 /033 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Carol Stephenson, Cllr Christine Cuthbert, Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Russ Greig, Cllr Glenn Simpson, Cllr Ignasious Varghase.

OM1920/033 Presentation from Colin Hall (Community Engagement Officer, Northumberland Flood Resilience, Environment Agency)

Colin explained that his role within the environment agency was to create a flood plan for the County, engaging a team of volunteers, identifying flood hotspots and potentially vulnerable residents that may need additional support and assistance in the event of a flood. He explained that he had just completed a flood plan for Ponteland and circulated examples of their flood plan and maps of potential flood hotspots prepared from knowledge gathered by the Environment Agency from previous flooding and profiling. Colin advised that he would take the lead, but he would like the Town Council's support to engage with, and recruit Community Volunteers to form a local community flood action group who would assist and co-ordinate in the preparation and implementation of a local flood plan in the event that there was ever a flood in Prudhoe again. Colin further advised that there was a Public Consultation Event on Community Flood Planning scheduled to take place in Ovingham Reading Rooms on the 11th July between 15:30H and 18:30H and that Members were welcome to attend.

Several Members expressed concern at the fact that the flood risk in Prudhoe was restricted to just two lines in the County flood plan as several business premises had been very adversely affected during the last flood in 2015. Colin explained that priority had to be given to residential properties and all profiling and forecasting suggested that there were very few residential properties within Prudhoe that were likely to be affected by flood.

It was RESOLVED

- a) to thank Colin Hall for his presentation and
- b) note the material circulated by him at the meeting and
- c) note the timing and location of the Community Flood Planning Consultation Event.

OM1920/034 Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, held on 29th May 2019

Following consideration of the previously circulated draft minutes of the meeting

IT was AGREED that the Draft Minutes of the meeting of Ordinary Meeting of Prudhoe Town Council be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

PROPOSED Cllr. Jennifer McGee

SECONDED Cllr Bryan Futers

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OM1920/035 Draft Minutes of The Cemetery Committee held on 5th June 2019

Following consideration of the previously circulated draft minutes of the meeting

IT was AGREED to receive the minutes and endorse the actions agreed.

OM1920/036 Draft Minutes of the Planning Contract and Works Committee, held on 12th June 2019

Following consideration of the previously circulated draft minutes of the meeting **IT was AGREED** to receive the minutes and endorse the actions agreed.

OM1920/037 Clerks Report

It was AGREED to receive the Clerks Report Copied Below

Prudhoe East Centre – Survey

Further to previous communication, the East Centre site will have been surveyed today and the report is expected to be received by the office at the end of the month. This will be considered by council at the PCW's meeting on 10th July, the papers for which will go out on 3rd July.

Essity Prudhoe Miners Race 2019

The Clerk has been invited to attend a committee meeting of Prudhoe Plodders on 9th July (venue to be confirmed) where an update will be given; this can be given as a verbal report at the PCW's meeting the following night if members wish.

Town Council Website

The Clerk has asked the website company to hand over so final tweaks and updates can be carried out by the office. We will receive training on 3rd July 2019 but due to holidays and meetings we would not expect to be able to launch until w/c 22nd July.

Northumberland Pride

As well as sending the Council's donation, the Clerk put the organisation in touch with the teams of both the Hexham Parkrun and the Prudhoe Riverside Parkrun. Last Saturday Hexham welcomed 358 park runners, in all colours of the rainbow and this Saturday Prudhoe Parkrun are following suit.

Prudhoe Youth Project were responsible for the Pride Support posters in the shops and windows on Front Street.

Bus Shelter at Mickley (travelling west)

Work is currently being undertaken to move the shelter that was installed, travelling east to the side travelling west, beside Elisa Rose. As a result of an error by Northumberland County Council (NCC) and/or contractors the base that Prudhoe Town Council tendered to have installed was dug out and now appears to have been unnecessary. In view of this, the NCC Officer responsible has offered that the invoice, when received, can be raised with NCC if the Town Council wishes. The advice of the RFO is that it would be unfair to expect the Prudhoe taxpayer to bear the cost of unnecessary work and that the Town Council should seek reimbursement as offered.

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Highfield Fest 2019

The Clerk has had a discussion with NBK Leisure today as there are very strong winds forecast for Sunday. The Health & Safety Executive has very strict controls with regards wind speeds and in particular 'gusts' which preclude the use of any inflatable entertainment, the MET office is the only forecast that can be used for reference. NBL Leisure will check in again on Friday and we will make a decision then with safety as the paramount concern. We have the following booked with NBK Leisure and the first five items are inflatable:

1. Bouncy Castle
2. Giant Slide
3. Total Wipe-out
4. Cliff Jump
5. Demolition Zone
6. Toddler Zone
7. Crazy Golf

We can swap an item for the rodeo sheep and may be able to get a fairground ride from Turners but we will wait until Friday for a more detailed forecast before making any changes.

Wet Pour Damage at Highfield Park

The wet pour has been mended and an insurance claim has been made for the full cost of £1851 minus £100 excess.

Environmental Tenders

A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 7th August at 6:30pm to discuss the tenders, prior to them being issued as part of procurement. Tenders will come back to the September PCW's meeting, prior to being issued. Those Cllrs who volunteered are Cllrs Gilmore, McGee, Cuthbert, Grey and Scott.

Standing Orders

A meeting has been arranged for Monday 15th July at 6:00pm to look at Standing Orders. Depending on the outcome of the meeting, revised Standing Orders may be presented to the 31st July Ordinary Meeting. Those Cllrs who volunteered are Cllrs McGee, Barrett, Cuthbert and Price.

Prudhoe in Bloom

Prudhoe in Bloom has been launched so please consider having a look at your ward to see if there are any keen gardeners that could be encouraged to enter. Judging is scheduled for July and the presentation will be held on 14th September.

OM1920/038 County Councillor Reports

County Councillor Ken Stowe gave an update on the situation with the Old Drill Hall advising that the owner of the site was currently in prison and that it was subject to a n order under the Proceeds of Crime Act, he advised that he hoped that the site would soon be sold for development and that in the interim it had been secured with additional Harris fencing and that the Police were keeping an eye on the site.

He further advised of the three-stage process that had to be undertaken prior to the installation of the South Road crossing and indicated that it would definitely be installed before the end of the financial year, hopefully during the school holidays in October. County Councillor Stowe reiterated that the matter had to go through due process emphasising that he was working with his colleagues on this and that they were doing all that they could to try and expedite matters, given the legal process.

County Councillor Anne Dale reiterated the remarks made by County Councillor Ken Stowe, advising that a similar process done in Stocksfield and Riding Mill and that the process of consulting and designing such schemes was time consuming, she remarked that she felt sorry for the Officers involved in the work as there was simply not enough officers to do all of the work that was required in the consultation and design of such schemes, members were also updated by County Councillor Dale with regard to the bus shelter relocation at Mickley.

County Councillor Dale advised that a proposal had been put forward that Town and Parish Councils would no longer be treated as a statutory consultee in the Planning process unless they had in place a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Town Clerk remarked that Town and Parish Councils were not a statutory consultee but that we had the right to request to be consulted on planning matters in our locality. County Councillor Gordon Stewart clarified that it had been proposed by the new Director of Planning that the Town and Parish Councils within Northumberland County Council area who did not have a neighbourhood plan in place would not be consulted on planning matters in their locality but that this proposal had been withdrawn prior to the meeting to discuss it.

County Councillor Stewart reported that the schools in Prudhoe were doing well and that Prudhoe Castle had improved significantly since their last inspection by OFSTED. He advised that he was in talks with Karbon about the Haven site and Gentoo about the former Prudhoe Hospital site. County Councillor Stewart further advised that he was looking at options with regard to the play area at Waterworld.

He further advised the meeting that the nursery "My Little Kingdom" at the former Kingdom Hall Site was doing well and that Chrysalis Care would be coming to Prudhoe in the Autumn.

County Councillor Stewart advised that he was pleased to be involved in the Prudhoe Front Street Support Group for local businesses and that he was looking at the issues of speeding at Cottier Grange.

He advised that he had spoken to the representatives of the friends of Eastwood Park and was pleased that they would be participating in the "I love Parks" initiative.

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With regard to the issue of the pond to the rear of Priest Close Cottages he advised that samples of the oily substance found in the pond had been sent off for analysis by the Woodlands Trust but that although something had been added to the pond the tests were inconclusive.

OM1920/039 Model Publication Scheme

Members gave due consideration to the previously circulated Model Publication Scheme in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as recommended by the Information Commissioners Office.

IT was AGREED to adopt and publicise the previously circulated Model Publication Scheme.

OM1920/040 Training and Development Policy.

Members gave due consideration to the previously circulated Training and Development Policy presented by the Clerk to support the Council in meeting its aims and objectives.

IT was AGREED to adopt the previously circulated training and development policy.

OM1920/041 Accounts

Following consideration of the previously circulated items a and b and the tabled item c in relation to the Council's Accounts, **IT was AGREED: -**

- a) to receive the monthly bank reconciliation for the period 10th May 2019 – 9th June 2019 and
- b) to receive the statement of Budget and Expenditure for the period 1st April 2019 – 20th June 2019 and
- c) to endorse the payment of the accounts paid since the last meeting and authorise the payment of the tabled schedule of accounts due to be paid.

OM1920/042 Summer Funding Initiative '42 Days of Summer'

Following consideration of the previously circulated response from Prudhoe Community Workshop Trust(PCWT, trading as Prudhoe Youth Charity shop in relation to the Town Council's request for match funding of £13000 to support the 42 days of Summer Funding Initiative for the young people of Prudhoe and the recommendations for funding made by the small group of Councillors tasked with reviewing the applications received **It was AGREED**

- a) to receive and note the response from PCWT, and
- b) to receive and agree the recommendations for funding in respect of the 42 Days of Summer applications received, and
- c) to agree to fund the shortfall of £2,135 from the Council's contingency fund.

OM1920/043 Wise Academies Mixed Academy Trust MAT Consultation

Following Consideration of the previously circulated consultation material **IT was AGREED** to thank the school for including the Town Council in their consultation and confirm that the Town Council in principle supported the Schools plans.

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OM1920/044 Prudhoe Youth Project (PYP)

Following Consideration of the previously circulated report of the meeting held on 13th June 2019 **IT was AGREED**

- a) to receive the report of the meeting and,
- b) to confirm that in light of PYP's decision to convene a meeting of all the Youth Organisations in the Town in early September 2019, bearing in mind that four Town Councillors, namely, Councillors Grey, Gilmore, Barrett and Price were representatives on both PYP and the Prudhoe Youth Forum, it would be appropriate to let one organisation (PYP) convene the meeting where the Town Council would be adequately represented.

OM1920/045 Reports from Outside Bodies

Following Consideration of the previously circulated report of the Prudhoe Community Partnership Front Street Working Group **IT was AGREED** to receive and note the report.

OM1920/046 Correspondence and Publications

Consideration was given to a letter dated 24th June 2019 from Prudhoe Town Football Club and **IT was AGREED** to receive and note the correspondence and place the issue of the granting of long-term permission to the club allowing Newcastle University team to train at the club on a future Council meeting agenda.