

**PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL****Draft Minutes Combined Ordinary Meeting and Planning, Contract and Works Committee  
12<sup>th</sup> December 2018****PRESENT**

Cllr Tracy Gilmore (Chair), Cllr Gerry Price, Councillor Russell Greig, Cllr Andy Gill, Cllr Brenda Grey, Cllr Glenn Simpson, Cllr Duncan Couchman, Cllr Christine Cuthbert, Cllr Angie Taylor

Also, in attendance: -

County Councillor Gordon Stewart.

Officers: - Sarah Eden (Prudhoe Town Council), Pauline Cant (Prudhoe Town Council), Jude Deeks (Locality Officer for Tynedale – Northumberland County Council)

Members of the Public, including the following Speakers: - Mr Jeff Forsyth and John Burnett

**1819/138 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Bryan Futers, Cllr Carol Stephenson Cllr Chris Cuthbert

(County Councillors Dale and Stow also tendered their apologies).

**1819/139 Declarations of Interest** None received.

**1819/140 Locality Officer for Tynedale**

Jude Deeks the Locality Officer for Tynedale employed by Northumberland County Council, gave a presentation to the Council in line with her previously circulated presentation slides and then took questions from Members of the Council.

**IT was AGREED** that the Council would receive and note the presentation given by the Locality Officer for Tynedale to the meeting and that she be welcomed back to the Council in 6months time following the completion of her mapping work to update the Council on her mapping work and its findings.

**Proposed Cllr Brenda Grey Seconded Cllr Tracy Gilmore****1819/141 Planning Matters**

- Planning Applications Received**

Planning Reference 18/03791/FUL Land North West of Dene Terrace Prudhoe

*(Cllr Jennifer McGee, who had previously advised the Town Clerk as a courtesy that she may be late for personal reasons, entered the meeting during the discussions on this matter at 6.50pm)*

Having received representations from Mr Jeff Forsythe and Mr John Burnett on behalf of a number of residents of Dene Terrace and taking into account the views of local Members **IT was AGREED** that the Council would OBJECT to the proposal on the grounds that: -

it is essentially the development of garden land.

it is within the prohibited 15 metre distance from ancient Woodland.

the proposed development would affect the ecology of the nearby habitat.

the development is not keeping with the distinct character of the street.

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the proposed development would be overbearing on such a small site with the associated loss of privacy to near neighbours.

the proposal would have adverse highway implications increasing the congestion and vehicular movements in what is already a narrow street.

**Proposed Cllr Brenda Grey    Seconded Cllr Tracy Gilmore**

Planning reference 18/04042/FUL -17 Homedale Prudhoe

**It was AGREED** that the Council would SUPPORT the proposal

**Proposed Cllr Andy Gill    Seconded Cllr Christine Cuthbert**

Planning reference 18/044113/FUL – 11 Homedale Prudhoe

**It was AGREED** that the Council would SUPPORT the proposal

**Proposed Cllr Andy Gill    Seconded Cllr Christine Cuthbert**

Planning reference 18/03791/FUL- Land North West of Dene Terrace Prudhoe

*(Councillor Duncan Couchman entered the meeting during the discussions on this item at 7.02pm)*

**It was AGREED** that the Council would to OBJECT to this proposal on the grounds that it was overdevelopment of the site and that the infrastructure was not equipped to cope with the associated additional parking and vehicle movements.

**Proposed Cllr Angie Scott    Seconded Cllr Russell Grieg**

**1819/142 DRAFT Report of the Planning Contract and Works Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**a) It was AGREED** to receive and approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

**Proposed Cllr Jennifer McGee    Seconded Cllr Brenda Grey**

**MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk gave the following update on the matters arising

1819/032 Mickley Square Bus Shelter

The work will be carried out before the Christmas break.

1819/039 New Litter Bins

The majority of bins are in place now and other will be installed before the Christmas break.

1819/052 Christmas Lights

The lights on the Parish Hall tree, the spheres at the west end and the cross-street near the Glade, including the wall mounted signs at the Glade are out and will be attended tomorrow morning.

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Further communication from Broomley & Stocksfield PC has confirmed that they would only be interested in a joint arrangement if the role of civil enforcement was combined, due to the majority of their issues being related to parking. Additionally, they would be less interested if the role was shared with towns and villages further afield, due to the fact that the employed Enforcement Officer would spend a proportion of their time travelling between bases.

The clerk at Hexham confirmed that the town council had not considered a dedicated Enforcement Officer for the town and commented that problem areas in respect of dog fouling and litter were within Northumberland County Council areas of responsibility, i.e. Tyne Green and Hexham Park. The question will be raised informally in the first instance and if there is any measure of support will be added to a council meeting agenda for a more formal discussion.

We will contact Hexham TC in January to ascertain interest.

1819/060 Prudhoe East Centre

This item is on the agenda.

1819/061 Unauthorised Advertising (Fly-posting)

This has been passed on the Northumberland County Council Highways department.

1819/063 Overhanging Ash tree branch behind Road Ends Toilets

The contractor has confirmed that the work will be carried out in January 2019.

1819/064 Litter Bin Cleansing and Graffiti Removal

Graffiti was successfully removed from all litter bins listed (excluding the red dog bins near Cockshott Dene, the graffiti was very stubborn and could not be lifted, these will require re-painting).

Whilst all cleansing has been completed, it is most obvious in the town centre that the top surface of the litter bin is being used as an ashtray; cigarettes are stubbed out and left, rather than being stubbed out and then disposed of in the bin. Although Broxap supply a litter bin with an ashtray on top, one cannot be added, you can however add a stub plate which takes up less than a quarter of the surface (£10) which says 'stub it and bin it'. The council could consider these or consider purchasing separate cigarette bins for problem areas, i.e. The Glade bus stop, bus stop outside G&S Electrics, Road Ends bus stop, between library and Lotus House.

1819/065 Space Net at Highfield Park

A quotation request has not been sent out yet but this will be actioned next week.

**1819/143 Prudhoe East Centre**

Councillors Grey and Scott put forward their proposals with regard to progressing matters in relation to the Town Council's interest in the East Centre, following a full debate on the matter **it was AGREED: -**

1. To approve the previously circulated terms of reference for a two-phase approach to the brief.

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2. That the Council agree that the following organisations/consultants be approached, inviting them to tender for the initial phase one work-

Community Matters; Durham Community Action; Northumberland Community Action; Tony Dodd's Consulting

3. That the Council (in view of their fiduciary responsibilities to the local precept payer), agree to the Town Clerk arranging a site visit of the East Centre buildings and land with officers from the Estates Department of Northumberland County Council, local County Councillors and other Youth and Community Groups, (including the Citizens Advice) who may have a future interest in using and/or occupying the East Centre site in the future.
4. That the Town Clerk be mandated to chase up Northumberland County Council for a response to the Council's earlier correspondence to them [Minute 1819/060 refers] AND
5. That the Council formally consider the report of the site meeting when it has been convened, together with any response received in response to [Minute ref 1819/060] at the earliest available thereafter meeting of the Council.

**Proposed Cllr Brenda Grey      Seconded Cllr Angie Scott**

### **1819 /144 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

- a. Subject to the amendment that the comment attributed to Councillor Gerry Price at the final sentence of the draft minute ref [1819/126] as previously circulated with the meeting agenda, be redacted it was **AGREED** that the minutes could be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.
- b. Matters Arising – The Town Clerk gave the following update on Matters Arising.

1819/121 Citizens Advice Northumberland. The Administrative Officer wrote to Citizens Advice Northumberland to confirm the Grant Aid pledged for £6,000 would be paid, this is listed on the schedule tonight.

#### 1819/122 Car Parking Charges at Prudhoe Interchange and Tyne Riverside Park

The Administrative Officer sent the following letter of objection to Paul Jones, Director of Local Services:

"Dear Mr Jones,

Consultation on Car Parking Charges at Selected Coastal and Railway Car Parks.

Thank you for attending the Meeting of Prudhoe Town Council on Wednesday 28th November to discuss the County Council's proposals to introduce Parking Charges at Prudhoe Railway Station and the Tyne Riverside Country Park at Prudhoe.

Following representations from several Members of the Public at that meeting and taking into account the public views, as well as their own concerns about the detrimental impact that the charges will have upon the social and economic wellbeing of the people of Prudhoe the Town

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Council resolved to respond to the Consultation and object strongly to the proposals [Minute 1819/122].

In reaching their decision to object the Town Council took into account the following matters:

1. Disparity of the approach taken towards Prudhoe and market towns within the County as car parking charges are a deterrent to tourists, Prudhoe is a historic Castle town and we also wish to welcome tourists to Prudhoe and certainly not deter them.
2. The potential negative impact on potential visitors to Prudhoe and the knock-on adverse impact on the economy of the town.
3. The potential adverse impact on the new café business, (you were unable to confirm or deny in your presentation, whether the proposal to introduce car parking charges were mentioned to the new proprietors prior to them entering into their business venture).
4. The policy of charging to park at the Tyne Riverside Country Park is felt to be at odds with the County Council's policy of encouraging a healthy lifestyle as the park is used regularly by many community and sporting groups (including the Park Run, the Canoe Club and the Prudhoe Plodders to name but a few), as well as cyclists who transport their bike via car and many dog walkers who take their dog to the park via car.
5. The cost of the season ticket at the railway was felt to be unreasonably high.
6. The proposed charges at the railway station discriminated against rail users in Prudhoe who were acting in an environmentally friendly manner and reducing their carbon footprint by travelling into Newcastle by train (the proposed Parking Charges would increase the cost of travelling to work in Newcastle by rail by a further 50%).
7. Prudhoe railway station is now the busiest on that rail line, and the proposed charges would discourage rail travel.
8. Parking Charges at both sites would displace the traffic elsewhere.
9. Previous attempts to introduce car park charging had to be abandoned as people would not pay to use the car park.

Thankyou once again for attending the meeting last week, I would be obliged if you would confirm that due regard will be given to the Town Council's views on this matter prior to a final decision being made".

1819/126 Land South of Regents Drive, Prudhoe

The town council's decision, as listed in the minutes of meeting was sent to NCC Planning. Following consultation with the chair of the council, the clerk issued a Press Release explaining the council's decision and putting forward the positive suggestions in relation to employment and skills, public transport and litter.

'In July 2016 Prudhoe Town Council supported 'in principle' the outline planning application for a retail development at Low Prudhoe, at the same time they supported the outline planning application for a Town Centre Retail Development, ref. 16/02083/OUT. In considering their response the council appreciated that the 'out of town' retail development was a positive investment in the town and would reduce the outflow of trade to other locations, however, they

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stipulated that the Town Centre Retail Development should be given priority over an 'out of town' development as this would be best for the town.

At last night's meeting the 'reserved matters' for the 'out of town' retail development was considered and the council, like members of the public, were able to read more detailed information relating to the type and scale of retail outlets expected at Low Prudhoe, including the infrastructure, landscape, elevations and design and access statement. This included a possible Aldi, KFC drive-through/restaurant, a non-food retail outlet with external garden centre, a further food retail outlet and five smaller mixed-use outlets; all with associated parking.

Members of the council were conflicting in their views, in the main the effect that the development could have on the Front Street with examples of cases where 'out of town' retail developments had a detrimental impact and town centre footfall suffered. At the same time, members applauded Front Street traders and their determination and survival over the years; where many towns feel the impact of empty shops, Prudhoe does not. It was discussed that Prudhoe Front Street is also moving towards being more than shopping alone; there is a growing element of non-retail businesses, community and social venues adding to the shopping offer.

The Town Council agreed to object to the development, by a marginal vote of 5 in favour/4 against, for reasons of the impact of the development on the town centre, again stating that the outline permission given for the town centre development (16/02083/OUT), as asserted in July 2016, should be the primary consideration for the good of the town.

Members were mindful that their objection was likely to have little impact in view that outline planning permission has been approved and put forward suggestions for section 106 agreements that Northumberland County Council should seek to agree with the developer. These were:

An Employment and Skills Plan (ESP) to align the opportunities for skills and jobs with residents, most specifically those in need of training and employment, and/or funding to equip residents with the required skills. An ESP could include making available locally; apprenticeships, employment and training initiatives, maximising local labour and work experience.

A Litter Strategy to mitigate against the additional litter that comes with fast food outlets.

A Local Travel Plan to ensure a town bus service is made available allowing all residents access to the development, not just car drivers.

1819/128 Run Nation – Costs of Road Closure, Prudhoe Miners Race

This item is on the agenda 'as a confidential item'.

1819/131 Casual Vacancy – Castledene and Eltringham Ward

Electors have until 19th December to call an election.

1819/133 Armed Forces Memorial Seat

The council's decision has been communicated but the parties have not commented to date.

**Proposed by Councillor Jennifer McGee    Seconded by Cllr Tracy Gilmore**

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County Councillor Gordon Stewart gave an update on County Council matters affecting Prudhoe. advising that the Dementia care Centre plans had been withdrawn, that the footpath on the Gentoo site was now open, he reiterated that he would not comment on the proposed retail development at low Prudhoe as he was on the Planning Committee that would deal with it, he further advised that there would be major investment in Prudhoe Highways before the Spring and that he had had talks with officers about the proposed parking charges at Prudhoe Station and the Tyne Riverside Park that he thought were constructive. County Councillor Stewart also advised that the review of the Youth Service had been made public and he advised that the Town Council can always apply for s106 monies in connection with a large-scale development. Councillor Greig remarked that the proposal to develop retail land at low Prudhoe was an opportunity to have the developers improve the footpath links to West Wylam to enable people to walk to the new retail development if it progresses and County Councillor Stewart requested that this was put in an email.

**1819/146 Accounts****a) Statement of Expenditure**

It was **AGREED** to receive and note the circulated statement of expenditure.

**b) Accounts Payable**

It was **AGREED** to endorse the payment of those accounts paid since the last meeting and authorise those accounts to be paid that were tabled

**Proposed Cllr Jennifer McGee   Seconded Cllr Glenn Simpson**

**1819/147   Draft Budget 2019/20**

Following a full discussion on the budgetary requirements for the 2019/2020 it **WAS AGREED** that budget   funding needs to be made for the following priorities.

1.        Website improvement and development.
2.        All year planted Christmas Tree
3.        Eastwood Park transfer will require a revenue budget for maintenance of equipment and facilities and perimeter fence.
4.        Allotments funding for replacement fences and maintenance of boundary hedges
5.        Increase budget provision for Professional Fees (in view of the professional issues that may arise because of the East)
6.        Additional funding for environmental works to the land around the Public Toilets
7.        Additional funding for Member and Officer training. A Member training need for team building to help create/embed a vision/policy framework for the Council was identified.

**1819/148 Prudhoe Youth Initiative**

It was **AGREED** to Appoint Cllr Angie Scott and Cllr Gerry Price as the Prudhoe Town Council representatives on the newly formed Prudhoe Youth Initiative

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**Proposed Cllr Christine Cuthbert Seconded Councillor Brenda Grey**

**18/19 149 Front Street Improvement Group**

It was **AGREED** to appoint Cllrs Tracy Gilmore and Cllr Jennifer McGee to the Front Street Improvement Group

**Proposed by Councillor Chris Cuthbert and Cllr Brenda Grey and Seconded by Cllr Angie Scott and Russ Grieg respectively**

**18/19 150 Prudhoe Town Football Club**

It was **AGREED** to reaffirm the permission for Prudhoe Youth Football Club Senior Team and Newcastle University FC to use the grounds for the 2019/20 season.

**18/19 151 Consultation over Recovery Costs for Provision of Traffic Management and Other Services to Event Organisers**

Following consideration and discussion about the communication received from Northumberland County Council asking for proposals to charge for local services, including road closures for community events it was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to Northumberland County Council asking that they re-consider their proposal for introducing charges when it could be demonstrated that the events were wholly for the benefit of the Community and ran on a not for profit basis and none charging basis with the intention of benefiting the whole community as well as attracting potential tourists and visitors to the Community.

**18/19 152 Correspondence and Publications**

**Item 15(i) Correspondence**

It was **AGREED** to receive and note the letter received from Mrs M. Hepworth dated 29th November 2018.

**Item 15(ii) Publications**

It was **AGREED** To receive the following publications: -

NE43 news issue 65 December 2018

Allotment & Leisure Gardener Issue 4 2018

The Clerk SLCC Magazine November 2018

**18/19 153 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**It was AGREED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and as the public interest would not be served in disclosing the information, that the press and public be excluded for consideration of the following item in accordance with the provisions of Section1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and section 68 of the Standing Orders of Prudhoe Town Council.**



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**18/19 153 Invoice for Road Closure and Traffic Management for Essity Prudhoe Miners Race**

Following discussion of this matter and the associated previously circulated email correspondence it was AGREED that the invoice should be paid as a goodwill gesture on an entirely without prejudice basis and that the matter should be put out to tender next year.

**PROPOSED Councillor Tracy Gilmore      SECONDED Councillor Jennifer McGee**

The meeting closed and the Town Mayor wished all Members and Staff a Happy Christmas and New Year.