

**AGREED Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Prudhoe Town Council
held in Room 1 of The Spetchells Centre on Wednesday 27th March 2019
commencing at 7pm**

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PRESENT

Cllr Tracy Gilmore (Chair), Cllr Gerry Price, Cllr Andy Gill, Cllr Chris Barrett, Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Brian Futers, Cllr Chris Cuthbert, Cllr Jennifer McGee, Cllr Brenda grey, Cllr Glenn Simpson, Cllr Duncan Couchman

Also in attendance, County Councillors Anne Dale and Gordon Stewart

Officers: - Town Clerk and Administrative Officer

OM1819/188 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Carol Stephenson, Cllr Ignasious Varghase

County Councillor Ken Stow

OM1819/189 Declarations of Interest

None received.

OM1819/190 Draft report of the Ordinary Meeting held on 27th February 2019

Subject to the following amendment at page 3, that Cllr Tracy McGee is correctly recorded as Cllr Tracy Gilmore.

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE** the report as a true and correct record.

OM1819/191 Draft report of the Planning Contract & Works Committee held on 13th March 2019

It was **AGREED to RECEIVE** the report for information only.

OM1819/192 CLERKS REPORT

Bob Stokoe Memorial Cup

All Front Street traders have received a letter about the Shop Front competition and we are aware of a couple of entries already. In past years the prize was £50. Last year this was won by All Seasons Funeral Directors and the year before Ready, Steady, Knit.

2019 Essity Prudhoe Miners Race

A letter was sent to a number of running clubs and events companies regarding the 2019 event; the response has been very promising and the Clerk is meeting each in term and directing them to put their thoughts and proposals to the council. The first meeting uncovered that it won't be possible to cross the railway line, but other options are available.

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The Clerk has spoken with Tony Bradley (Essity) and they are very much in favour of the suggested changes. Also, Prudhoe Youth Club FC, although they may have scheduled fixtures, are keen to support and agree there is sufficient space for all.

The Clerk will recommend that the next meeting of the PCW's Committee agrees that the previously convened group of Councillors (Cllrs Gilmore, Price, Stephenson, Scott and Barrett) review the proposals put forward, meet with those interested parties and make a recommendation to the May PCW's Committee.

Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital, Cramlington

A response was received on Tuesday that unfortunately Sir James Mackey wasn't able to attend the March meeting, but it looked possible that Claire Riley, Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs would be able to attend on 29th May; this is tentative and we are awaiting confirmation. If the Council is keen to have Sir James Mackey in attendance this can be arranged but it will be more difficult.

Prudhoe Town Council Young People's Forum (PTCYPF)

Due to the already lengthy agenda this item has not been placed as it is expected to warrant a great deal of debate. We will, prior to placing the matter on an agenda, preferably May, seek the remit of the PTCYPF from the Youth Service as members did request this.

Prudhoe Youth Project

The £8,000 funding committed from the 2018/19 Town Council budget towards the Detached Youth Work project has been paid.

Northumberland Pride

Due to the lengthy agenda, this item has not been placed. The event begins on 1st June so this will need to come to the May meeting.

North East War Memorials Project

Due to the lengthy agenda, this item has not been placed, it will come to the May meeting.

Potential Solution to Cigarette Litter on Front Street

The metal design with checker plate has been installed on the litter bin outside The New Lotus House and outside G & S Electrics. We will monitor the results and update accordingly.

On this note, we are being made an offer of £2,500 from NCC, received from Treasury in support of High Street cleans-up; this has been accepted in principle and is being

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paid to all town and parish councils. The money will be paid in March, and must be spent in April on any capital expenditure in support of cleaner streets; literature, equipment, tools, training or community events. An official email will be received.

106 Funding from Cottier Grange site (in lieu of DMV's being sold at full market rate)

County Cllr Gordon Stewart has advised that following discussions with officers at a high level within NCC, he is optimistic that if the DMV housing is not taken up and they revert to full value the 20% will come to the Prudhoe area.

20MPH Speed Restrictions on West Road and TRO at Errington Place

County Cllr Ken Stow has advised that both schemes have been passed and are ready for implementation.

Pelican Crossing on South Road

County Cllr Ken Stow has advised that he has received the following update from officers "With regard to the crossing, as you will be aware this is a 2019/20 scheme, however thanks to the funding allocated by you and Gordon the design team are looking at this. As soon as we have proposals available, we will pass them on for comment / discussion."

OM 1819/193 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillor Dale updated the meeting about the work on the Highway where fibre optic cable was being laid between Stocksfield and Mickley. She updated the meeting regarding the planters in Mickley, the 20mph speed limit outside the school and the re-siting of the bus shelter which required stress testing before it could be lifted and re-sited. Whilst Members had no questions, concern was expressed at the length of time that the re-siting of the bus shelter was taking as this had been reported to a meeting much earlier in the year as something that was to shortly happen.

County Councillor Stewart updated the meeting in relation to the drill hall site in County Councillor Ken Stow's absence; he conceded that it was a "bomb site" but that it had been made safe and that County Officers were trying to address it given the problem of the absent landowner.

He indicated that having spoken to relevant officers and Members he was optimistic that the additional monies from the Cottier Grange site sales at market value following any agreed variation to the s106 agreement would come back to be spent on affordable housing in Prudhoe. Members expressed concern at the requirement for a 15% deposit for Affordable Homes, which appeared to be affecting the whole ethos of the affordable homes to buy scheme.

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Following questions from members County Councillor Stewart advised that there was very little s106 monies available from the low Prudhoe development but that if the Town Centre scheme progressed as there was housing in this scheme there would be more s106 monies.

Members asked to be kept updated on the Highway works in West Wylam for the laying of new fibre optic cable.

County Councillor Stewart reiterated that it was felt unnecessary to install additional bins in the Tyne riverside Park, following feedback from officers and confirmed that the initiative to install disabled parking bays along Front Street was still being pushed as a priority item by himself.

OM1819/194 Accounts

- a) **Statement of Expenditure - It was AGREED to RECEIVE** the previously circulated statement of expenditure for the period 1st April 2018-20th March 2019
- b) **Bank Reconciliation – It was AGREED to RECEIVE** the previously circulated bank reconciliation for the period 9th February 2019 – 8th March 2019
- c) **Accounts Payable** -Following questions from Councillors about the McGee's account for twine (The Clerk confirmed that the account included other items); Water Charges for the Public Conveniences (The Clerk confirmed that this was a monthly charge) and the Annual SLCC Subscription **IT was AGREED** to endorse those accounts paid since the February meeting and authorise the tabled schedule of accounts still to be paid.

OM1819/195 Purdah

IT was AGREED to receive and note the previously circulated guidelines and restrictions on decision making and publicity with reference to the forthcoming North of Tyne Mayoral Election.

OM1819/196 April Meeting Arrangements

Following discussion around the previously circulated report of the Town Clerk **IT was AGREED** that on this occasion only, because of the unusual manner in which Easter fell in accordance with the published planned schedule of meetings, and the impact that the three clear days' notice requirement had on agenda preparation and despatch, together with the fact that the School Holidays were unusually well in advance of Easter, that there be a combined meeting of the Planning Contract and Works Committee and the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 17th April 2019.

Proposed Cllr Chris Cuthbert Seconded Cllr Andy Gill

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OM1819/197 Grant Aid

Following discussion on the previously circulated schedule of proposed grant aid awards for the 2019-20 financial year, including the use of section 137 of the Local government Act 1937, members listened to, and had due regard to the rationale of the Grant Aid working group in making their recommendations for the amount of grant aid proposed for each applicant. **IT was AGREED** that the Council would make the recommended grant awards as set out on the previously circulated schedule of proposed grant payments.

Proposed Cllr Jennifer McGee

Seconded Cllr Angie Scott

OM1819/198 Entrance to Redwell Road from B6395

Following representations from Cllr Bryan Futers and consideration of the previously circulated photograph in relation to this matter **IT was AGREED** that the Town Clerk should: -

- a) Write to Northumberland County Council requesting that a double kerb is installed on the west side of the entrance to Redwell Road from B6395 to reduce the damage caused by careless driving and parking.
- b) Also request Northumberland County Council to remove the apparently obsolete and unsightly post that remains on this junction.
- c) Write to Karbon Homes requesting them to maintain the area of land that they own on the opposite side of the road to the same standard as the County Council owned land.

Proposed Cllr Bryan Futers

Seconded Cllr Duncan Couchman

Cllr Glenn Simpson left the meeting at 20.15pm

OM1819/199 Flood Resilience

Following consideration of the correspondence from Colin Hall (Community Engagement Officer – Northumberland Flood Resilience, Environment Agency) brought to the attention of the meeting by Cllr Gerry Price and in recognition of the fact that there had been previous flooding in Prudhoe, **IT was AGREED** that Colin Hall be invited to a future meeting to discuss a potential flood plan.

Proposed Cllr Gerry Price

Seconded Cllr Jennifer McGee

OM1819/200 Town Centre Working Group

Members gave consideration to the previously circulated report of the Town Centre Working Group **IT was AGREED**

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- a) To receive and note the report of the Town Centre Working Group held on 5th March 2019
- b) To support in principle facilitating shop keepers to meet the cost of a hanging basket to their shop front, and to ask the Town Clerk to write an exploratory letter to traders, to see if there was a genuine interest and commitment to such a scheme and to ascertain the indicative costs of providing and watering the baskets so that members could give the matter further more informed consideration.
- c) To support a 20-mph speed limit on Front Street and to write to Northumberland County Council to that effect

Proposed Cllr Duncan Couchman

Seconded Cllr Tracy Gilmore

OM1819/201 Cemetery and War Memorial Committee

Following consideration of the previously circulated report **IT was AGREED**

- a) To receive and agree the Terms of Reference of the Cemetery and War Memorial Committee.
- b) To receive and agree the report of the Cemetery and War Memorial Committee Meeting held on 20th March 2019 and to endorse the actions agreed at that meeting, namely to review Cemetery Fees; to carry out essential repairs to Edgewell Cemetery Chapel; to cancel the contract for the telephone at Edgewell Cemetery Chapel and to instruct Northumberland County Council to carry out essential Memorial Stability Testing.

OM1819/202 Social Media and Email Policy

Following consideration of the previously circulated Social Media and Email policy **IT was AGREED** to receive and adopt the policy.

Proposed Cllr Jennifer McGee

Seconded Cllr Duncan Couchman

OM1819/203 Equal Opportunities Policy

Following consideration of the previously circulated Equal Opportunities **Policy IT was AGREED** to receive and adopt the policy.

Proposed Cllr Chris Cuthbert

Seconded Cllr Jennifer McGee.

OM1819/204 Reports from Outside Bodies

Prudhoe Path Force – Cllr Duncan Couchman reported that at their recent AGM it had been reported that the footpath through the hospital woods was now open during

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the day, that it was being very well received and that the contractor had done a very good job.

NALC – Cllr G. Price reported that at the recent meeting in Morpeth the new Director with responsibility for Planning, Rob martin had indicated that they would be taking very seriously any breach of Planning Legislation. The issue of recharging for all road closures and associated costs of Community Events had been discussed, as had the huge cost to the County council in maintaining their 54 Public Conveniences.

OM1819/205 Correspondence and Publications

Correspondence

1. Resident letter objecting to proposed 20mph speed limit on Front Street in view that the results of similar schemes have proven an increase in pollution and accidents following the reduced limit.

The Clerk has responded to the resident advising that the Town Council was requested to support the scheme by the Prudhoe Community Partnership Front Street Improvement Group, that County Cllr Gordon Stewart is seeking views and that if the proposal appears viable there will be a formal consultation by Northumberland County Council as the Highway Authority.

2. Community High Street Clean-Up Fund – letter from Northumberland County Council (NCC) in relation to a grant of £2,500 that has been paid by NCC to the Town Council with money awarded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in support of a high street community clean-up activity; activities must be complete by the end of April.

“The funding should be used to work with community groups to undertake community-led street and town centre cleans. This activity can include: expanding community clean-ups already taking place; providing seed funding to resident groups to carry out clean up activity on high streets and town centre; carrying out high street and town centre clean-ups that have already been scoped, tools and equipment to help community groups to tidy up; scrub an area and remove graffiti; training to empower residents of all ages to remove graffiti or tidy up fly-tipping; promotional material; and support for community events promoting such clean up activity to the wider community.”

The Clerk agreed in principle to receive the funding, should the council not wish to seek ways to spend the money for community clean-up, it would simply be re-paid. There is a very short timescale so it is recommended that this is delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair, with this decision placed on the next meeting agenda to be properly approved.

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3. Invite to official opening of Mantle Woods, Ferndene, Thursday 18th April at 10:30am
4. Churches Together, Big Holiday Club Special in Prudhoe – email from The Gate Church regarding the Summer holiday club from Monday 22nd July – Friday 26th July, 10am-12:30pm for young people from 0-18. The email asks if the Council is offering financial support, as it did last year, for summer activities.

The Clerk suggests that the potential of a summer funding programme is added to the May Ordinary Meeting to agree details; there remains £13k in the Youth Provision budget.

Publications

1. NAMM New February 2019
2. The Clerk, March 2019
3. Allotment & Leisure Gardener, Issue 1 2019

OM1819/206 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was AGREED to approve a motion, that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that the press and public be excluded for consideration of the following item in accordance with section 68 of the Council's Standing Orders.

OM1819/207 Cemetery and War Memorial Committee

Members gave consideration to the previously circulated report and IT was AGREED

- a) To endorse the recommendations of the Town Clerk and the Cemetery and War Memorial Committee in relation to Memorial Stability Testing and note the situation.
- b) To award the works for the essential repair works at Edgewell Old Cemetery to Dolan Plant Hire at a cost of £15,574.82p

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