

**DRAFT Minutes of The Ordinary Meeting of Prudhoe Town Council held in
Meeting Room 1 the Spetchells Centre, Front Street, Prudhoe,
commencing at 6.30pm on Wednesday 25th September 2019**

PRESENT

Cllr. Tracy Gilmore (Chair); Cllr. Andy Gill; Cllr. Chris Barrett; Cllr Martin Foster; Cllr. Ignasious Varghase; Cllr. Brenda Grey; Cllr. Gerry Price; Cllr. Carol Stephenson; Cllr. Chris Cuthbert; Cllr. Bryan Futers (from 6.45pm); Cllr Duncan Couchman (from 7pm) Cllr Glenn Simpson (from 7pm)

Prior to the start of the formal business of the meeting the Mayor advised the meeting of the recent sad passing of Mr Ian Sinclair Nelson, former Headteacher at Prudhoe West and Highfield Middle Schools, she advised that his funeral was due to take place next week, with the request that attendees were something colourful. The Council extended their condolences to his family and friends.

The Mayor also congratulated all of the Prudhoe entrants in the recent "Love Northumberland Awards".

OM1920/063 APOLOGIES

Cllr J McGee, Cllr A. Scott

OM1920/064 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

OM1920/065 The Planning Process

Rob Murfin, the recently appointed Director of Planning at Northumberland County Council gave a brief presentation to the Council, giving a short biography of his career to date before extending an invitation to provide some training/coaching/ support sessions to the Town Council setting out the "nuts and bolts" of the planning process, including details of how Town and Parish Council priorities could be fed into s106 agreement negotiations. Discussion ensued regarding the merits of Neighbourhood Plans and the offer was made to repeat a previous presentation that was given to the Council on Neighbourhood Planning, further discussion took place around the concern of land banking by developers and the impact that this can have on the proper planning and development of the County, Rob advised that at this point in time there were currently planning consents in place to build 22,500 homes in the County that had not been implemented.

It was AGREED to thank Rob Murfin for his attendance and take up his offer of a training/coaching/ support session for Members.

OM1920/066 Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting (including an item for the Planning Contracts and Works Committee) held on 31st July 2019

It was AGREED that the previously circulated draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting (including an item from the Planning Contracts and Works Committee) held on 31st July 2019 be agreed and confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

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**OM1920/067 Agreed Minutes of the Planning Contract and Works Committee
held 14th August 2019**

It was AGREED to receive the previously circulated and agreed minutes of the Planning Contract and Works Committee held on 14th August 2019

**OM1920/068 Draft Minutes of the Planning Contract and Works Committee held
on 11th September 2019**

It was AGREED to receive the previously circulated draft minutes and that they should be presented to the next scheduled meeting of the Planning Contracts and Works Committee for agreement.

OM1920/069 Clerk's Report

The clerk gave the attached report to the meeting marked **"CLERKS REPORT to the Ordinary Meeting held on September 25th 2019 [Minute OM1920/069 refers]"**.

OM1920/070 County Councillor Reports

Apologies were received from County Councillor Anne Dale who provided the following written report

"I apologise for my absence at the meeting but present the following report. If anyone would like further information please could you ask the Parish Clerk to contact me at Anne.Dale@Northumberland.gov.uk

and I will respond accordingly.

a. The planters on the A695 outside the school and the Club Block will be put in place this week (wk beginning 23.9.19)

b. The work on the introduction of the 20mph will begin on 21st October and will last for two weeks. This works includes not only the introduction of the 20mph speed reduction area at the beginning and end of the school day on the A695 but also the introduction of 20mph down Station Bank and the surrounding roads and also up to the end of the Old Miners Bungalows. There is also an introduction of double yellow lines on the A695 where requested by residents and at the Junction of Eastgate Bank. Once the scheme is finished, I will review the rest of the signage in the village etc."

c. The growth on the pavement on the A695 between Stocksfield and Mickley has been cut back and pavements have been resurfaced. Further work will take place.

e. The County Council has cut back the grass on the verge of the A695 north of Leah Gardens and I am continuing to work with Riverside Housing on the shrubs.

f. I have asked NCC to clean the islands on the A695 as a matter of urgency.

g. LTP. I have further added: The resurfacing of the road on the Riding Dene Estate.

There is plenty of other work happening in the village and if there is anything further of importance, I will let you know"

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County Councillor Gordon Stewart reiterated the remarks made at the outset of the meeting by the Mayor about the "Love Northumberland Awards", echoing her remarks that all of the Prudhoe entries were excellent, he indicated that he hoped that progress could be made on the Water World Play Area and that he had feedback his priorities for the Local Transport Plan back to the Clerk, (included later on the agenda).

OM1920/071 Accounts

a) Monthly Bank Reconciliation 10th July 2019- 9th August 2019

Members gave due consideration to the previously circulated bank reconciliation statement for the period 10th July- 9th August 2019 and **IT was AGREED to RECEIVE** the monthly bank reconciliation.

b) Monthly Bank Reconciliation 10th August – 9th September

Members gave due consideration to the previously circulated bank reconciliation statement for the period 10th August – 9th September and **it was AGREED to RECEIVE** the monthly bank reconciliation.

c) Statement of Budget and Expenditure

Members gave due consideration to the previously circulated statement of Budget and Expenditure and **it was AGREED to RECEIVE** the statement of Budget and Expenditure from 1st April 2019 to the 18th September 2019.

d) Endorsement of accounts paid since the last meeting and authorisation of the accounts to be paid.

Members gave due consideration of the tabled document and following queries in relation to the water bill for Road End Toilets; whether all participants in the 42 days of Summer had been paid; and whether the Council would be re-imbursed by NCC for the disrupted bus shelter foundations at Mickley; **It was AGREED** to endorse the payment of accounts since the last meeting and to authorise those still to be paid.

OM1920/072 New Model Standing Orders

Members gave due consideration to the report of the Town Clerk, setting out proposals for New Standing Orders as informed by the NALC model Standing Orders with input from the Standing Order review working group. Following discussion on **it was AGREED that** subject to standing order 2x, as printed remaining within Standing Orders with a 2 hour time limit, and Standing Order 8d as printed remaining within Standing Orders, that these Standing Orders be confirmed and agreed.

OM1920/073 Local Transport Plan

Following consideration of the record of highways and transport requests contained on the Northumberland County Council Directory Database for Prudhoe and taking into consideration the feedback from the local County Councillors and Members it was **AGREED** that the following three priorities, deemed each to be of equal merit and necessity, in the Prudhoe Town Council area, be submitted to Northumberland County Council with the request that they are included in the 2020/21 Local Transport Plan:-

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1. The introduction of speed reduction measures on the road to High Mickley from Mount Pleasant and Eastgate Bank, with particular emphasis of road safety measures being introduced at the accident black spot at the junction between High Mickley, Hallyards and Eastgate Bank.
2. Continuation of the recent road resurfacing works along Park Lane and Park Avenue.
3. Removal of the chicanes on Castlefield Drive, to be replaced with a 20mph speed limit.

OM1920/074 Review of Polling Stations

Consideration was given to the survey of polling stations applicable to voters within the Parish boundary and **It was AGREED** that the following comments be made:

1. Given the absence of parking facilities at Mickley WMC it was felt that the Glenside, which had previously been used as a polling station was a better venue.
2. Edgewell Christian Centre was felt to be an unreasonably long walk for some residents who had indicated to Members that they were unwilling to vote because of the distance they now had to walk when compared to the previous polling station venue for this ward.

OM1920/075 Waterworld Play Area

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk in relation to this matter and further discussion and questions from Members **it was AGREED** that this matter be deferred until a further meeting to enable the Clerk to write to Active Northumberland and Northumberland County Council's Strategic Estates to obtain further information and clarification regarding the proposals and basis of transfer, **it was further AGREED** that the Clerk would write out to Members seeking details of the questions that they wished to be put to Active Northumberland and Northumberland County Council's Strategic Estates as it was previously the view of the Town Council that this play area was of considerable public value and that the Town Council would like to be involved in its development.

OM1920/076 NALC County Committee

It was AGREED to recommend to the County Committee review the current constituencies taking particular note that those seats in the East Tyne Tynedale area are reconfigured to take account of the East Tynedale Community Forum.

OM1920/077 the 6th Annual Town and Parish Council Conference

Thursday 3rd October 2019 at County Hall, **it was AGREED** that Councillor Chris Cuthbert and Councillor Gerry Price be nominated to attend on behalf of the Council.

OM1920/078 Prudhoe Town Council Football Club

Members gave due consideration to receive the formal request for landlords permission for the Annual Fireworks Display to be held on 2nd November 2019 at Prudhoe Town FC. **It was AGREED** that as all required health and safety documents had been provided that the Town Clerk could issue a formal letter of approval to the Football Club.

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OM1920/079 Halloween Window Dressing

Following receipt of a request from Prudhoe businesses to publicise a “Halloween inspired” window dressing initiative **IT was AGREED** that the Town Council would help publicise this initiative via the website and social media pages.

OM1920/080 Reports from Outside Bodies

Following consideration of the following reports:-

- Gateshead MBC A695 Prudhoe roundabout
- East Tynedale Community Forum minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2019
- Prudhoe Community Allotment minutes of the meeting held on 20th August 2019

It was AGREED to receive and note the reports.

OM1920/081 Correspondence and Publications

It was AGREED to receive the following report attached to these draft minutes and marked marked **“CORRESPONDENCE & TABLED ITEMS received at the OM on 25/09/2019 [minute OM1920/081 refers]”**.