

AGREED Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Prudhoe Town Council, held in Meeting Room 1 of The Spetchells Centre, Front Street, Prudhoe on Wednesday 4th December 2019 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Cllrs Tracy Gilmore (Chair); Chris Cuthbert; Andy Gill; Angie Scott; Bryan Futers; Brenda Grey; Jennifer McGee;

Also in Attendance: - County Councillor Ann Dale

OM1920 106 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Ignasious Varghese; Carol Stephenson; Chris Barrett and Gerry Price.

OM1929 107 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest where made

OM1920 108 Exclusion of The Press and Public

It was AGREED that in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 2d) and the provisions of s1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960 as amended by s100 of The Local Government Act 1972 that the Council do now exclude the press and public for the following item on the Agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

OM1920 109 Northumbria Police, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Cameras

Superintendent Helen Anderson and Sergeant Ian Patterson of Northumbria Police were in attendance to explain the proactive and reactive benefits of Automatic Number Plate Recognition and its value of tackling crime locally and bringing criminals to justice. The Council were reassured that any ANPR camera purchased with monies contributed by Prudhoe Town Council would be deployed only in Prudhoe. Following questions from Councillors Superintendent advised that she would be able to provide periodic feedback to the Town Council to evaluate the success of the cameras.

It was AGREED that the Council would make budget provision in the 20/21 Budget to facilitate the police in the purchase of at least one ANPR camera for Prudhoe.

The two Police officers left the meeting and the press and public were invited back into the meeting.

OM1920 110 Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, held on 30th October 2019

It was AGREED that the previously circulated draft minutes be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 30th October 2019.

OM1920 111 Draft Minutes of the Planning, Contract and Works Committee held on 13th November 2019

It was AGREED that the previously circulated draft minutes be received.

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OM1920 112 Clerks Report

It was **AGREED** to receive and note the report of the Clerk set out below

Bus Shelters

The Clerk has met with Richard McKenzie of NCC Highways and there is no problem with a bus shelter being installed on either side of the carriageway at Stonyflat Bank. This is also the case if a parking area was installed, for which planning permission would be required.

Car Parking Provision near Stonyflat Allotments

An approximate cost for this project has been sought. This does not include the costs associated with seeking planning permission.

Traffic Management would be required and is included.

£10,000 for up to 5 spaces

£18,500 for up to 10 spaces

South Road Pelican Crossing

The seats have been removed in readiness as required. The scheme is expected to be completed in this financial year.

Play Area Repairs

Outstanding repairs are as follows:

- Tarmacking (Castledene) – need to seek quotes*
- Arm Shrouds (Highfield Park) – sought further advice for play provider as contractor could not remove them*
- Tree work at Castledene*

Prudhoe Waterworld Play Area

There has been no further communication but an email seeking a response has been sent by the Clerk. Geoff Cant emailed to advise that he was leaving as Manager of Prudhoe and would be managing Ponteland. Richard Anderson is the new Prudhoe Manager.

VE Day Celebrations

No additional information has been received.

Orchard Hill Play Area

The Clerk is seeking quotations for removal and seeding of the area.

Essity Prudhoe Miners Race 2020

Prudhoe Plodders would be delighted to accept the invite to direct the race in 2020.

Environmental Tenders

All contracts were offered and accepted by the Council's chosen suppliers for 1) Floral Bedding, Hanging Baskets and Planters, 2) Gateways and Roundabouts, 3) Grass-cutting, and 4) Wildflowers.

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Christmas Lights Switch-On

Formal thank you letters to those involved external to the Council will be sent tomorrow.

Christmas Office Hours

The office will be closed from Friday 20th December to Monday 6th January 2020. The Clerk will access emails throughout this period and respond and action any that cannot wait until the New Year. Additionally, the answerphone message will ask those who wish to contact the Council urgently to redial the Clerk's office mobile: 07495856624. The library will also have this information and there will be a note on the door and on our website and Facebook page.

OM1920 113 County Councillor Reports

It was AGREED to receive and note the verbal report from County Councillor Ann Dale who updated the meeting on the delays in implementing the 20mph speed limit adjacent to Mickley school. She explained that the delay in installing the electronic flashing speed signs was as a result of the delay by third party contractors. Councillor Futers and Cuthbert expressed frustration at the delay and the fact that Eastgate Bank and Station Bank had traffic control measures in place before the completion of the much needed and requested traffic safety measures adjacent to the school. Councillor Dale said that she shared their frustration and advised that she had taken the matter up with Councillor Sanderson the portfolio holder and Paul Jones the strategic service Director.

OM 1920 114 Accounts

- a) **Bank Reconciliation - It was AGREED** to receive and note the previously circulated monthly bank reconciliation statement for the period October 10th – 9th November 2019
- b) **Statement of Budget & Expenditure - It was AGREED** to receive and note the previously circulated statement of budget and expenditure for the period 1st April 2019 to the 20th November 2019
- c) **Endorsement of the accounts paid since the last meeting and authorisation of the accounts to be paid.** Members gave due consideration to the tabled document and **it was AGREED** to endorse the payment of the accounts paid since the last meeting and to endorse the payment of those still to be paid.
- d) **Interim Internal Audit –** Members gave due consideration to the previously circulated letter from the internal auditor, relating to the recent interim internal audit and **it was AGREED** to receive the interim internal audit report and note that there were no matters for the Council's attention.

OM 1920 115 Prudhoe Community Partnership – Plans for Prudhoe East Centre

Mr George Hepburn, (Chair of PCP) gave the Council a summary and update of his previously circulated report and showed members the PCP's appointed architects impression of what a

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new East Centre would/could look like. Mr Hepburn then showed the meeting a computer generated “walk through” video of what the building would/could look like when it was in use, as well as answering Members questions about the potential use of the building including details of prospective tenants and the proposed asset transfer arrangements. Mr Hepburn advised the meeting that he would be writing to the Council in early course to seek their views on the PCP plans for The East Centre. **It was AGREED** to receive and note the report and update.

OM 1920 116 Youth Provision:42 Days of Summer Funding

Members gave consideration to the previously circulated report of the Town Clerk noting the conclusion in her report that it had not been as successful in 2019 as 2018, in terms of execution, take-up or positive public relations, notwithstanding that the format, application process and criteria had remained the same in 2019 as 2018.

It was recognised that the initiative was aimed at addressing the issue of “Holiday Hunger” and following further discussion, **it was AGREED**

1.To receive and note the content of the report.

AND

2. To give this matter further consideration, with the benefit of advice and support from the appropriate agencies, where necessary, prior to deciding whether to repeating the process as a means of addressing and targeting “Holiday Hunger”, as was originally intended.

OM1920 117 Fireworks

Members discussed a proposal that the Council should write to Guy Opperman MP and the Government to change the laws regarding the use of Fireworks following the growing use of fireworks in the town. Following much discussion on this matter **it was AGREED**

1. That the Town Council should use its website and Facebook page to promote the safe use of fireworks at peak times throughout the year. **AND**
2. That a letter should be written to Guy Opperman MP expressing our concern and requesting that the safe use and potential dangers of misuse of fireworks are introduced into the school curriculum.

OM 1920 118 Northumberland County Council: Northumberland Town & Parish Council Charter

Following consideration of the previously circulated reformatted Joint Charter between Northumberland County Council and the Town and Parish Council’s within the County **It was AGREED** to receive the revised charter.

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OM1920 119 Reports from Outside Bodies

Following consideration of their previously circulated reports **it was AGREED to** receive and note the following reports from Outside bodies: -

East Tynedale Community Forum- report of the meeting held on 16th October 2019

Parish Liaison Working Group- report of the meeting held on 31st October 2019

Prudhoe Youth Project – report of the meeting held on 14th November 2019

NALC County Committee – report of the meeting held on 16th November 2019

OM1920 120 Correspondence and Publications

The Town Clerk reported that no items of correspondence had been received since the last meeting of the Council.

The following publications were received: -

War Memorials Trust Newsletter

The Clerk magazine

Local Councils Direct magazine