



Minutes of the meeting of Chollerton Parish Council held on Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 7.30pm at Barrasford Village Hall

Present: Cllr Edward Heslop (Chair) in the Chair
Cllr Dorothy Pigg (Vice Chair)
Cllr Andy Bennett
Cllr Malcolm Johnson
Cllr Bruce Lowdon
Cllr Michael Smith
Cllr Maggie Tarbit
Mel Bramley (Clerk/minute taker)
County Cllr (CC) Nick Morphet

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Fiona Charlton

2. Opportunity for matters raised by members of the public before the meeting to be discussed.

There were no members of the public present. No questions were received.

3. Declaration of interest from members.

Cllr Pigg declared an interest in the discussion of the Barrasford Play Park. Cllr Lowden declared an interest in discussions regarding the sandstone quarry.

4 . Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th March 2024 were approved as a true and correct record, and duly signed by the Chair.

- a) Matters Arising from the above minutes not addressed elsewhere on the agenda.
 - i. Community Action Northumberland – Cllr Bennett attended the meeting regarding the Emergency Plan. He noted that the meeting was confusing with different terminology being used between Northumberland County Council representatives and other attendees. Cllr Nick Morphet agreed and stated that he had written unitary definitions and that this should now be circulated to all for future reference. He stated that all centres/halls going forward would now be referred to as community response hubs.
 - ii. Fix My street – Cllr Bennett stated he had reported the repairs relating to potholes on the C215 Nightfold Ridge near Birtley and that this work had been successfully carried out.



Cllr Morphet pointed out that once a repair has been reported onto the system it is not worthwhile flagging up the same issue repeatedly as the work will be carried out once in the system.

- b) External emails forwarded by the clerk

No further action.

5. Presentation by Jo Linton, Community Development Officer, Age UK

Jo introduced herself and explained her role in more detail. She (and a team of 3) are responsible for the whole of Northumberland and explained that their role is to raise awareness and support people who are vulnerable to fraud and cyber scams. Most of their work is offering advice and support over the telephone, but the team can also attend community centres and events to raise awareness to older people. Their work is primarily about keeping people safe by not sharing information over the phone of bank details, passwords etc.

Age UK also offer services including Advocacy (eg supporting people with issues relating to gas/electric companies), an Information and Advice Service , Veterans Advice and support, Social Activity groups such as living well with dementia, exercise classes, telephone befriending service, bereavement counselling etc. Age UK also offer a paid home care service to help with shopping, cleaning etc.

Cllr Heslop suggested Jo set up a one-off event to promote the services on offer. Gunnerton Village Hall was suggested as a venue to tie in with the lunch and afternoon tea activities already on offer.

6. County Councillor Report

Cllr Morphet stated that the local Transport Plan has been agreed in draft form. Repairs to the A68 carriage way and C222 road were to proceed.

There is a problem in Colwell with articulated lorries driving through the village and churning up the grass verges. Cllr Lowdon said that this was an issue in Gunnerton too. The Barrasford Quarry company have agreed to clean up the area in Barrasford. Cllr Morphet will ask Northumberland County Council staff to clean the roads in Gunnerton and Colwell. The Coal Road was not on the schedule to be resurfaced as it is such a long road and funds are not available to carry out this at present.

ACTION: Cllr Morphet to speak with NCC



An agreed location was given to erect the “20 when lights flash” in Barrasford, by Northumberland County Council although no set date has been given for the work to commence.

Northumbrian Water – no update has been given yet on flooding on Chollerton Lonnen.

ACTION: Cllr Morphet to forward any responses received.

Footway from Barrasford –Cllr Heslop will email the relevant officers for the Green Rigg Windfarm Community Funding to see if financial assistance to scrape back the vegetation will be possible.

ACTION: Cllr Heslop will email the relevant funding body.

Traffic calming in Gunnerton. The average speed in both direction was measured at 18mph. Cllr Lowdon asked who had decided where the measures for monitoring the speed were placed as it was his opinion this was not in the best place. Cllr Morphet said that the cables are restricted to being fitted to existing street furniture. Richard Mckenzie, Senior Programmes Officer in Highways did not see any justification for a speed restriction of 20mph. Cllr Morphett however raised concern over the pedestrian pathways in the area, which are poor. Cllr Morphet suggested asking the Council for further speed monitoring to take place. Cllr Lowdon noted that if the rumble strips had been fitted in the first place, then this would help reduce drivers speed on the road.

ACTION: Cllr Morphet agreed to have further conversations with the Council on this matter.

Complaints have been received regarding traffic speed on C and B roads through Colwell

ACTION: Cllr Morphet will chase the Council regarding speed data in this area and forward this onto the parish council for consideration.

A local resident had approached Cllr Morphet regarding continuing the implementation of speed restriction of 30mph in Chollerton to the north (including Church Cottages.) It was agreed by all that this is not likely to be a feasible request.

ACTION Cllr Morphet will speak to Highways and report this back to the resident concerned.

EV charging points – Cllr Morphet stated no progress had been made on this matter within the ward as there is currently no funding available. He agreed to monitor this situation.

Susan Ogle, Area Housing Manager – Cllr Morphet stated there was no update on this matter regarding the reintroduction of Homefinder advertising on available Council housing lettings.

ACTION: Cllr Morphet will ask for a response on Susan Ogle’s return from annual leave and he will report back at the next parish council meeting.

Local Bus Board meetings regarding local buses – Cllr Morphet said he wouldn’t be able to attend Local Bus Board meetings (because he doesn’t sit on the board), but that he would



follow its progress and continue to push for better local bus services. As long as services continued to be used on a regular basis, he stated that the bus contract would continue.

ACTION: Cllr Morphet will feedback on the engagement strategy proposal between the Local Bus Board and local people.

The new Climate Change Action Plan report is now completed and in draft form.

Community Energy Development Officer – an appointment to this role has been made by the North East & Yorkshire Net Zero Hub and support and money is available for projects. Round 2 of the Community Energy Fund is now available for feasibility projects. The deadline for applications is 5/5/2024. The contact is Sue Manson, who is happy to provide support and advice.

Storm Arwen Review – 26 out of the 28 recommendations made have been implemented, with the further 2 outstanding items due for completion imminently.

7. Items for Discussion

To discuss issues which have arisen or are causing concern within the Parish of Chollerton

a) Defibrillator Grant Scheme

Councillors were asked to consider areas which may benefit from this. It was suggested to approach St Giles Church, Chollerton.

ACTION: Mel Bramley will contact the vicar.

b) Tynedale Local Area Council

A request had come through via NCC Democratic Services regarding potential hall hire in the parish for meetings on an ad hoc basis (which could also result in a small income generation.) The Barrasford Village Hall Committee will be approached to see if they are interested in pursuing this.

ACTION: Mel Bramley to respond to this e mail.

c) Review of Parliamentary polling districts and polling place

There is a proposal over the possible closure of a polling station at Colwell Village Hall in the future. Turnout in the last local election was low with approximately 50 voters. Closure of this would result in £1000 saving to the Council. The parish councillors agreed that they would understand if the the polling station was closed in the future.

d) Fences at Gunnerton update

Karbon Homes have stated the work to repair the fences is now going out to tender. Melanie Bramley is awaiting feedback from them with regards to timescales.

ACTION: Mel Bramley will keep Andrea Bullock updated



e) Barrasford Play Park Committee: Funding

Cllr Pigg stated that she will try to find the original contract drawn up between the Committee and Duke of Northumberland Estates with regards to the lease.

ACTION: Cllr Pigg to feedback in due course.

8. Correspondence: There was no other correspondence to discuss

9. Financial Matters

(a) Update on Lloyds Bank mandate. Mel Bramley is still unable to access the account. There have been numerous issues and delays relating to this but it is hoped that these are now resolved.

ACTION: Cllrs Heslop and Pigg agreed to pay the few outstanding payments.

(b) Bank reconciliation as at 29 January 2024 - £8646.35

(c) Parish clerk contract of employment. All Parish Councillors agreed to adopt the new contract for Mel Bramley in line with Humshaugh Parish Council Clerk's contract.

(d) Expenditure : Lime Design (website) £190.80, Barrasford Play Area Rent £30.00, Edward Heslop £40.00 Vercelli Voucher reimbursement.

ACTION Cllr Pigg will instigate payment and Cllr Heslop will authorise too.

(e) Confirmation of grass cutting request from Chollerton churchyard– agreed to pay £1300 towards church yard grass cutting.

ACTION Mel Bramley to let Jen Dover know and Cllr Pigg will organise payment.

(f) Barrasford Play area annual rent £30 to be paid – agreed as above

10. Planning Applications

(a) Permission Granted: Application for retrospective planning permission for the construction of a single storey timber garage. Location 15 West Crescent .Gunnerton NE48 4AX

(b) Planning consultation 24/00110/FUL Demesne Farm Coal Road. Gunnerton NE48 4EA. This was responded to by Chollerton Parish Council, however a further application was made which needs to be considered alongside this (24-00361AGTRES) We did not receive notice of this and Mel Bramley will write to the Planning Officer to point this out.

ACTION: MB to write to Planning Department at NCC.



(c) Planning consultation Barrasford Quarry, Barrasford. Hexham NE48 4AP. Variation of condition 2 on approved application 16/04215/VARCCM to allow new asphalt plant to be installed to bring operational and environmental benefits, along with reconfiguration of stock yard - Cllr Heslop responded to this following feedback from Parish Councillors within the extended consultation deadline of 28 March 2024 The response requested that a specific condition be included taking into account the overall effect of lighting for both residents and local wildlife.

(d) Planning consultation 24/00726/OUT Plot 3 Bracken Hill Gunnerton NE48 4BF.

Responded to as agreed by stating that the PC objects to the application on the grounds that the boundary line shown included the footpath known as Epy's path,

11. Information Items: To note information items received and events attended since the last meeting. There was nothing to report.

12. Any Other Business

The Missing Lynx Project – Correspondence had been received to gather opinions on the possible reintroduction of lynx back into the landscape. Cllr Morphet pointed out that this should be seen as a positive move as it is a boon towards tourism in the area. Concerns were noted that some farmers are wary of attacks on livestock. There was some concern shown by Cllr Johnson on potential attacks on people, however Cllr Morphet assured this was not the case. The Parish Council agreed to keep a watching brief on this as a series of consultations were being set up by the project in the following months.

Cllr Johnson raised the concern of uncut grass close to the Brunton crossroads which are a potential danger.

ACTION: Cllr Morphet agreed to look into this matter.

Cllr Johnson also asked about implementation of road markings near the Chapel and white lines on the corner by Dalla Bank to slow down traffic. Cllr Heslop said that this request had already been previously submitted to the Council.

Cllr Heslop stated that in previous years at the AGM they had been an acknowledgement of Parish Heroes. He suggested Councillors gave the same thought regarding nominations for this year and fed this back to him.

ACTION: All Parish Councillors to let Cllr Heslop know in advance of any nominations.

13. Date and venue for next Meeting



Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 7.30pm at Barrasford Village Hall. It was noted that this meeting is the Annual General Meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm