

CRESSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 11 January 2017

7pm - Cresswell Village Hall

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Questions from the Public
4. Minutes of Last Meeting (attached)
5. Matters Arising
6. Declarations of Interest
7. Financial Report
8. Standing Orders
9. Disciplinary and Grievance Policy
10. Pele Tower Update
11. NALC Website Portal Update
12. Fly Tipping, Shore Road, Lynemouth
13. Village Hall
14. Correspondence
15. Garden Plots
16. Openreach – Superfast broadband coming to Cresswell

17. Update on yellow lines and speed limit introduction
18. Crown Estates application for right of way over village green
19. Request for Financial Assistance – Lynemouth Day Centre
20. Planning Applications
21. Any Other Business
22. Dates of 2017 Meetings

5 April 2017 at 7.00 pm

10 May 2017 at 7.00 pm (Parish meeting)

12 July 2017 at 7.00 pm

11 October 2017 at 7.00 pm

CRESSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of Cresswell Parish Council held at Cresswell Village Hall, Cresswell on Wednesday 12 October 2016 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor M. Wright
(Chairman, in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

S. Haywood
D. Laing
A. Richardson

T. Steele
L. Wright

IN ATTENDANCE

Karon Hadfield, Clerk

Eight members of the public were also in attendance

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor G. Philips.

2. INTRODUCTION OF CLERK AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair introduced the new clerk, Karon Hadfield, to members and the public present.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 13 July 2016 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 3 (Questions from the Public), a point was raised at the last parish council meeting that the extra-ordinary parish council meeting (to discuss the motion put forward at the Parish meeting regarding the Banks planning application) had not been correctly convened as the parish council had not published the minutes from that Parish Meeting. This was not the case as there was no requirement to publish minutes of the Parish Meeting, these minutes need only be recorded and made available should they need to be referred to in future.

Minute No.7 (Financial Report), the Chair advised that regarding the claim with HMRC to reclaim VAT, HMRC had not received the letter he had sent to them. This had now been sent again by recorded delivery and their response was awaited. None of the previous parish councils had claimed back VAT. He hoped to have this completed by the next meeting.

Minute No.11 (Parking and response to LTP), the Chair advised that he had met with the local County Councillor Scott Dickinson to discuss the location of proposed yellow lines in the village and it had been decided to put them around the bus stop area only.

Consideration was being given to the introduction of a speed limit past the Drift Cafe and traffic calming measures as part of next year's LTP. Also, consideration was being given to the construction of a footpath adjacent to the road leading up to the boatyard. A member of the public raised the issue of the pathway likely to be constructed across the dunes as part of the Northumberland Coastal Path route from Berwick to Cresswell and it was noted that the two projects would likely tie in.

Minute No. 13 (Any Other Business), the Chair referred to the problem of noise from the caravan site and advised that he had visited the manager at the site recently because of further complaints. Tests had been taken which had showed that noise levels outside of the site were not excessive. He noted that two residents had been refused entry to the park. This had now been resolved but residents needed a pass to gain entry. Proof of residency (a utility bill) and a passport photograph were required for a pass.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chair circulated the financial report (copy attached to the signed minutes). There had still been no invoice from Parish.Net who provided the Council's website, which he would follow up.

In response to a question from a resident before the meeting, he confirmed that the Parish Council had made no contribution to the Pele Tower costs.

RESOLVED that the issue with Parish.Net's invoice be pursued with them, and the report be received.

6. PELE TOWER UPDATE

An update was provided by Barry Mead who was pleased to advise members that the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) had been successful. The HLF had offered a development grant of £93,200, which was 78% of the total development work cost of £120,050. The balance of £26,850 was essentially volunteer time and therefore no funding was required from the Parish Council for the development work.

The development work process could now begin once forms had been signed by both the Parish Council and HLF and this development work would begin in November, taking around a year. Development work would include setting up a charitable trust (to ensure there was no future cost to residents), appointing a conservation architect, carrying out a detailed structural survey, marketing, PR and developing a website, writing a number of Plans and applying for match funding for the delivery phase. A bid for funding of £677,300 would now be sought from HLF, with the shortfall being met from grants elsewhere, including the local County Councillor and NCC. In addition, a commitment of £5,000 had been made by Michael and Louise Wright.

Work to be carried out in the delivery phase included capital, interpretive and archeological work, the community archives project, Level 3 Historic Building Survey, walks, tours, promotional materials, volunteer training and the appointment of a volunteer co-ordinator/engagement officer. Development costs would be firmed up over the next twelve months but these could not increase by more than 10% otherwise the profile of the project would have to be re-engineered, or additional funding sought from elsewhere. In addition, ownership of the Pele Tower would need to be transferred from Cresswell Towers to the Parish Council for a nominal sum.

Duncan from the Drift Cafe advised that local businesses would be prepared to contribute and agreed to discuss this further with Barry after the meeting.

RESOLVED that the update be received.

7. VILLAGE HALL

The Chair provided an update on the village hall refurbishment. He had had discussions with the architect and advised it would be more cost effective to build an extension rather than just add a porch.

A member of the public challenged the Parish Council's right to use the money provided by Northumbrian Water on refurbishing the village hall as it was a community asset. The Chair responded that the funding had been provided to the Parish Council to dispose of on behalf of the community. A debate then ensued which included the following remarks:

- It was commented that it was in the interests of the Parish Council to ensure that they had the support of the village in their plans for use of the funding.
- The community would like to be kept better informed of significant activities and events involving the Parish Council.
- The Chair advised that the amount of funding sitting in the Parish Council's accounts had been queried by the external auditor.
- It was suggested that the issue could be included in the parish newsletter and opinions sought from the public on the plans for the village hall.
- It was commented that the Parish Council had been elected to make decisions on behalf of the local community.
- It was suggested that members of the village hall management committee should have declared an interest on this issue and it was pointed out that the Parish Council could only donate a certain amount in funding to a specific project.
- The Chair reminded members that costs were only being put together at this stage. However, he would confirm the correct position with NALC.
- It was commented that three quotes would be needed before making a spending decision.
- It was questioned whether the cost of hiring the village hall would increase after it was refurbished. The Chair responded that that could not be confirmed at this stage, though community groups could be treated more favourably than commercial hire groups.
- Barry advised that the village hall would probably be used for Pele Tower meetings, bringing in income which could potentially offset any price rises.

RESOLVED that the position be noted, and the Chair confirm the position with NALC regarding the funding proposal for the village hall refurbishment.

8. GARDEN PLOTS

The Chair advised that Councillor Scott Dickinson had taken photos of the site and the owners had been given notice to clear it up. They had 21 days in which to respond, then NCC could do it and charge them. He would follow up progress with him.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

9. REFUSE BINS

Members were advised that NCC was looking to improve collections and it was agreed that the bins did need to be emptied more regularly. There was a general discussion about the merits of plastic bins versus stone bins and it was agreed that further consideration should be given the following year to vandal proof bins.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council give further consideration in 2017 to vandal proof bins.

10. SUPPORT FOR AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITY ACTION NORTHUMBERLAND

RESOLVED that a £100 donation be provided to CAN.

11. MYSTREET NORTHUMBERLAND MOBILE APP

Members noted that this could be used by residents to access information on a number of problems such as anti-social behaviour, noise, litter, street lighting and roads. App users could also access advice or report specific incidents to NCC who would work with services and partners to support residents.

Whilst it was felt that this was a useful facility, it was noted that there was unlikely to be a 24 hour response service.

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Duncan from the Drift Cafe reported that the Save Druridge Bay Campaign had been given Rule 6 status for the forthcoming public inquiry into the Highthorn opencast planning application. This meant that they would have equal status in the proceedings as NCC and Banks Mining. The timetable had yet to be confirmed but it was likely to take place between March and May 2017 lasting about eight days. Work was ongoing with the Inspector and he would provide regular updates to the Parish Council.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Damage to boathouse car park gate - it was not known who was responsible but the gate had been taken away, repaired and returned after the local County Councillor had been contacted.
- The Churchyard had been given approval to close for burials.
- Crown Estates had been asked whether they could ensure the hedgerows north of Cresswell Road on the approach to the village could be cut as they were quite overgrown and damaging cars. They needed to be cut earlier in the year.
- The state of the road on the corner was of concern.
- The No.1 bus service was going to be reinstated permanently on a Sunday and bank holidays following a trial period.
- Request from Northumberland Wildlife Trust for an interpretation panel for the Foreshore Reserve - it was suggested that the most appropriate place for this was next to the existing Northumbrian Water signage on their land.
- Regarding the availability of community information, Duncan advised that the Drift Cafe could be used as it was a good source of information for local issues. It was also suggested that the refurbishment of the village hall could provide the opportunity to incorporate a facility to advertise community news and events.

RESOLVED that the Chair raise the issue of the hedgerow cutting with Crown Estates and respond to NWT regarding the suggestion for the location of the interpretation panel.

The meeting finished at 8.35 pm.

.....Chair

.....Date