

ACOMB PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd February 2005 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Acomb.

Present

Councillor J Wilkinson (Chairman of the Council in the chair)
Councillors Mrs J Wrigley, Mrs A Earnshaw, W Rutherford, K Laidlow, G Scorer

Also Present

County Councillor B Pickering
Bill Grigg, Clerk to the Council
Ms Y Greener, Senior Youth Worker

Apologies

Councillor C Enderby

Declarations of Interest

Councillor J Wilkinson - Planning Application Ref. 20050039

Discussion with Ms Y Greener - Area Youth and Community Worker re. Acomb Youth Club

The Council Chairman Councillor J Wilkinson welcomed Ms Y Greener to the meeting. Ms Y Greener informed the Council that the work at the Pavilion was complete, the Pavilion had been rewired, cleaned and new furniture etc installed and the young people were very pleased with it.

Ms C Barnes, the previous Senior Youth Worker, has now left to work in Stanley, Co Durham, and the funding for Ms Barnes' post would have run out in March 2005 without future funding for the post. At the present time the work is being shared between staff with one long-term member of staff attending each session; this would continue until March 2005 until the new budget is known.

At the present time two weekly sessions are held; this should continue until March 2005. If there are budget cutbacks Acomb may be reduced to one session per week.

Ms Greener thought with cutbacks there would still be a youth club and youth provision in Acomb. SBR YOF and NCC extra funding has been lost and will not be renewable in April 2005.

There are around 5 - 12 attending the youth club. Numbers vary from session to session.

Councillor Mrs. J Wrigley explained the situation with the management of the Pavilion and that more people were needed to re-organise the Committee so there was more involvement. Also it was necessary to calculate some charges for users as the Management Committee had no funds and services had to be paid for.

The Management Committee would be meeting shortly to discuss matters and to review the financial position.

Councillor J Wilkinson chairman of the council thanked Ms Y Greener for attending the meeting at this point Ms Y Greener left the meeting.

1/2005 The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 8th December 2004

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 8th December 2004 were signed as a correct record.

2/2005 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 8th December 2004

Public Transport Bus Service

R. Smith, NCC Public Transport Officer has now prepared the new timetable and it will be going to all residents, together with the new train timetable this week. Councillors were given a draft copy for information. All buses will operate via Millersfield and Tyne Valley Coaches have put on two new services in the morning.

Ref 90/2004 Citizenship Award

The leaflets in regards to the Citizenship Award are now printed. Councillor's agreed to distribute to all households.

Ref 96/2004 District Councillor's Report - Councillor Mrs. J Wrigley

A meeting has been organised with R. Powell, Assistant Director, NCC on the 22nd February 2005 to discuss the possibility of carrying out a survey with older residents and obtaining funding to do this.

Councillor Mrs. J Wrigley has kindly organised the meeting and will be attending together with the Council's Clerk to discuss this matter.

3/2005 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

Ref. 20041431

B. Rayson, Salmons Well Farm, Acomb

Construction of storage and lambing building at above location.

Granted permission (dated 04/01/05)

Refs. 20041495/20041494

M. Souter, Richmond Hill Farm, Stamfordham, Newcastle upon Tyne
Conversion of farm buildings into one dwelling with associated access, gardens,
parking and provision of bin store at Riding Farm, The Riding, Acomb.

(This includes Listed Building Consent)

Granted permission (dated 24/01/05)

b) Planning Applications

Ref. 20050025

E. Carter, 10 Tynedale Terrace, Acomb

Construction of first floor rear dormer window extension to create bedroom at
above location.

Support the application.

Ref. 20050039

Mr. & Mrs. T P Storey, 25 Millersfield, Acomb

Construction of conservatory and boundary fence at above location.

Support the application.

4/2005 Financial Matters

a) Income

Bank Interest		£
23/12/04	C/A	0.44
23/01/05	C/A	0.35
27/12/04	D/A	30.95

b) Payments

		£
01/01/05	W.C. Grigg (fee)	339.90
01/01/05	W.C. Grigg (postages)	8.00
10/01/05	NCC (fishing rights)	587.50
10/01/05	Northumbria in Bloom	5.00
10/01/05	NPower (Pavilion)	96.80
13/01/05	J. Robinson & son (printing)	130.00
21/01/05	Westalls (repairs)	82.25
01/02/05	W.C. Grigg (fee)	339.90
01/02/05	W.C. Grigg (postages)	10.00
01/02/05	Neat Ideas (stationery)	75.66
01/02/05	Village Hall	700.00
01/12/04	Cornhill (DD)	65.42
01/01/05	Cornhill (DD)	65.42
01/02/05	P. Stewart (repairs)	1078.00
01/02/05	Tynedale Council (grass cutting)	1145.63

c) Account Balances at 31/01/05

Deposit Account	£9576.75
Current Account	£3223.29

d) Audit of Accounts 2003 - 2004

The Council re-confirmed section two of the Audit Form re. The Statement of Assurance and agreed the form be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk as previously dated 6/10/04 and agreed on that date. HLB Audit informed of the confirmation.

5/2005 Correspondence

- a) Notice from Northumbria in Bloom that the Parish is now entered into the 2005 competition. The invitation to the 2005 Inaugural meeting on 14th March 2005 at Newcastle Racecourse has been received. The Clerk is the point of contact for the judges but help would be required for the judge's visits etc.
- b) Notice from the ODPM re. The Freedom of the Information Act which came into force on the 1st January 2005. This Council adopted the model agreed by the Commission some time ago. The ODPM informed the Council that the Clerk has been appointed the Primary Authorized Officer to release information on behalf of the Council.
- c) Various copy e-mails re. Acomb Common from Ms L Silvera. The Council noted the contents of the e-mails and suggested the Acomb Common Committee agreed with NEDL a programme of yearly inspections of the trees as they take care of the common.
- d) A questionnaire has been received from NCC re. Rights of Ways. Councillor Mrs. A Earnshaw agreed to complete this form.
- e) A questionnaire has been received from Tynedale Council re: Scrutinising NCC Maintenance Policy in relation to road safety in rural areas. The Clerk would complete this form.
- f) Letter received from Ms Y Greener, Area Youth and Community Worker requesting a grant of £1000 for 2005/2006 towards youth work in the village. The Council have already agreed a budget of £500 for youth services for 2005/2006. It was agreed if there was any surplus funds at the end of 2005/2006 the Council would review the request from Youth Services then.
- g) Royal Garden Party 2005 - Details of the 2005 Royal Garden Party (date to be confirmed) were received by the Council. The contents were noted by the Council.

6/2005 Model Disciplinary Procedures and Grievance Procedure

The Council fully agreed to adopt the two model forms of these two procedures prepared by the NALC.

**7/2005 District Councillor's Report
Councillor Mrs J Wrigley**

Councillor Mrs. J Wrigley's report had been previously circulated with the minutes and the Council's thanks were once again expressed to Councillor Mrs. J Wrigley for a full and comprehensive report.

Councillor Mrs. J Wrigley added to her report that Northumbrian Water grant to Community Groups following the recent problems with the storms in early January were now available and applications can be made to the Community Fund.

**8/2005 County Councillor's Report
Councillor B Pickering**

Councillor B Pickering reported on the following matters.

- a) The request for works to be carried out on roads within the Parish has been forwarded to NCC and an Inspector will report back in due course, and if funding is available works will be put into the planned programme.
- b) Road repairs and maintenance is to be passed to NCC Area Committees who will have the powers on which work is given priority.
- c) Councillor B Pickering reported on the Highways budget and the possible cutbacks and the LTP funding in relation to the Highways budget.
- d) NCC would be discussing their budget on the 2nd February 2005, the day of this meeting, but Councillor B Pickering was unable to attend. The School Funding problem and putting the Learner First would also be discussed at this meeting.
- e) The feedback on the recent water shortage problems in the Hexham area had been very good, with residents and businesses all trying to work together for the benefit of the community.
- f) Councillor B Pickering informed the Council he was not seeking re-election in the forthcoming NCC elections. The April meeting of this Council would be his last meeting.

Councillor J Wilkinson, the Council Chairman, expressed the Council's thanks to Councillor B Pickering for all his help and kindness.

9/2005 Any Urgent Business Allowed by the Chairman

a) May Council Meeting

As elections will take place on the 5th May 2005 it was decided as in the past to cancel the May Council meeting as the hall will be needed and preparations for 5th May made by Election Services. It was agreed the APM and AGM of the Council will be in June 2005.

b) Council Tax 2005/2006 NCC and Tynedale Council

Councillor G Scorer has asked the Council to ask the questions of NCC and Tynedale Council of the Council Tax settlement for 2005/2006. What is the increase proposed? How do the cutbacks affect this figure?

It was agreed firstly that this is Councillor G Scorer's request and not the Councils. Councillor Mrs. J Wrigley briefly outlined the Tynedale Council proposed budget and agreed to obtain all the papers in relation to the budget setting and the proposals and the cutbacks.

In regards to NCC, Councillor G Scorer was referred to NCC website by Councillor B Pickering who informed him all the documents would be there for his information. The Clerk agreed to write to NCC Chief Executive and ask if the necessary documents could be sent for Councillor G Scorer's attention. At this point it was not known if NCC had agreed a budget.

c) Northumbrian Water

The Council fully agreed to thank Northumbrian Water Plc and all their staff for the way they handled the large problems in Hexham and surrounding areas during the January storms when the main water supply was damaged and there was no water for several days. They did a wonderful job around the clock to restore supplies. Thanks were expressed to all concerned.

d) Water Main - Main Street

Northumbrian Water are to be asked to look at the water main on Main Street which is causing problems and caused problems for residents during the recent storms.

10/2005 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 2nd March 2005 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.