

ACOMB PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 2008 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Acomb.

Present

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

Also Present

County Councillor T Robson
10 Residents of the Parish
Bill Grigg, Clerk to the Council

Apologies

Councillor Mrs J Wrigley

Declarations of Interest

Councillor C Enderby Planning Ref. 20080368 - Councillor C Enderby was not present during any part of the discussions in regards to this matter.

Before the Council went into full Council the following points were dealt with.

a) **Police Report**

PC C. Whitemore attended the meeting and gave a brief update on Police matters, discussing the huge rise in fuel thefts and asking people to be very careful and watchful due to high cost of fuel at present.

Discussion took place on communications between public and the Police and how the Police needed more community help. He urged residents to ring if they have a problem or see something suspicious; they really do need help.

They are working with English Nature at Watersmeet with problem visitors and will continue to do so.

Recent problems with pet cats being shot - enquiries are ongoing.

There are two Community Officers covering Acomb who hold regular surgeries in the Village Hall.

Some reports of drug taking at St. John Lee were reported; he agreed to report this to the Hexham Office.

He urged all the community to support the Police in its work.

Thanks were expressed to PC C. Whitmore by the Council Chairman Councillor J Wilkinson.

b) **Residents' Concerns**

Residents of St. John Lee discussed with the Council their concerns in regards to planning application ref. 20080368 at The Riding, Acomb. Residents put their concerns to the Council. The Council agreed to consider their concerns when deciding their comments to go to Tynedale Council Planning Committee.

35/2008 The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 29th May 2008

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 29th May 2008 were signed as a correct record.

36/2008 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 29th May 2008

a) Ref. 25/2008 (b) The Green

As discussed over a long period of time the re-design of The Green was re-discussed as the Council has waited for a long period of time for the designs and costings from NCC. Sample designs for other areas have been seen but no set design for Acomb.

It was decided to ask NCC again if they are interested; if not we would seek external advice so we can move the project to the next stage and to see if funding could be sought for the project.

The cost of re-surfacing The Green may not as advised previously be able to receive funding.

b) Ref. 33/2008 (a) Seat to commemorate Councillor W Rutherford 50 years service to the Council

The seat has been ordered and should be ready for the autumn.

37/2008 Planning Matters

Applications

i) Ref. 20080446
Construction of two-storey extension at Alnmouth Cottage, Acomb, Hexham.

No objection - fully support.

- ii) Ref. 20080472
Construction of single storey extension to rear at 22 Bishops Hill, Acomb, Hexham.

No objection - fully support.

- iii) Ref. 20080368
Construction of 2nd building for the storage of caravans to land designated for this use plus change of use of present agricultural land to storage of 15 caravans At the Riding Acomb.

Object - the application is unsympathetic to the area and the local surroundings. The present caravans are clearly visible from the Acomb Bridleway and the Council disagrees with the planting of leylandii's; this is totally out of keeping with the local area.

Local residents must be fully taken into account and the small community is growing with recent high standard farm conversions and the impact this would have on residents. Highways are a major concern of this Council; the extra traffic passing places where there are already problems and with increased usage more problems would occur.

Decisions

- i) Ref. 20080196
Change of use and conversion of existing barn to create a single residential dwelling and garage and conversion of outbuilding to ancillary playroom. At Riding home farm Acomb.

Granted permission (conditionally) by D.C. Committee dated 4/6/08.

38/2008 Financial Matters

a) Income

Nil.

b) Payments

£

29/05/08	W. C. Grigg (fees £550, admin £15)	565.00
29/05/08	P Stewart (handyman's fees)	260.00
29/05/08	W. C. Grigg (3 months telephone repayment)	50.00
01/06/08	Hexham Courant (advert)	59.22
01/06/08	J Robinson (printing)	31.09
01/06/08	NALC (fees/subscriptions)	147.43
11/06/08	P Stewart (handyman's fees)	260.00
11/06/08	W. C. Grigg (fees)	550.00
16/06/08	Village Hall	246.00
24/06/08	Village Hall	170.00

c) August Payments

It was agreed fees/payments be authorised during the councils break by the Chairman and Clerk as necessary.

39/2008 Correspondence1) Notice from NCC re. Public Right of Way Parish of Acomb Public Footpath 18 proposed division and creation.

NCC are preparing to make a creation order for a new section of public footpath to resolve the longstanding issue of a dead end public footpath near to East Wood House Acomb. At present public footpath 18 Acomb ends at a point to the south of East Wood House. There is no available link from the footpath either west to the nearby road at Halfway House or south to public footpath 9 which leads to Acomb Village. (Plan filed with information should anyone wish to see more detail). Council fully supports the proposals.

2) Re. A6079/U8171 Garden House Bank, Acomb - Proposed Change in Priority

NCC has received a request from a local resident to change the priority of the above location.

The concerns are that motorists who turn left from the A6079 onto Garden House Bank are being confronted by motorists exiting Garden House Bank and turning right onto the A695 via the short section currently the designated turning manoeuvre. The left turn manoeuvre off the A6079 onto Garden House Bank is alot easier than undertaking the same manoeuvre at the next leg. Also visibility for motorists turning right from the short section is not as good as visibility from the next leg.

County Councillor T Robson has been fully consulted on this consultation and supports NCC. The Parish Council also fully supports the change in priority.

3) Letter from Tynedale Council re. Funding Opportunity for Natural Play

Information received from NCC Children's Services inviting District/Borough Councils to submit a funding bid for £50,000 towards developing public play. After discussion it was agreed the information be forwarded to the Play Area Working Group and the Commons Action Group. Councillor K Laidlow agreed to forward the document to both groups.

4) Notice from Tynedale Council re. Parish/Town Council Elections

Tynedale Council are consulting on behalf of the Government to see if Parish/Town Councils would be interested in Parish Elections in 2009 and not as proposed in 2013 as agreed during the change of Local Authorities. The Council did not feel it worthwhile to hold Parish Elections in 2009.

5) Notice from NCC re. Open Meeting on Proposed Post Office Closures

The Council were invited to an open meeting at County Hall Morpeth on 11th July 2008 in regards to proposed Post Office closures.

**40/2008 District Councillor's Report
Councillor Mrs J Wrigley**

Councillor Mrs J Wrigley's report had previously been circulated with the Council papers. Council members thanked Councillor Mrs J Wrigley for her report which they found very informative. The report was fully agreed.

**41/2008 County Councillor's Report
Councillor T Robson**

The Chairman of the Council Councillor J Wilkinson welcomed Councillor T Robson to the meeting and congratulations on his recent election to NCC and the new Unitary Authority which takes over in April 2009.

Councillor T Robson reported that his Committees on NCC are:-

Joint Transition OVS (Vice Chairman)
Strategic Services OVS
Audit Committee
Performance Management Committee

Appointment to outside bodies

Queens Hall Arts Trust
NE Employers Organisation

Councillor T Robson reported to the Council the Council is two months into its Council year and he felt there was as yet no guidance on the running of the Council or the future plans. He felt the controlling group was struggling. Six applicants had been shortlisted for the new Chief Executive post and an announcement made very shortly.

Further appointments will be made following this appointment.

The new Council has decided not to continue with Belonging Communities throughout Northumberland but would be looking for something to replace this of a similar nature and he would keep the Council fully updated.

Northumberland would be following the new house letting policy throughout Northumberland. Residents can apply for a home anywhere in Northumberland providing they have a Northumberland connection. This could affect local letting agreements as explained at a recent meeting with Tynedale Council and Milecastle Housing Ltd in regards proposals to build some affordable homes in Acomb.

This will have to be looked into in due course as local letting agreements could possibly be subject to 106 agreements.

Councillor T Robson was to ask Milecastle Housing Ltd in regards the removal and cutting back of trees on Chapel Close Estate; owner/occupiers are prepared to contribute towards the cost if a scheme could be put forward.

He has asked NCC to spray weeds in Chapel Close/Millersfield; this would be carried out very shortly followed by Tynedale Council Street cleaning sweeper, which should remove 80 - 90% of the weeds. Councillor T Robson with NCC officers will inspect as the area may require resurfacing.

Gulley and pipe clearing (U8175 at Chesterholme) will be carried out very shortly which will help with drainage problems.

Footpath alongside A6079 will also receive attention with some attention to the hedges.

Councillor T Robson would also take forward to NCC the request to have weight restrictions placed on Garden House Bank to try and restrict some of the heavy wagons. It was felt if this was to go ahead Orchard Avenue should be looked at for weight restrictions also. He agreed to investigate this suggestion.

Councillor C Enderby asked Councillor T Robson to ask NCC if they would carry out some safety works at Pealsgate - St. John Lee area.

Councillors asked if speed signs could be considered for the Salmonwell area.

Thanks were expressed to Councillor T Robson for his help and co-operation.

42/2008 Any business allowed by the Council Chairman

- a) Milecastle Housing Ltd are to be asked to cut back hedges and tidy the area just above the Z area opposite the Post Office.
- b) Milecastle Housing Ltd are carrying out a canvass of garage tenants in regards possible building of affordable homes in Millersfield/Chapel Close on the garage site.

43/2008 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 3rd September 2008 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.