

DRAFT MINUTES UNTIL AGREED BY COUNCIL ON THE 3RD MAY 2006

ACOMB PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 5th April 2006 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, K Laidlow, G Scorer

Also Present

Bill Grigg, Clerk to the Council

Apologies

Councillors Mrs J Wrigley, C Enderby
County Councillor T Flaws

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19/2006 The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 8th March 2006

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 8th March 2006 were signed as a correct record.

20/2006 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 8th March 2006

a) Ref. 63/2005 Pant/Green, Acomb

NCC have now come forward with some costings for the scheme and members fully discussed the costings:-

Cobbled finish	£19,000
Resign/Aggregate finish	£12,000
Flagged finish	£21,000

It was decided that consultation would be required with residents and hopefully this could be done in the early Autumn, allowing NCC to come up with plans and designs for display.

It was proposed the Council would prefer the Resign/Aggregate finish - we would not go with water trough features at this stage.

The Council would need to check if the surrounding area of the Green is included in these costings or if we would need to seek costings for resurfacing to complete the project.

In principle it was agreed to go forward with funding applications for the scheme.

b) Ref 9/2006 Acomb Youth Hostel

Some Parish Councillors and the Clerk had been earlier in the day with other Parish Councils and the Community Council of Northumberland to see if there was any way a joint approach could be made to the YHA in regards to the proposed closures. It was agreed that this did not appear to be the way forward and it would be to each area to take its own action.

YHA may be interested in selling to a private buyer and operating the YHA under their Enterprise Hostel scheme. Various options were discussed with no positive solution coming forward.

In regards to Acomb Youth Hostel the Council fully discussed all the issues and one of the suggestions from a local resident that the Council purchase the Hostel and run it.

The Council firstly decided that it would not be possible for the Council to purchase the Hostel or run it, but fully support the retention of the Hostel in Acomb being run as a private business and would give as much support as possible to any scheme. The Council would like to see the Hostel retained, but do fully understand there could be problems retaining the Hostel, with the necessary costings for modernisation and the income that would be generated from a private scheme.

c) Ref 9/2006 Bus Stop, The Green

NCC have agreed to introduce a no-waiting area on a length of kerb on the south side of the Pant. The intention is to give enough room for a bus to go round the monument using it as a roundabout. If this does not work NCC will consider the use of prohibiting parking at all times. They would prefer a voluntary solution.

21/2006 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications

Ref 20060378

Mr & Mrs Hayman, Fallowfield Dene, Acomb, Hexham.

Construction of two storey dwelling at Laburnum House, Main Street, Acomb.

The Council decided to object; it felt the access was not suitable and is dangerous. The building would not be in keeping with the character of the area. The Council also received and noted a letter from Mr & Mrs Hayman.

b) Supplementary Planning Document
New Housing Planning obligation for Play and Sport Facilities

Notice from Tynedale Council that this was adopted 7th March 2006. The Council noted the contents of the report.

c) Northumberland Local Transport Plan
Integrated Transport Priorities 2006-07

Letter received from NCC re the above informing the Council it has not been possible to include the Council's request for a footway on Garden House Lane; it would remain in the directory and be reconsidered for future programmes.

22/2006 Financial Matters

a) Income

01/04/06	Tynedale Council (precept)	£10415.00
27/03/06	Bank Interest	£ .05

b) Payments

01/04/06	W C Grigg (Fee)	£ 509.90
01/04/06	W C Grigg (Administration)	£ 15.00
01/04/06	Election Costs (DD)	£ 85.00
01/04/06	Village Hall (Grant)	£ 750.00

**23/2006 District Councillor's Report
Councillor Mrs J Wrigley**

Councillor Mrs J Wrigley's report had been circulated with the Council's minutes earlier. The report was fully agreed and thanks expressed to Councillor Mrs J Wrigley for her excellent report.

24/2006 Cuts in Bus Service

NCC have recently announced that its public transport budget has been reduced by £250,000 for 2006/2007. Several services affecting Acomb and the surrounding area are affected on evening and weekend service mainly.

The Council noted the cuts with concerns, but also noted the low usage of the services provided in the evening and the weekends, and fully understand NCC taking this form of action.

The Council agreed to write to NCC and ask them to consider introducing a bus service on Friday and Saturday evenings to meet the 9.10 pm train out of Newcastle under bus meets train scheme.

25/2006 Any Urgent Business Allowed by the Chairman

a) Timber works at Fernhill

Councillor Mrs A Earnshaw was concerned with safety issues with tree felling at Fernhill. Councillor G Scorer has visited the site and spoken to the contractors

who hopefully will take action to prevent any accidents. The Council will monitor this issue.

b) Tree Problems

Milecastle Housing are to be asked to attend to the branches of the tree growing through the wall opposite the Methodist Church. NCC are to be asked to cut branches back on a tree causing problems on the bridge at Morrison Terrace.

26/2006 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed the date of the next meeting will be the 3rd May 2006 at 7.00 pm. This will be the APM and AGM.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.