

ACOMB PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5th September 2007 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, C Enderby, K Laidlow, G Scorer

Also Present

Tom Warde-Aldam (Acomb Estates)
Bill Grigg, Clerk to the Council
Helen Compton, Hexham Courant
3 residents of the Parish

Apologies

County Councillor T Flaws

Declarations of Interest

Councillor C Enderby (Site Allocations Options Tynedale Council)
Councillor G Scorer (Planning Application Ref. 20070940)
Councillor J Wilkinson (Planning Application Ref. 20070940)

47/2007 The Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 4th July 2007

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 4th July 2007 were signed as a correct record.

48/2007 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 4th July 2007

a) Ref 30/2007 Fastflow Works

Some reinstatement works have been carried out, but there is still some outstanding work; the Council will monitor this matter.

b) Ref 45/2007 (b) Local Bus Service

Tyne Valley Coaches have written to the Council to apologise for any inconvenience caused during their disruption to services a few weeks ago.

c) Visit to Codlaw Hill

This is still outstanding. Clerk to follow this up and report back to Council Members.

d) Ref 45/2007 Damage to Seat

This seat has been replaced by a local resident. A thank you card is to be sent to the resident expressing the Council's thanks.

47/2007 Discussion with the Land Agent representing the Land Owners of Acomb Estates (Watersmeet)

Tom Warde-Aldam - one of the Directors of Land Factor, agents for Acomb Estate, attended the meeting to discuss the problems at Watersmeet and to discuss the way forward.

The recent inquiry report is still awaited.

The land belongs to Mrs Pellew who lives in Canada. There have been longstanding problems in this area for several years with visiting campers who it is thought come from the Newcastle Area, motor cyclists using the area without permission and the whole area has had very little management over the years. The area is S.S.I.

Discussions have taken place with local Councillors, Tynedale Council, Northumbria Police, adjoining landowners, fishing tenants, Natural England and Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

It has been decided to put up notices again and to keep putting them up; hopefully attention will be taken of the notices.

Police do visit the site and will do everything possible to help, but trespass is a civil matter.

The Police have officially been told which has been circulated to all Police Offices that no-one has permission to camp on the site and no-one has permission to cycle on the land or in the quarry. One of the quarry tenants had given permission to use the quarry for motorbikes, but did not realise he was not supposed to so this has been stopped also.

It is not possible to make it an alcohol free area after discussions with Northumbria Police.

A proposal is for data to be collected from local residents i.e. car registration details etc and build up records and then meet with the campers with the Police and request that they leave and do not camp in the area.

Thanks were greatly expressed to local residents who regularly, sometimes on a daily basis, clean up the area for the benefit of all local residents and visitors.

Land Factor proposed that a proposal be submitted under the Land Option Scheme presently being consulted on in the first phase to give the area a higher value and use the quarry area for leisure use, using the area for holiday chalets or similar use; this would fund a warden to live on site and manage the area for the benefit of everyone.

The Council fully supported the proposals and agreed to give the scheme its support.

The Chairman of the Council Councillor J Wilkinson thanked Tom Warde-Aldam for coming and for all the updates which would help greatly.

48/2007 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications

- (i) Ref. 20070995
Mrs L Summers, 13 Garden House Drive, Acomb.
Construction of side single storey extension to form sunroom at above location.

Support the application.

- (ii) Ref. 20070940
G Scorer, New Rift House, Acomb.
Change of use of agricultural land to garden and construction of garage at above location.

Support the application but request some additional landscaping to the extent of the development.

b) Planning Decisions

- (i) Ref. 20070770
J Lee, The Lantern, Acomb, Hexham.
Construction of sunroom at above location.

Refused permission dated 17/8/07.

- (ii) Ref. 20070695
L Sewell, The Spinney, Riding Home Farm, Acomb.
Insertion of two conservation rooflights at above location.

Granted permission dated 03/08/07.
(This includes Listed Building Consent)

49/2007 Tynedale Council Site Allocations

Following discussion the Council decided on the following decisions for proposals for the Parish of Acomb.

SAO66 Garden House Lane

Do not support and would be concerned if proposals to close Garden House Lane were suggested again which the Council have strongly opposed in the past.

SAO67 Town Foot Farm

Support for affordable rented homes. (This would be the Council's 2nd preference of sites for affordable homes).

SAO68 White House

Support for affordable rented homes. (This would be the Council's 1st preference of sites for affordable homes).

SAO78 Former Colliery Site

Do not support

SA146 and SA263

Support for mixed use.

SA182 Land West of Garden House Lane

Do not support.

SA220 East Oakwood

Do not support

SA221 Land at the Riding

Do not support

SA264 Land at Garden House Farm

Support for affordable rented homes (this would be the Council's 3rd preference of sites for affordable homes).

SA1002 Acomb Industrial Estate

Support for economic/development.

50/2007 Financial Mattersa) Income

03/08/07	Precept	£8000.00
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b) Payments

£

28/03/07	Phone Bank (Broadband Hall)	50.70
24/04/07	Phone Bank (Broadband Hall)	14.69
24/05/07	Phone Bank (Broadband Hall)	14.69
20/07/07	P Stewart, Handyman (extra works)	210.00
20/07/07	P Stewart, Handyman (fees)	260.00
20/07/07	W C Grigg (fee £550, admin £15)	565.00
20/07/07	W C Grigg (payment towards phone charge)	50.00
03/08/07	Village Hall (grant)	1000.00
03/08/07	A A Jewitt (grant)	160.00

27/07/07	Phone Bank (Line rentals)	163.62
28/06/07	Phone Bank (Broadband Hall)	14.69
20/08/07	P Stewart (Handyman)	260.00
20/08/07	W C Grigg (fee £550, admin £20)	570.00
20/08/07	Village Hall (grant)	500.00
06/09/07	Village Hall (grant)	500.00

c) Payment of Fees

The Council agreed and to confirm in the minutes that fees to staff can be paid on or around the 15th of each month by the bank payment system or cheque. This is to confirm the present arrangements.

51/2007 Correspondence

- a) Letter from Tynedale Council re. notification of change to public payphone service. This affects one phone in the Parish. The Council will monitor this matter.
- b) Letter from Tynedale Council re. Tynedale Council's Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2007/2008.

The Council decided to ask the Scrutiny Panel to consider looking into the concerns of Parish Council's and their expectations within the new proposed Unitary Authority.

- c) Letter from Tynedale Council re. the Licensing Act 2003. Review of Statement of Licensing Policy. The Council noted the contents of the report.
- d) Letter from NCC re. the Development of Parish Transport representatives.

The Council decided to take no action in regards this request.

- e) Notice from the Leader of NCC re. the Local Government Re-Organisation decision for Northumberland.

The Council noted the contents of the notice.

- f) Notice from the Tynedale Community Partnership re. Tynedale Sustainable Community Plan. The Council noted the contents.

52/2007 District Councillor's Report
Councillor Mrs J Wrigley

Councillor Mrs J Wrigley's report had been previously circulated and thanks expressed to Councillor Mrs J Wrigley for a full and informative report. Councillor Mrs J Wrigley added that she had been invited to become involved with Age Concern's Rural Access Project.

53/2007 Any urgent business allowed by the Council Chairman

- a) Litter bin missing from play area. Clerk will follow up as this has not been

reported to the Council.

- b) Vermin are causing problems at the White House on Main Street, Acomb. The Clerk will speak to Environmental Health on this matter who are already involved.
- c) Bloom Certificates - Local printer to be asked if he will do them on behalf of the Council.
- d) The Pant - NCC have been contacted for a progress report which is very much overdue. The Officer in charge is on leave but will provide report as quickly as possible.

54/2007 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed the date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 3rd October 2007 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.