

ACOMB PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 6th June 2007 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Acomb.

Present

Councillors Mrs J Wrigley, J Wilkinson, W Rutherford, C Enderby, K Laidlow, G Scorer

Also Present

County Councillor T Flaws
Bill Grigg, Clerk to the Council
1 Resident of the Parish
Helen Compton, Hexham Courant Reporter

Apologies

Councillor Mrs A Earnshaw

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

25/2007 The Election of the Council Chairman 2007 - 2008

Councillor J Wilkinson was proposed by Councillor K Laidlow and seconded by Councillor Mrs J Wrigley. Therefore with no other nominations it was resolved Councillor J Wilkinson be elected Chairman for the Civic Year 2007 - 2008.

26/2007 Chairman's Declaration

The Chairman of the Council Councillor J Wilkinson duly signed his Declaration of Office.

27/2007 Election of the Council's Vice Chairman for 2007 - 2008

Councillor Mrs J Wrigley was proposed by Councillor J Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor G Scorer. Therefore with no other nominations it was resolved Councillor Mrs J Wrigley be elected Vice Chairman for the Civic Year 2007 - 2008.

28/2007 Discussion with Local Residents

It was proposed by Councillor C Enderby and seconded by Councillor G Scorer that agenda item 9 RE. Watersmeet be discussed as an item with the public. It was therefore agreed and resolved agenda item 9 be discussed at this point of the meeting.

The Council have received a copy of the Order Decision. Preliminary matters in regards to the recent inquiry in regards Watersmeet also the Council have received a copy of the notice to be published of the Inspector's proposals to modify the Order.

These reports were discussed, with the Council making no objections.

The main concerns of the Council and local residents and visitors is that the area is kept tidy for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone.

The problems caused repeatedly by campers and visitors are growing and the area is being left in some disgraceful states and local residents are clearing this up repeatedly.

The Police, Anti-Social Behaviour Officers, and the Land Agent acting on behalf of the Land Owners have been trying to help resolve the recent problems, not always with a lot of success.

It was fully agreed partnership working was needed with the Council, the community and the Land Agents.

It was therefore agreed the Land Agent be asked to attend a Council meeting to discuss future working arrangements, and following that meeting the Council would consider hosting a meeting to form a Community Group (e.g. Friends of Watersmeet) who would help with the supervision and care of the area for the benefit of the community, and may be able to obtain some grants. This would need the approval of the Land Owners.

The Council expressed thanks to all local residents for all their help with the clearing up and disposal of rubbish left.

29/2007 The Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 11th April 2007

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 11th April 2007 were fully agreed and signed as a correct record.

30/2007 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 11th April 2007

a) Ref 11/2007 Fastflow - Footways

It was noted some reinstatement works have been carried out but concerns are still being expressed in regards to the poor conditions that some areas are being left in.

In regards to the Fastflow work the Council will continue to monitor very closely. It was also fully agreed that NCC be asked to carry out a survey of all footways/pavements within the Parish and hopefully they will consider any upgrading.

b) Ref 23/2007 Parish Spring Clean

The Parish Spring Clean will take place from the 11th to 16th June. Bags, gloves etc are available after the meeting or they can be collected on 11th June when the Clerk is in the Village Hall. It is hoped Acomb First School would take part in the spring clean. Councillor J Wilkinson agreed to speak to the Headteacher and seek clarification. The skip will be in the Village Hall car park for approx one week.

31/2007 Planning Mattersa) Planning Decisions

Refs. 20070420/20070422

(This includes Listed Building consent)

P & L McGowan, 44 Williams Park, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Insertion of three conservation rooflights, formation of enlarged window with timber barn door and construction of stone gate piers for new gate at Mill House, Riding Farm, St. John Lee, Acomb.

Granted permission conditionally dated 25/5/07 by the Development Control Committee of Tynedale Council.

32/2007 Financial Mattersa) Payments

24/04/07	P Stewart (May fee)	£	260.00
24/04/07	W C Grigg (May fee & postages) (fee £550 postage £12)	£	562.00
02/04/07	Cornhill DD Insurance	£	97.18
24/05/07	P Stewart (June fee)	£	260.00
24/05/07	W C Grigg (June fee & admin) (fee £550 admin £14)	£	564.00
24/05/07	Tynedale Council (litter collection)	£	52.88
06/06/07	NALC (subscription)	£	145.57
06/06/07	J Robinson (copying)	£	10.00
01/05/07	Cornhill (insurance)	£	97.18
01/06/07	W C Grigg (3 months telephone repayment)	£	50.00
06/06/07	NCC Fishing rights	£	587.50

33/2007 New Code of Conduct for Members

The Council fully agreed to accept the new Code of Conduct and resolved to add the amendment to the Code paragraph 12 (2) allowing members of the public to attend meetings of the Council for the purpose of making representations, giving evidence or answering questions.

34/2007 Correspondence

- a) Councillor Mrs A Earnshaw very kindly wrote to the Council thanking members for their good wishes and flowers and hoped to be back very soon. The Council sent their good wishes.
- b) Letter from NCC and Tynedale Council re. proposals for reorganisation of Local Government seeking the Council's views and comments. NCC are proposing one County-wide Authority, and all the District Councils in Northumberland are proposing two Authorities, one for urban Northumberland and one for rural Northumberland. Tynedale Council are seeking views by 22nd June 2007. The Council discussed the issue at length and the views were very much mixed. It was therefore agreed the Clerk would speak to Tynedale Council and express the Council's mixed views on this subject.

35/2007 District Councillor Mrs J Wrigley's Comments

Councillor Mrs J Wrigley outlined the changes at Tynedale Council following the local elections on 3rd May 2007.

Councillor Mrs J Wrigley has been elected Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

36/2007 County Councillor T Flaw's Comments

Councillor T Flaws reported he had just attended the School Improvement and Monitoring Committee where it had been reported there were some excellent results for Ofsted reports with the Queen Elizabeth High School in Hexham receiving some excellent results for their recent Ofsted. There are only two poor schools within the County. It is the best authority for results.

There is a large number of First Schools teaching a foreign language. A number of schools are already healthy schools and a large number working towards becoming healthy schools.

Acomb County First School are working towards becoming a healthy school.

37/2007 Any urgent business allowed by the Chairman

There was no urgent business.

38/2007 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 4th July 2007 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.