

ACOMB PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 6th October 2004 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Acomb.

Present

Councillor J Wilkinson (Chairman of the Council in the chair)
Councillors Mrs A Earnshaw, Mrs J Wrigley, W. Rutherford, C. Enderby

Also Present

County Councillor B. Pickering
Bill Grigg - Clerk to the Council
P.C. P Stobbs - Northumbria Police

Apologies

Councillor G. Scorer, K Laidlow

Declaration of Interest

Councillor C Enderby Victim Support

Discussion with Northumbria Police

P.C. P Stobbs, Community Beat Manager, Northumbria Police, attended the meeting to discuss youth disorder problems in the Parish over the past few months. Inspector R Yeats recently appointed to the local Police division covering Acomb and based at the Corbridge office sent his apologies due to other commitments.

P.C. P Stobbs reported in general youth disorder problems are settling down. There were a number of reported incidents in May/June 2004 with one report in August, two reported in September and one reported just before this meeting.

Several residents have complained about youths playing football on the housing estate.

Several youths have been causing problems at the Z bend and the Police found four had been drinking alcohol. The youth's families have been sent anti-social behaviour forms informing them of the problems. If these orders are not followed an application for anti-social behaviour orders will be made to the Magistrates Court.

Police officers have been requested to request more anti-social orders and to use them; this is a directive from their Area Command.

It was agreed to keep open the problem-solving model for Acomb at the present time.

Councillor C Enderby felt the phone line system operated by Northumbria Police stopped the public from ringing the Police as most calls went into a central system. He knew it would not change and nothing could be done to change it, but felt it did cause problems.

The Council Chairman Councillor J Wilkinson thanked P.C. P Stobbs for attending the meeting and providing the detailed information.

Residents' Concerns

New Bus Service/School Bus Contract

During the last week in September local buses stopped coming via the Village Hall and Millersfield which was causing problems for residents.

The Clerk contacted NCC and the new contractors who reported there had been problems with the reorganisation of the route when the new contract began on August 31st 2004 and several minor problems, which have caused confusion between NCC and the contractors. Both parties agreed to resolve the problems as soon as possible.

Matters appear to have been resolved to date.

County Councillor B. Pickering reported he had taken up the concerns from the last meeting with NCC.

- a) A check is to be made in regards to the pupils' school passes and the passes stating the bus service number on the passes.
- b) Destination blinds are to be checked and used on all public bus services.
- c) NCC will not republish the new timetables in the Hexham Courant due to the costs. The company appointed to deliver the timetables has assured NCC they did deliver the timetables. Residents have not received them.

The Council asked Councillor B Pickering to ask NCC if they would print and deliver to all households a copy of the summary timetable as local residents' main concerns are the lack of information on the services operating.

73/2004 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st September 2004

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 1st September 2004 were signed as a correct record.

74/2004 Matters arising from the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st September 2004

- a) Ref. 64/2004 b. Highways Matters

Winter Grit Bins - Councillor Mrs J Wrigley prepared a report which she presented to the Council. At the present time grit bins are in the following locations:-

Entrance to the Orchard.
Main Street opposite the Post Office.
The Pant.
3 Bishops Hill.
Opposite 29 Bishops Hill.
Millersfield opposite Village Hall.
Outside 3-4 Chapel Close.
Orchard Avenue.

Councillor B. Pickering agreed to ask NCC to provide additional grit bins at the following locations:-

Peaslaw Gate.
Garden House Bank (half way up beside public seat).
25 Millersfield.

75/2004 Planning Matters

- a) **Planning Decisions**

Ref 20040997

Mr & Mrs Storey, 25 Millersfield, Acomb.
Construction of single storey rear extension and conservatory to side of above location.

Granted permission dated 20/9/04

76/2004 Financial Matters

A) Income

23/09/04	Bank Interest (C/A)	£7.99
27/09/04	Bank Interest (D/A)	£14.64

B) Payments

29/09/04	Village Hall	£1,500.00
01/10/04	W.C. Grigg (fee)	£339.90
01/10/04	W.C. Grigg (postages)	£8.00
01/10/04	T.C. (Litter)	£52.88
01/10/04	G. Caldwell (Audit)	£90.00
01/09/04	Cornhill (DD)	£65.42
01/10/04	Victim Support (Grant)	£50.00

C) Audit Notes

The Council re-confirmed the statement of accounts for 2003-2004 as minuted 05/05/04 ref. c. Finance Matters and now audited fully by the Internal Auditor (section 1 of annual return) in accordance with the Audit and Accounts Regulations 2003.

The Council also fully agreed the Statement of Assurance and fully agreed the Chairman and Clerk sign both sections of the annual return of accounts 2003-2004.

77/2004 Correspondence

- a) Notice from Northumberland National Park re. NCC and NNP joint structure plan review first alteration proposed modification. The Council noted the contents of the notice.
- b) Notice from Tynedale Council re. Referendum for a North East Regional Assembly/local Government review. Also providing copies of Tynedale Today newspaper for Council members' information. The Council noted the contents.
- c) Notice from Tynedale Council re. future options for Hexham swimming pool asking for feedback on the proposed options. It was agreed Council members would make their own feedback to the study.

- d) Notice from Tynedale Council re. Tynedale Council's Overview and Scrutiny Work programme for 2005/2006 asking if the Council would like to put any scheme forward for consideration. The Council felt they had no scheme at present to put forward and the proposed programme in hand by the Committees were very extensive.
- e) Notice from DEFRA re: consultation on clean neighbourhoods. The Council noted the contents of the report.
- f) Letter from Tyne Blue Line (public bus service) asking if they could attend the December council meeting to discuss the new bus contracts. This was agreed by the Council.

78/2004 District Councillor's Report
Councillor Mrs J Wrigley

Councillor Mrs J Wrigley's report had been previously circulated with the minutes and Councillor Mrs J Wrigley added to the report the following:-

Milecastle Housing (formerly Tynedale Housing) have now moved into their new offices on the Anick Road, Hexham and no longer in Prospect House, Hexham. Councillor Mrs J Wrigley had taken a motion to Tynedale Council with the concerns that tenants could have problems getting to the new offices etc. This was a concern of Tynedale Council. After discussion with Milecastle Housing and Tynedale Council it has been agreed two freephones will be available to tenants in Prospect House, Hexham so they can contact Milecastle Housing without any problems should they be unable to get to the new offices.

The twin bin system will be in operation in Acomb very soon. The Exhibition Caravan and officers spent the day in Acomb on October 1st 2004 and had a very good response and good support from local residents.

Councillor Mrs J Wrigley and Councillor B Pickering attended an Open Day for Beacon Councils on October 5th 2004 on the Hadrians Wall and was very successful.

With the additional comments the Council fully accepted the report with thanks expressed to councillor Mrs J Wrigley.

Members shared Councillor Mrs J Wrigley's concerns at the closure of the village shop and the problems some residents may have obtaining shopping. One suggestion is the Post Office may consider a small delivery service, on two days per week and that the Post Office may consider carrying more stock. This would be the choice and decision of the Post Office. They are going to sell the Hexham Courant and Evening Chronicle and possibly other newspapers.

There has been some concern in regards to delivery times of the system operated by Mr Quell but this is not a matter that the Council can become involved in.

If in the future someone applied for planning permission to convert part of their dwelling into a retail outlet the Council in principle would consider supporting the application, but this would depend on location and the merits of the application at the time of any application being received for consideration.

79/2004 County Councillor's Report
Councillor B Pickering

Councillor B Pickering reported on the following matters:-

- a) On the 13th October 2004 there will be a special meeting of NCC to discuss the forthcoming referendum.
- b) He has kindly allocated £5000 from his small grant scheme towards the updating of the Main Hall in the Village Hall.
- c) The request for a footway on Garden House Bank is now on the LTP list for consideration in 2005/2006 allocations, together with several long standing requests.

Councillor C. Enderby felt pressure should be placed on NCC on a regular basis to have some of the backdated requests carried out. Councillor B Pickering reported there is backdated lists throughout the county and by writing and putting pressure on would do no good except create extra paperwork.

- d) LTP list is now updated.
- e) He has requested repairs be carried out on a dangerous pavement at Chapel Close.
- f) The grass at Morrison Terrace will only be cut 1 metre in from the footway. NCC will not cut any further in this season. The state of the bank is felt to be dangerous for the workmen with their machines and it is unnecessary grasscutting. It will all be cut after the bulbs have flowered in 2005.

80/2004 Any Urgent Business allowed by the Chairman

- a) Grass Cutting

Councillor G Scorer was unable to attend the meeting but was still concerned about the various ways in which the grass in the village is cut and the timing of the cuts etc by the contractors.

After a full discussion on this issue the Council fully agreed it had no control over the work carried out by Milecastle Housing Contractors, Tynedale Council or NCC and it is their choice and decision as to how they operate their policies and contracts.

If it was not happy with a certain aspect of the work the Council can complain but most of the time no notice is taken. In general the Council are satisfied with the standard of work.

The authorities will not work together or pass over contracts. The same problems happen throughout the area where land and open spaces belong to more than one authority.

The contracts on behalf of the Council carried out by NCC and Tynedale Council, the Council are satisfied with the work carried out and Councillor C Enderby proposed, seconded by Councillor J Wilkinson that these contracts should continue for the foreseeable future.

Councillor Mrs A Earnshaw seconded by Councillor Mrs J Wrigley, proposed that we note most of the work carried out is out of the control of this Council, and if members are concerned about the impression of the area for people coming into the village we should continue to report it to the Clerk when they see it, not just at meetings, so action can be taken at once.

It is hoped the Council and residents will make improvements in general in 2005 when the Council enters the Northumbria in Bloom competition.

b) Tourist Sign

Councillor G Scorer had asked if the tourist sign at the top of the village which we asked to be replaced some time ago could be requested that it be replaced as it stopped visitors coming off the Military Road into Acomb and affected local traders (hotels etc).

NCC are not prepared to replace even if the Council considered giving a contribution. They have new regulations on signage.

All the new signage etc that has gone into Hexham is paid from a grant from the Market Town initiative not NCC or Tynedale Council and they will not fund villages, and the application for the signs and boards went through the planning process and inspection system by the funding body before the grant was awarded.

Councillor B Pickering agreed to obtain the details of the new signage regulations from NCC.

The Council fully agreed it could take this matter no further at the present time.

81/2004 Date of Next Council Meeting

It was agreed the date of the next Council meeting would be Wednesday 3rd November 2004 at 7.00 pm. The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.