

ACOMB PARISH COUNCIL
Draft until approved by Council

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 11th April 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, W Rutherford, K Laidlow, G Scorer, C Enderby

Also Present

County Councillor T Flaws
Bill Grigg, Clerk to the Council
5 local residents

Apologies

Councillor Mrs A Earnshaw

1. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 3rd May 2006

The Clerk read the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd May 2006 and they were signed as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the APM held on the 3rd May 2006

There were no matters arising.

3. Proposed Improvement to Play Area

The Play Area Development Committee attended the meeting and gave a full detailed presentation to the meeting of their proposals and hopes for improvement to the present play area.

They have carried out a feasibility study with the Pre-School and School and have consulted with the Community.

They have already held a very successful fund-raising event and are in the process of preparing funding applications for Grant Aid towards funding. They expressed thanks to Jane Hart, Development Officer CAN for all her advice and help.

Quotations and plans are still coming in but the scheme could cost around £60,000 with land works.

Further reports will be brought to the Council in due course.

The Council expressed thanks to the Committee for their efforts and hard work, the Committee hoped to continue to help and support with future maintenance when the

work is complete.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman of the Council Councillor J Wilkinson gave a full and comprehensive report (copy filed with the minutes). He also thanked all residents, Councillors and staff for all their help, work and co-operation on behalf of the Council.

5. Local Organisation Reports

Reports were given from the following local organisations:-

Acomb Local History Society
 Acomb Methodist Church
 St. John Lee Parish Church
 Acomb Footpath Group
 Acomb Gardening Society
 Miners Leek Club
 Acomb Womens Institute

6. School Governor's Report

Councillor Mrs J Wrigley, as Chairman of Governors at Acomb County First School, has included the Governor's report within her District Councillor's report, adding to the report that school is growing and going from strength to strength with the new Headteacher, and becoming involved in new initiatives and teaching projects.

7. District Councillor's Report **Councillor Mrs J Wrigley**

Councillor Mrs J Wrigley's report had been previously circulated and thanks expressed for a very informative report. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Mrs J Wrigley for all the hard work she does for the Ward/Parish on behalf of all the residents.

8. County Councillor's Report **Councillor T Flaws**

Councillor T Flaws reported on the following issues:-

- 1) NCC finance and the under funding issues from Central Government.
- 2) Pressure on NCC re. Education and the Putting the Learner First and the implementation of Phase 1 in the Blyth/Cramlington area.
- 3) Discussion with Headteacher/Governors on school improvements.
- 4) Sure Start Schemes within Tynedale and Northumberland.
- 5) Local Transport Plan.
- 6) Haydon Bridge By-Pass.

- 7) Fore Street improvements in Hexham.
- 8) Increase in Home Care charges.
- 9) Recycling schemes targets
- 10) In regards Education improvements to the Key Stage 2 Achievements.

The Council Chairman thanked Councillor T Flaws for attending and giving his report.

9. Residents' Concerns

a) Watersmeet

The Council and Community await the Inspector's decision following the local Enquiry a week ago.

A letter has been received from a local resident in full support of maintaining a pedestrian access for community use and working in partnership with the Parish Council, Acomb Estates and residents.

This was felt to be a very good way forward and following the Inspector's report discussions should take place when the Council have discussed the report and its issues.

Over the past weekend campers have been at Watersmeet and caused a vast amount of problems including being a nuisance, fly tipping, noise, blockage of the footway etc.

The Agent for Acomb Estates had been contacted and also contacted Northumbria Police. No action was taken.

Local residents have cleared up most of the mess, which was a huge operation.

Acomb Estates are keen to work with the Parish Council and residents in stopping these problems happening.

Legal Services at Tynedale Council have been contacted by the Parish Council and their view is the campers could be moved on. It cannot be done quickly and the legal process if used should be dealt with by Acomb Estates.

It was agreed following the Inspector's report a meeting with Land Factor and all interested parties would be held.

10. The Council Chairman

Thanks were expressed to Councillor J Wilkinson for all his hard work and commitment to the Council.