

PONTELAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT MERTON HALL ON 12th JULY 2023

Present: Councillor K Overbury (in the Chair)

Councillors S Ahmed, L Darwin, R Dodd, C Greenwell, A Hall, N Sehgal, A Varley, K Wilson and K Woodrow.

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Caisley and S Johnson.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

35. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th JUNE 2023

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th June 2023 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

36. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute 26 – Annual Audit of account for 2022-23

The Clerk reported that the relevant information had been sent to the external auditors and displayed on the website and noticeboards.

37. PLANNING

(i) Planning Committee

Minutes of meetings held on 6th & 20th June 2023 were circulated for information. Councillor Varley raised some queries regarding various applications and also to check if permission had been granted for certain works. This would be investigated and discussed at the next Planning Committee.

(ii) Report on recent planning decisions

There were no reports.

38. GRANT APPLICATIONS

(i) Citizens Advice Northumberland

A grant application had been received from the above organisation requesting a donation towards their running costs. They had written out to all parish and town councils in the county seeking support. They had received donations from more than 50 parish and town councils in previous years.

38. GRANT APPLICATIONS (Continued)

(i) Citizens Advice Northumberland

RESOLVED – A grant of £500 be approved.

(ii) NE Youth

A grant application had been received from the above organisation in the sum of £1200 to meet the cost of room hire at Merton Hall for one night per week to hold the youth club.

Members were reminded that the Council had agreed to meet the cost of two youth workers for two nights a week as part of their budget deliberations in January 2023. A third youth worker was assisting with the youth club on one night per week.

The Clerk had circulated a recent report from NE Youth relating to the work carried out in Ponteland and in particular at the youth club.

RESOLVED – A grant of £1200 to meet the cost of room hire be approved.

39. REQUEST TO USE PONTELAND PARK

A report by the Clerk in relation to the above request had been circulated. The request had been received from Northumberland Rivers Trust who had received some funding to carry out works around rivers and streams in the county. Ponteland Scouts had been asked to work with the Rivers Trust to carry out some works in Ponteland Park between July and December 2023. The Rivers Trust also hoped to use a team of employed young people from the Skill Mill who would be accompanied by their supervisor.

The work involved included some work on bank erosion using various methods and fabrication of bird boxes to be installed in trees. They also wanted to replace the anti-slip surfacing on the Waitrose bridge. Permission had been sought from NCC for the latter task as the bridge was owned by them. The footpaths officer was now in dialogue with the Rivers Trust on this issue.

The funding criteria required meant that organisations must obtain the approval of the landowner and if agreed, the Council would be required to submit a letter of support in respect of the above works.

The Clerk mentioned a second application for use of the park for an event for a youth girls football team on the 22 July. She had been in discussions with the organiser for some time and the Environment Working Party had given approval due to the timescale involved. Members were asked to note the information.

RESOLVED – The request by the Northumberland Rivers Trust be approved and the Clerk be authorised to submit a letter of support to the funding organisation.

40. HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY

Minutes of a meeting of the above Working Party had been circulated for consideration. There was one recommendation relating to the proposed Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2024-25 response to NCC from the Town Council. A copy of the draft letter had been circulated with the Minutes for approval.

The Mayor asked for clarification on item 4 relating to a proposed meeting with the Darras Hall estate committee. This had been previously discussed and she understood this related to speeding not various highways matters. She was pleased that the meeting would include County Councillors and an NCC officer but asked that notes of the meeting be produced and circulated to members. This was agreed. Councillor Hall said that there would be no meeting until September.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The Minutes be approved.
- (ii) The letter relating to the PTC response to the LTP for 2024-25 be agreed.

41. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Dodd reported that a petition from residents of Jameson Manor had been considered by the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council meeting on 10 July. From a speed survey that had been carried out it appeared that there was an issue with excessive speed at this location and some intervention was required which would be examined by NCC. The Town Council had already agreed to provide a speed indicator sign near this location.

There had been correspondence from a resident who lived further down the North Road asking for some assistance with speeding at this location. It was agreed that an item would be included on the next Highways Working Party.

Councillor Dodd reported that he had asked the Clerk to circulate a survey to Councillors on anti-social behaviour from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor Darwin mentioned that as part of his LTP submission he was recommending that work be carried out to the path on Cheviot View.

42. MAYOR’S REPORT

A report by the Councillor Overbury had been circulated.

43. REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Councillor Varley reported that he would no longer be able to circulate the reports from the Airport Consultative Committee following a decision taken not to publicise the information. He would provide a summary of discussions instead.

..... DATE

CHAIRMAN

44. ACCOUNTS/ BANK RECONCILIATION/ BUDGET REPORT

The Accounts Committee approved payments totalling £41,188.09 for June 2023.

A copy of the monthly budget report was also circulated, as well as the Bank reconciliation for June 2023.

A year-end budget revisions report had also been circulated which showed

RESOLVED – The reports be accepted.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
WOULD BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 6.15 P.M. AT
MERTON HALL.**

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE