

## GLANTON PARISH COUNCIL

GLANTON PARISH COUNCIL met electronically on 28 September 2020 at 7.00pm

### Present:

Parish Councillors Mrs Susan Collingwood-Cameron, Jerry Dronsfield, John Lang, Jon Radgick (Chairman in the Chair) and Mrs Susan Rogers

SE Rickitt – Clerk

*In these minutes NCC means Northumberland County Council*

### **1: Introduction**

#### **1.1 Welcome, apologies for absence and declarations of interest/grant of any dispensations and possible co-option**

No apologies had been presented.

#### **1.2 Public Questions**

No public questions had been emailed to the clerk nor had any parishioner sought the log-in details for the meeting.

#### **1.3 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 August 2020 were agreed as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman

#### **1.4 An update on matters arising from the minutes of 10 August 2020**

1.4.1 The repositioning of the Smart Meter mast – the clerk had circulated the following email received from NCC

Despite our best efforts the applicant has advised that they are not prepared to move the Mast as an alternative location is also problematic.

I'm sorry that we have been unable to be more helpful in this regrettable situation.

Parish Councillors were very disappointed by the response and the failure to engage with the Parish Council in efforts to find an alternative location. The sense of frustration was heightened when the Council saw that permission had been refused for a similar mast in Cartington. The Chairman is to contact NCC Cllr Steven Bridgett to discuss how best to draw attention to the failings of the Planning & Highways Depts. **Action JR** - see also item 2.4 below

1.4.2 Gateway features – the Council was advised that the gateway features in a neighbouring parish had been funded by NCC using a variety of budgets. It was

also likely that new developments in a parish could be required to contribute to such features, although installation would depend on when land was developed.

## **2: Items for discussion and potential decisions**

### **2.1 The Coronavirus National Emergency**

The Chairman reported that he was not aware of any requests for assistance at the present time but was conscious of the announcement of further restrictions in Northumberland made that afternoon. The volunteers remain ready to assist parishioners if circumstances change.

### **2.2 Reports from the County Councillor and the Police**

No reports from the County Councillor or the Police had been received by the time of the meeting. The Council noted that the Police Community Engagement vehicle had been in the village on Thursday 20 August 2020. Some Councillors had visited the van but no information was available on whether other parishioners had taken the opportunity to speak to the police. The clerk took the opportunity to remind the Council that the Police & Crime Commissioner would be speaking at the NALC AGM on 3 October 2020.

### **2.3 Planning**

2.3.1 There were no current applications for the Council to consider.

2.3.2 Attention was drawn to a NALC briefing note on the Planning White Paper [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]. Given the media reports of the White Paper's reception in southern England, the Council considered that the current proposals were unlikely to be enacted as set out in the White Paper.

### **2.4 Highway Issues**

2.4.1 The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Lang had prepared a report of the state of the roads and footpaths within Glanton and a copy had been sent to NCC. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes].

2.4.2 On 23 September 2020 NCC Cllr Bridgett had emailed to say

You may have noticed that Northumberland County Council has recently carried out some temporary repairs to Playwell Road.

These should hold up for a short period of time but are evidently not as good as a full resurface.

So I am pleased to inform residents that we have been able to secure further funding for a full resurface from The Causeway up Playwell Road to just beyond the last building at the top of the hill.

This is in addition to the funding secured to resurface along Front Street and works for both schemes are scheduled to commence at the end of January next year (2021).

2.4.3 Councillors then considered their bids for the Local Transport Policy Programme 2021/2022 (LTPP) in the light of the response and the general state of the highways within Glanton. There followed an extensive debate which include the following points:

- The failure to communicate with the Parish Council was yet another example of poor practice by the County Council (*see also item 1.4 above*)
- The advance warning sign at the junction with the A697 had not been replaced. Councillors commented that other highway signs were in similar states of disrepair throughout the county
- The extension to the 30-mph limit on West Turnpike had not yet been actioned
- The size and weight of large vehicles passing through the village was detrimental to its character
- The recent survey into highway drainage had not been announced to the Parish Council. It was only by good fortune that Councillors and Parishioners had been able to give direct information to the survey team who had been very grateful as it helped to inform their findings

2.4.4 Councillors then agreed that their LTPP bids would be

- The extension of the 30-mph speed limit on West Turnpike
- The replacement of the footway on West Turnpike with a suitable sustainable surface
- An investigation & consultation on potential measures to enhance highway safety within the village, having regard to the NCC's approved timber extraction route using the village. **Action SER**

2.4.5 Attention was also drawn to the dilapidated Strutt & Parker sign on the Powburn Road, the Chairman will contact them to seek its removal. **Action JR**

## **2.5 A Newsletter Editor**

No parishioner had come forward to take on the role. Whilst the *Next-Door* website does enable some communication, not every parishioner has access nor does it carry the same amount of information as the newsletter. The Council noted that without a volunteer, there would be no further editions.

## **3: Items for Information**

### **3.1 Forthcoming Village activities**

The Council noted that the Memorial Hall will remain closed until the refurbishment works have been completed.

### **3.2 Details of any meetings attended by Councillors or the clerk**

None were reported.

### **3.3 Correspondence received**

The Clerk drew attention to a funding request from the Air Ambulance. After discussion, the Council agreed that such a request should be directed towards individual contributions rather than the use of Council funds.

## **4: Administration**

### **4.1 To note the current accounts and to authorise any payments**

4.1.1 The Council noted the current accounts. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]

4.1.2 At the proposal of Cllr Dransfield and seconded by Cllr Mrs Rogers, the following payments were authorised.

- Cllr Radgick – Reimbursement of the website fee - £57.60
- NCC – The insurance premium - £187.78
- HMRC - PAYE Q2 - £30.00

4.1.3 The Council authorised the purchase of a 5'/6' Christmas Tree. **Action JR**

### **4.2 Details of items Councillors wish to raise at forthcoming meetings**

None not noted above

### **4.3 Date of Next Meeting**

The Council agreed the following schedule of future meetings

- Monday 30 November 2020
- Monday 25 January 2021
- Monday 29 March 2021
- *Thursday 6 May 2021 – Contested Parish Council Elections*
- Monday 24 May 2021 – This has been brought forward as the last Monday in May is a bank holiday. It is also the final day on which the annual parish council meeting can be held in an election year. It was agreed that the annual parish meeting is also held immediately before the start of the parish council.

Confirmed as a true record at the Parish Council held on .....

Signed .....

Date.....

(Chairman)