

GLANTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Glanton Parish Council was held on Monday, 26th September at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall. The following councillors were present: Mr J Radgick (chairman), Mr N Dunn, Mr J Lang, Mr G Dodds, Mrs S Collingwood-Cameron, Mrs S Rogers, Mr J Easton

Members of the public: Mr M Mason, Mr T Meikle

1. **Public questions:** There were no questions from the public.
2. **Parish clerk - minutes:** on the resignation of Linda Lazenby as clerk, it was agreed that Susan Rogers would take the minutes.
3. **Apologies for absence:** Mr A Collingwood-Cameron, Mr J Guiry. It was noted that Mr Guiry had missed three successive meetings but as this was for exceptional family reasons **it was resolved** that he would be allowed to continue to serve on the parish council.
4. **Declaration of interest:** Mr J Easton – agenda item 11.
5. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.
6. **Matters arising:**
 - *Signage* – the chairman had received an apology from the Leader of Northumberland County Council as a result of his letter concerning the sign on the A697 for Glanton Show. His letter was passed to Karen Ledger, the head of Development Services who said that the signs were illegal and the job of the council was to enforce the law. No further action would be taken.
 - *First responders* – it was reported that the defibrillator unit was now in place but the agreement with the owners of the pub was still to be signed. A sub-meter will be installed so that the parish council can reimburse them for the electricity used. A training session will be held in October.
 - *Speeding* – four suggestions had been received for dealing with the speeding problem in the village.
 - (i) Flashing 30mph signs when a car passes in excess of that speed. A permanent installation would cost £2,000 - £2,500.
 - (ii) Planting to make the road look narrower.
 - (iii) Revised priority at the Front Street/West Turnpike junction
 - (iv) Website campaign.

It was agreed that a temporary flashing 30mph sign as suggested by Cllr Bridgett was likely to be the most effective. Glanton PC would be prepared to contribute to the cost of their turn of the use of this machine.

Action: J Radgick to contact Cllr Bridgett

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7. **Council Communications:** Mr Norman Dunn has taken on the role of parish clerk as a volunteer. It was resolved that the parish council's address for all communications and bank statements at Lloyds TSB and Santander will change to '5 Front Street, Glanton, Alnwick, NE66 4AP'.

A list of all communications received will be sent out with the agenda before each meeting. Should any member write on behalf of the parish council, please will they provide the clerk with a copy.

8. **Snow clearance:** it was agreed to set up a small group to find out what residents needed and how these needs might be met with the help of volunteers.

Action: J Radgick to set up a small working group.

9. **Standing orders:** Mr Dunn reported that these need to be reviewed periodically in order to consider if they were still fit for purpose. Our current ones were prepared less than a year ago guided by NALC. It was agreed that we were satisfied with them as they are.

10. Parish Plan

- *Care in the community* – the project has been well supported. It is trying to become self-sustaining so small charges will need to be made. The hire of the hall is being covered at the moment but it was agreed that Glanton PC will be prepared to cover this if required.
- *Neighbourhood planning* – one of the outcomes of the Localism Bill is that the existing Parish Plan should be used as a basis for any neighbourhood plan.

11. **Parish Clerk** – The chairman had written to Mrs Lazenby thanking her for her 23 years of service to Glanton parish council. Although it was felt that a dinner to recognize her contribution to village life was not appropriate at the moment for family reasons, **it was resolved** that a gratuity of £100 would be sent to her from parish council funds.

12. **Village Newsletter** – the parish council recorded their formal thanks to Lynne Livsey for her work as editor of the village newsletter. Nicola Frater has agreed to take on the role.

Action – J Radgick to write to Mrs Livsey.

13. **Planning applications:** the outcome of the following applications was reported
Queen's Head signs – refused
Porch for Wickham House – approved

14. Meetings attended:

- *Cluster meeting* – this meeting of all Cllr Bridgett's parishes took place two months ago. We were asked to sign up to it but since then there has been no further information.
- *NALC* – this group has funding problems as CAN has stopped contributing. NCC has agreed to take over but at a reduced rate. This is likely to result in an increased subscription.

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15. **Finance:** the accounts have been authorized. They received a qualified audit but we have been told that we are holding too much money. We have until March 2012 to reduce the sum held. If we don't succeed we may have to have a full audit, which is costly.

- **It was resolved** to pay the audit bill of £60.
- **It was resolved** that the Millennium Fund would cover the loss of £93.66 made as a result of the last visit of the Northumberland Theatre Company.
- **It was resolved** to pay the following support payments:
 - £400 to the Whittingham Burial Ground
 - £400 to the Memorial Hall

16. **Village Activities:**

- 1st October Macmillan coffee morning
- 15th October Water Aid ceilidh
- 2nd November Show AGM in the Memorial Hall.

17. **Any Other Business:**

- *Boundary changes* – the proposal from the Boundary Commission would result in the Rothbury group of parishes, including Glanton, moving into the Hexham constituency. Cllr Bridgett is against this change and he has suggested that East Ponteland joins Hexham instead of the Rothbury group. Members should send in their own views with constructive proposals by December 5th and we should encourage everyone in the parish to send in a response for this substantial change. This is important as numbers count. The consultation form can be found on the website.
Action: J Radgick to prepare a summary proposal and draft response from the council for consideration at the next meeting.
- *Wooden seat* – there is a wooden seat with a dedication plate which has been in store at Glanton Pyke where it has been refurbished. It is not of very robust construction. A decision needs to be taken as to where it should be placed.
- *New Bewick wind turbine* – the chairman has written a letter objecting to this proposal and expressing concern about the lack of consultation to Andrew Simm of the NCC Planning Department.
- *Plants for tubs* – Mr Easton and Mr Dodds offered to do the planting. It was agreed that they could spend £80 on plants.
- *Show barn dance* – this was a success. The Fish & Chips van was specially appreciated.
- *Broadband* – the county council must make a good business case in order to get funding for this.
- *Grit bins* – NCC will not provide a grit bin on the Whittingham road as it is a gritting route. In order to get filled by NCC, the bin next to the wall on West Turnpike must be moved to the roadside or it may be taken away.

18. **Date of the next meeting**

This will be held on Monday 28th November 2011 at 7.0pm in the Memorial Hall.