

North Gosforth Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of North Gosforth Parish Council held in St Aidan's Community Centre, Brunton Park on Wednesday 19 July 2017

Present: Councillor Mears, Chairman
Councillors Cooke, Duell, Hay, Loftus, Phillipson and Robinson.

In attendance: Cllr Allen – Newcastle City Council
I Humphries - Clerk
2 Officers from Northumbria Police
Representative of Crowdfunding Group saving
Broadway East School Crossing patrol

21. Apology for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Agnew.

22. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to amendment of minute 14 – Grenville Drive, not Granville Drive and Polwarth Crescent not Drive.

23. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- A meeting had been held regarding the play area planting scheme and it had been decided to remove the wild flower area and replace with grass (seed). It was noted that the fence would remain until it was established. With regard to the trees, one had not taken and would be replaced in the autumn.
- With regard to the discussion on the quality of grass cutting by the City Council in the parish, a request had been made to bring forward the timing of the grass cutting within the citywide schedule of work.

24. Police Matters

Officers provided crime statistics including theft of and from motor vehicles in the Great Park; disorder in Walkworth Woods and motor cycle disorder behind the golf course in Heatherly Lane.

Members were also advised that Community Speedwatch would visit Brunton Park again on Polwarth Drive and Princes Road.

Members requested, Officers “keep an eye” on youths causing problems in the play area and youngsters attempting to kick footballs over the Church.

Officers advised that the Police Twitter account would enable members to keep track of police activity.

25. Financial Matters

The following payments were approved –	£
• HMRC	80.00
• Robertson (SO)	453.10
• Clerk (SO)	320.00
• Grant for Community Centre gate	237.00

The new gate at rear of Community Centre would be installed during the first week in August with the Church, Community Centre and Parish Council all contributing equally to its cost.

Members received an appeal for funds from a Crowd funding group seeking to support the continuation of the school crossing patrol on Broadwood East. The appeal had the full support of the Ward Councillors and was working with the City Council to prevent the removal of the crossing patrol in time for the schools starting back in September.

The Group had were confident of securing funds for the first year and were now looking to secure enough to provide a two year scheme. It was felt that in doing so it would enable funding to continue for future years. Given the number of children from within the Parish attending school and making use of the crossing patrol it was agreed to pledge £250 and look again to support the scheme in the next financial year.

26. Planning Matters

Members considered the following planning applications and commented as recorded.

2017/0970/01/DET	17 Kingsley Avenue Erection of single storey extension to rear, roof extension to side above existing bedroom and study, and porch to front.	No objection
2017/1008/01/DET	37 Clayworth Road Erection of first floor extension Over existing garage to side	No objection
2017/1627/NV	47 Princes Road Erection of a first floor extension over existing garage to side and a single storey extension to front.	No objection

For information, members noted the application in respect of 9 McCracken Close for the erection of a single storey extension to side, roof lights to front to create attic conversion and alterations to elevations (2017/1009/01/DET)

Members also noted the article in The Journal regarding loft conversions suggesting that too many conversions were proceeding without building regulation approval.

With regard to the building work currently underway at Kirkwood Bungalow, there appeared to be no application nor information about the work currently on site.

27. Other Issues

- The closure of the slip road to create a bus lane was noted.
- Discussions were still on-going with regard to the bus turning circle.
- Usage of the bus service in the Great Park was increasing and the Park & Ride facility was to be further promoted.
- The Great North Road drains still required clearing in order to prevent further flooding in the autumn.
- Concern was expressed regarding the rubbish littering from McDonalds.
- With the litter bins not being emptied enough, misuse of the bins was becoming a serious problem.
- The sign illumination at Netherwitton drive was not working. The hedge also needed trimming to make the signs visible.
- The “advert van” was currently parked outside the entrance to the Marriott Hotel.
- Praise had been received regarding the planting scheme.
- Fallen branches from trees needed to be sorted and it was agreed that the 5 year plan previously suggested should be developed.

28. Date of next meeting

Agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on Wednesday 20 September at 7.00pm in St Aidan’s Community Centre, Brunton Park

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