

GLANTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Glanton Parish Council was held on Monday, 28th November, 2011 in the Memorial Hall. The following councillors were present: Mr J Radgick (chairman), Mr N Dunn (clerk), Mrs S Collingwood-Cameron, Mr J Guiry, Mr J Lang, Mr G Dodds, Mr A Collingwood-Cameron, Mrs S Rogers, Mr J Easton.

Members of the public present: Mr & Mrs T Meikle, Ms S Williams

1. **Public questions:** there were no questions from the public but Mr Meikle gave an update on the New Bewick Turbine – he reported that this application will be determined by Northumberland County Council’s Planning Committee on 6th December at County Hall at 6pm. 96 letters of objections have been received, including from all the surrounding parish councils, the National Park and the CPRE but only one letter in support. However the proposal has been recommended for approval by the planning officers. SANE (Save Northumberland’s Environment) is allowed to speak for 5 minutes.

2. **Apologies:** there were no apologies for absence.

3. **Declaration of interests:** there were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** the minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising:**

- *Speeding* – the chairman reported that Cllr Bridgett would like to purchase a mobile flashing 30mph sign subject to NCC approval which currently was not forthcoming. If he did Glanton could share it and the cost of its maintenance with other parishes in the Rothbury ward.
- *New Bewick Turbine* – the chairman confirmed he had sent a letter of objection in accordance with the draft circulated by email and that the letter had been acknowledged by NCC.

6. **Council Communications:** a full list had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

7. **Snow Clearance:** there had been a good response to the request for volunteers. A meeting had been held and three teams set up with a clear action plan. A policy and risk assessment had been sent to our insurers but no response had yet been forthcoming.

The budget required to support this work was discussed, including a contribution to the diesel costs for the snow clearing work done by Mr J Guiry last year.

It was **resolved** that:

- Mr N Dunn was authorised to pay for the costs of the volunteers meeting, £15 for the hall and £18.44 for the buns etc.
- Mr J Guiry would be paid for the diesel he used last year, estimated at £65.
- A budget of £250 be authorized to pay for the above and the possible additional costs of insurance, high viz vests etc
- An additional grit bin would be purchased. Purchase of a cheaper model would be investigated as NCC charge £200 but they will fill them. The question of the colour was raised. Green would be preferred to bright yellow.

Action: Mr J Radgick to organise expenditure when the insurance company confirm cover.

8. Tender for public footpath maintenance: The line of the public footpath south from near the bus stop towards Whittingham, which follows the field margin for about 600m is supposed to be cut twice a year by NCC. But as it is often done late or not at all (only one cut done last year), it was **resolved** that the parish council would put in a tender for two cuts to be done by local volunteers using strimmers.

Action: Mr J Radgick to contact NCC and our insurance company.

9. Wooden seat: the proposed location for the wooden seat, which has been recently repaired, was discussed. It was agreed that it should go in front of the shop, attached to the pavement if Mr R Johnston is agreeable.

Action: Mr J Radgick to approach Mr Johnston.

10. Parish Council Charter: Mr N Dunn advised members that a draft of a new charter has been drawn up by NCC. One of the proposals is that parish councils will have to contribute to the cost of elections.

It was **agreed** that Mr N Dunn should draft a letter responding to the draft containing the bullet points listed on his advisory note 1, which accompanied the agenda.

Action: Mr N Dunn to draft the letter and Mr J Radgick to sign it and send to NCC.

11. Meetings attended: Mr N Dunn attended a meeting with NCC concerning budgets. Parish councils have to set a precept by January but NCC will not have their budget ready until later but they promise no surprises.

12. Finance:

12a *Donations:* It was **resolved** that the donations should stand at the same level as last year.

	2011-12
Citizens Advice Bureau	20.00
Age Concern	30.00
Community Action Northumberland	25.00
Hospice Care	55.00
Playhouse Trust	20.00
Air Ambulance	50.00
Total Donations	200.00

12b *Current year's budget*: this must be reviewed each year. A summary of the differences between this year's budget and last year's were listed by Mr N Dunn on his advisory note 3, which accompanied the agenda and were noted. See appendix A.

12c *Precept for 2012/2013*: it was **resolved** that this should remain unchanged at £1500. See appendix B. It was also agreed not to budget for charitable donations but to see what money may remain unspent at the end of the year when the actual project expenditure is known.

12 d *Expenditure for plants*: £250 has been budgeted for maintenance and planting. Mr G Dodds suggested it would be beneficial for the soil in the tubs should be renewed. It was **agreed** that he should decide on how this budget should be spent.

Action: Mr G Dodds to prepare a plan and implement it.

12e *Insurance premium payment*: It was **resolved** to pay £157.90 for insurance on behalf of the Parish Council.

12f *Bank accounts*: it was **resolved** that the Millennium Fund would still be considered as a separate fund but its account would be merged with the Parish Council's account.

13. **Village Activities:** Mr J Easton reported the following had been arranged:

- 2 December Leek Club Bingo
- 3 December Church coffee morning
- 22 December Carol service in the Queens Head
- 28 December Bottle Bingo
- 3 January NTC pantomime

14. **Any other business:**

a) *Maintenance work*: means of mending the stone seat in Playwell Road will be investigated. Mr J Radgick has volunteered to continue to strim around the other stone seats.

Action: Mr Guiry to see whether the stone bench can be put back onto the existing base.

b) *Next year's Jubilee*: it was agreed that this should be on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr G Dodds suggested another avenue of trees, down Playwell Road and the addition of others to fill the gaps in the Millennium Avenue.

Action: Mr Dodds to make a proposal to the next meeting.

c) *Frontage of the shop*: efforts would be made to tidy up this area as it is the focus point of the village.

d) *Derelict building up for auction*: should this be sold and plans made to renovate it, the boundary of the village green needs to be marked out so that skips etc. are not put on it.

Action: Mr Easton & Mr Radgick to erect posts marking the boundaries of the village green.

e) *Bus shelter*: it was agreed that a robust bench in the shelter would be of benefit for bus travellers.

Action: Mr Radgick to obtain an estimate for a bench.

f) *Spring near the kissing gate on the footpath*: this area is always wet. A proposal for a board walk was made.

Action: Mr Radgick to obtain an estimate.

15. **Date of the next meeting:** the next meeting will take place in the Memorial Hall on Monday, 30 January, 2012 at 7pm.

Appendix A

Budget Variations

During each financial year we need to demonstrate to interested parties that we have reviewed our budgets and adjusted them to take account of changes happening during the financial year. We have the option of actually amending the budgets or recording a narrative explaining those changes affecting the budget this year.

The Council should consider the following explanation of differences in the budget for the year 2011/2012.

- Additional income received from VAT refund (£124.44) and donation from the First Responders (£438.98) causing an unexpected increase in income for the period.
- Due to the resignation of the clerk the salary has been overestimated for this year by £630.00.
- Insurance payment will be £157 for this year; we estimated £220.00. There is a possibility there may need to be provision for an increase in premium for the activities involving the Snow Squad.
- Maintenance category has been increased by £370 spent on sign painting.
- Support payments have increased to £800 from the original budget of £300.
- Donations have not yet been made for 2011/2012.
- No projects have been undertaken - £2,000 estimated expenditure not spent.
- Net decrease in Millennium Fund income and expenditure £140, some £590 less than expected.

Appendix B

GLANTON PARISH COUNCIL - BUDGET SUMMARY 2012 TO 2013

	2011/2012 Budget	2012/2013 Budget
<i>Surplus/Deficit Brought Forward</i>	4,331	4,113
<u>Income</u>		
Precept	1,500	1,500
Other Income - VAT refund	124	0
First Responders	439	
Parish Plan		0
Total Income	2,063	1,500
<i>Available Funds</i>	6,394	5,613
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Admin		
Clerk's Salary and Expenses	100	50
PAYE/NI	0	0
Insurance	220	231
Defibrulator		20
General Admin/Misc.	65	68
Legal/Audit/Subscriptions	175	184
Maintenance & Planting	50	250
Election Costs		100
Snow Squad	250	250
Hall Hire	80	84
Total Admin	940	1,237
Support Payment		400
Whittingham Churchyard	400	
Memorial Hall	400	
Total Support Payments	800	400
Donations - Section 137 Spending	200	0
Total Donations	200	0
Projects	0	400
Parish Plan		
Royal Wedding	141	
Neighbourhood Plan		100
Grit Bin	200	
Total Projects	341	500
Total Expenditure	2,281	2,137
<i>Surplus/Deficit Carried Forward</i>	4,113	3,476