

**GLANTON PARISH COUNCIL**

GLANTON PARISH COUNCIL met on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.00pm in The Memorial Hall, Glanton.

Present:

Parish Councillors Angus Collingwood-Cameron (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Susan Collingwood-Cameron, Joe Easton, John Guiry, Iain Hedley, Brian Johnson (see item 1.4 below), John Lang, Chris Livsey (Chairman), Jon Radgick and Mrs Susan Rogers

SE Rickitt – Clerk.

Two members of the public were present

As both Councillors Livsey and Angus Collingwood-Cameron had been delayed and missed the start of the meeting, at the invitation of the clerk, those Councillors present appointed Councillor Radgick to chair the meeting

**1: Introduction****1.1 Welcome, apologies for absence and declarations of interest/grant of any dispensations**

No declarations were made

**1.2 Public Questions**

There were no questions from members of the public

**1.3 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24 November 2014 were agreed as a true record and signed by Councillor Radgick.

**1.4 Co-option to fill existing vacancy**

At this point Councillor Radgick proposed the co-option of Brian Johnson to fill the existing vacancy. The Council unanimously resolved to co-opt Mr Johnson who signed the declaration of office and took his place as a Parish Councillor.

**1.5 An update on matters arising from the minutes of 24 November 2014**

A: Councillor Angus Collingwood-Cameron having arrived, he updated the Council on the work being undertaken by Northumbrian Water Ltd in continuing the mains renewal to the Powburn link.

B: Councillor Radgick gave the Council's and the Parish's thanks to Councillor Johnson for taking on the editorship of the Newsletter, expressing approval of the new style. Councillor Mrs Rogers said that it would be useful if details were given of meetings in neighbouring parishes. Councillor Johnson agreed but it would be dependent on there being sufficient space. **Action Councillor Johnson**

C: The Council wished to record their thanks to John Swanson not only for printing the Newsletter in the past at no cost to the parish but also for continuing to provide the Christmas Tree. Councillors also paid particular tribute to Linda Lazonby for her help, especially in distributing the Newsletter.

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

### **2.1 Report from the County Councillor**

County Councillor Bridgett was absent

### **2.2 The Core Strategy**

(Councillor Livsey arrived during the initial discussions on this item)

A: The Council considered the draft response prepared by Councillor Radgick, which had been circulated with the agenda. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]

B: Councillors supported the suggestions made by Councillor Radgick and in particular agreed that any isolated new dwelling in the open countryside should satisfy the tests in paragraph 55 of the National Planning Policy Framework (set out below for ease of reference)

*55. To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. For example, where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby. Local planning authorities should avoid new isolated homes in the countryside unless there are special circumstances such as:*

- *the essential need for a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside; or*
- *where such development would represent the optimal viable use of a heritage asset or would be appropriate enabling development to secure the future of heritage assets; or*
- *where the development would re-use redundant or disused buildings and lead to an enhancement to the immediate setting; or*
- *the exceptional quality or innovative nature of the design of the dwelling. Such a design should:*
  - *be truly outstanding or innovative, helping to raise standards of design more generally in rural areas;*
  - *reflect the highest standards in architecture;*
  - *significantly enhance its immediate setting; and*
  - *be sensitive to the defining characteristics of the local area.*

Councillors were very keen that the Core Strategy should emphasise the stringent tests applied by the phrase "exceptional quality or innovative nature" in the final bullet point

C: Councillors endorsed Councillor Radgick's suggestion that the housing allocations be rolled out over the entire plan period rather than allow developers to take up the entire allocation early in the Plan Period. Councillor Hedley was concerned that this might not be the case.

*Following the meeting Councillor Hedley sought clarification from the County Council's Planning Strategy Team on this issue. They confirmed that the housing allocations are the minimum requirement to meet population projections. There is no maximum housing allocation and these minimum figures will be reviewed every 5 years.*

D: Councillors considered that the Core Strategy should make better housing provision for the vulnerable and the elderly in rural North Northumberland

E: Councillor Radgick agreed to make revisions in line with the comments outlined above. **Action Cllr Radgick**

F: The meeting expressed their thanks to Councillor Radgick for his work on the draft Core Strategy

### **2.3 Planning**

There were no new planning applications to consider. Councillor Radgick informed the meeting that the application for the new dwelling on the Whittingham Road was still the subject of discussions between the applicant and the planning officer. The Council was not involved in those discussions but had made clear their desire for a circular footpath.

### **2.4 Potential Projects**

A: At the previous meeting Councillors had been asked to bring forward any potential projects. Councillor Mrs Rogers informed the meeting that she had contacted a contractor from Whittingham who was prepared to move the grass bank by the telephone box at a cost of £40.00 per cut. She agreed to enquire as to whether there would be any extra cost in the contractor raking and removing the cuttings. **Action Cllr Mrs Rogers**

B: The Council agreed in principle to arrange for the cutting of the bank (subject to the information sought above), noting that an amendment to the risk assessment would be required as would checks to ensure that any contractor had suitable public liability insurance. **Action SER**

C: At the suggestion of Councillor Mrs Rogers, Mr Richard Verrill addressed the meeting regarding the Glanton Heritage Group's proposals to reinstall traditional fingerpost road direction signs within the village. These would be Glass Fibre rather than cast iron. The Group had met officers from the Highways Dept. the previous week, who had been supportive. Work was in hand to obtain detailed costings and information on whether the signs would be adopted by the highway authority.

D: The initial locations suggested were at Branton Road End and Playwell Road.

E: The Council indicated cautious support in principle for the concept but would require more detailed information before they were in a position to assist financially and/or assume any on-going maintenance or insurance commitment. **Action Councillor Mrs Rogers and Mr Verrill, the clerk to check the current insurance policy.**

### **2.5 World War I Commemoration**

Councillor Livsey advised that work was proceeding on the quilt.

## **3: Items for Information**

### **3.1 Forthcoming Village activities**

A: Councillor Easton informed the meeting that the usual monthly coffee morning and lunch club would take place. He particularly wanted to draw attention to the Race Night on 6 February raising funds for the Hall and the Show.

B: There was a visit by the Northumberland Theatre Company on 10 March. The Council was not being asked to underwrite the theatre as the NTC were to take all the proceeds but to allow the Hall to run a raffle.

C: Councillor Easton took the opportunity to advise the Council of the potential difficulties faced by the Memorial Hall in funding forthcoming maintenance. He was supported by Councillor Livsey who indicated that the Council may be asked to increase its support for the Hall in the future.

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

A: Councillor Radgick reported on the A697 Safety Presentation at the North Area Committee on 8 December 2014. The final report was awaited

B: He had also attended the Coquet Cluster meeting on 11 December which had been addressed by Daljit Lally (Executive Director: Wellbeing and Community Health Services) and Jo-Anne Garrick of the Core Strategy Team. The police were also present and urge parishioners to use the community messaging service.

C: Councillor Radgick had also visited the landslip on the Rothbury/Wheldon Bridge Road on 17 December. The County Council stated that work was to commence shortly with the aim of the road reopening by October 2015.

D: Councillor Livsey had attended the Memorial Hall AGM – see item 3.1.C above

### **3.3 Correspondence received**

A: The clerk circulated a list of emails received since the previous meeting and displayed copies of various materials for Councillors to take away.

B: The clerk advised Councillors that through his work for Mitford Parish Council he had become aware of a potential proposal to alter the way the County Council treated Parish Councils' comments on planning application where they differed from the planning officer's recommendation. At present in such cases, the application is decided by a planning committee.

C: During the previous week the clerk had located a report from the County Council's external auditors which was to be considered by their Audit Committee on 28 January 2015. This could be read as indicating a potential change to the practice might be made administratively.

D: Councillor Radgick had seen the report and was appalled at the potential change. Councillor Angus Collingwood-Cameron was aghast at what the report revealed about the working of the planning system in Northumberland and made the point that recommendations should not be picked out individually, but that it was clear that root and branch reform was required.

E: The Council agreed that it would strongly oppose any change being made without full and proper consultation.

#### *Note for information*

*Since the meeting the clerk has been in contact with the County Council and believes he has obtained a commitment to consult town and parish councils (as at the date of drafting 1 Feb 2015)*

## **4: Administration**

### **4.1 The current accounts for 2014/2015**

These had been circulated with the agenda and were noted. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]

## 4.2 Payments

One payment of £64.79 was authorised to cover the clerk's administrative expenses for calendar year 2014

## 4.3 The budget and precept for 2015/2016

A: The Council gave further consideration to the report initially considered at the previous meeting. [A copy of the report is attached to the signed minutes of the previous meeting].

B: Having regard to the discussions earlier in the meeting the Council resolved to levy a precept of £2100.00 (Two Thousand One Hundred Pounds) for 2015/2016 and to set the following budget

<b>Expenditure Item and Number</b>	<b>Budget for 2015/2016 (£)</b>
Clerks Costs [1]	660.00
Misc. Admin (Postage, etc.) [2]	100.00
Insurance [3]	200.00
Legal /Audit /Subscriptions [4]	100.00
Maintenance and Planting [5]	500.00
Hall Hire [6]	140.00
S137 Support Payments [7]	400.00
<b>General Fund Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>2100.00</b>

C: A revised Asset Register was agreed. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]

## 4.4 Details of items Councillors wished to raise at forthcoming meetings

None

## Date of Next Meeting

The Council noted the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 30 March 2015.

Confirmed as a true record

and signed by the Chairman

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Date

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