

**MELDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**  
**AT 7.30PM IN DYKE NEUK, MELDON**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** G Sanger (Chairman)  
A Taylor  
A Frankland  
F Bowles  
J Garnett

**Clerk:** Miss D Smith

**Apologies:** Cllr R Johnson  
H Waddington  
A Lloyd

Northumberland County Council (NCC) Councillor Glen Sanderson.

One member of the public was also in attendance.

70. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

71. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

72. **Public Participation Time**

There were no public questions on this occasion.

73. **Report from the Police**

There was no police update on this occasion and no update email has been received.

**RESOLVED**

The Clerk to chase up the update email.



10.4.24

74.

Report from the County Councillor

NCC Councillor Sanderson was not present on this occasion.

The Clerk gave the following update:

- NCC are a month away from the budget meeting. A public consultation is taking place online. No cut backs to front line services.
- Work on the Northumberland train line is continuing and 3 out of the 6 stations should be open in late summer 2024. There will be 2 trains running every hour.
- Town Deals are ongoing.
- Levelling money has been received for Blyth (£100m) and Ashington (£30/40m) • 95% schools in Northumberland scoring good or outstanding with Ofsted.
- Super school being built in Seaton Valley with another planned for Amble. • Free car parking continuing in towns.
- The Climate Change Action Plan is being refreshed.
- Ongoing work to potholes in the county. £23m grant has been received from the Government but NCC need to find another £7m for C and U class roads and pavements.

75.

Minutes of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

- (i) Members were asked to approve the draft minutes of the above meeting.

**RESOLVED**

That the above minutes, a copy of which has been previously circulated to each member, be approved and signed as correct by the Chairman.

76.

Matters Arising

- a. **Min 62 i – Planning application 23/03788/FUL: Paradise Cottage, Throphill, Morpeth NE61 3QN – Demolition of existing mono-pitched side extension and construction of new single storey side extension.** This application has been granted permission.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

- b. **Min 62 ii – Planning application 23/03813/VARYCO: Land south of Throphill, Hartburn – Variations of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 14 (agricultural building) pursuant to planning permission 17/02677/FUL.** This application has been granted permission.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

- c. **Min 68 a – Any Other Business – To find out why the barn just before Pigdon coming from Morpeth East has not been screened with native trees as agreed.**

Members are advised that NCC Enforcement have opened an investigation into this matter and will report when the investigation is completed.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

- d. **Min 68 b – To ask NCC what the Parish Council can and can't do in regards to tree planting.**

At the time of preparation of this agenda, no response has been received.

**RESOLVED**

- i. Information duly noted.
- ii. To invite NCC Tree Officer to the next meeting to discuss tree planting and grants available.

77. Parish Council Vacancies

There is currently one vacancy on the parish council. Cllr Johnson did not attend this meeting therefore, there is now another vacancy.

**RESOLVED**

- a. Information duly noted.
- b. The Clerk to contact NCC advising them of the current vacancy.

78. Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Members were asked to consider the following planning applications:

- a. **23/04495/FUL – Paradise Cottage, Throphill, Morpeth NE61 3QN:** Proposed change of use for part of an existing grazing field by constructing a menage/outdoor equestrian arena for personal use.

**RESOLVED**

Meldon Parish Council does not object to this application, but concerns were raised regarding light pollution in the future.

- b. **24/00212/FUL Land North West of 1 West Molesden, Molesden, Morpeth NE61 3QF:** Change of use from part of existing grazing field by constructing a 20m x 40m menage outdoor equestrian riding arena.

**RESOLVED**

Meldon Parish Council does not object to this application, but concerns were raised regarding light pollution in the future.

Concerns were also raised regarding horse boxes using the entrance/exit to the property as it is on a hilltop and blind bend.

79. Financial Matters

- a. Members were provided with a payments & receipts list and budgetary report up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

The Clerk advised members that the funds in the current TSB account need to be transferred to the new Unity Trust bank account as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED**

- i. To approve the payments and receipts list and budgetary report.
- ii. A cheque was signed to transfer the funds into the Unity Trust Bank Account.

80. Defibrillator - Molesden

Members were advised that the defibrillator was taken out to be used however, was not needed on this occasion.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

81. Highways

Members discussed highways issues within the parish.

**RESOLVED**

- i. To contact NCC and chase up previous repairs reported.
- ii. To request a plan of road works for 2024.
- iii. To request that if a pothole/road repair is being carried out, that any other potholes in the same location are also repaired at the same time.

82. Environment & Climate Change Issues

Members were provided with the Dial Up Dial Down work Councillor Lloyd is currently carrying out.

**RESOLVED**

To defer to the next meeting when Councillor Lloyd is in attendance.

83. Pigdon Update

Councillor Bowles reported that they are still waiting on a date for the new broadband connection. Concerns were raised regarding the times of the road closure on the C144 East Benridge for the current road works. The road is closed from 8am to 4pm on weekdays from 5<sup>th</sup> February to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**RESOLVED**

To ask NCC if the road closure times could be reduced to 9am to 3pm to avoid disruption for local residents going to work and picking up/collecting children from school.

84. Any Other Urgent Business

Members were advised of the upcoming NCC Spring Conference.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

85. Date & Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm.