

Minutes of a Meeting of Carham Parish Council held in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham on Tuesday 9 January 2018

971 **Present:** Cllrs Mrs A Lauder, Ms V Poland, J Jobson and Mrs A Changleng (Clerk) in attendance.

972 **Chair's Welcome:** Mr P Feerick and Mr John Cooper, iNorthumberland were welcomed to the meeting.

973 **Apologies:** Cllr W Potts

974 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

975 **Minutes** of the meeting on 14 November were approved and signed.

976 **Matters Arising:** None

977 **Correspondence:** circulated

978 **iNorthumberland:**

Mr John Cooper, iNorthumberland, commenced by informing Councillors the roll out of superfast broadband had started in 2012 with a target of 60% of the county receiving at least 30 megabits per second (the definition of superfast). During 2013 – 15 investment enabled 90% of the county to be covered. The plan is to reach 95% in 2018. There are no plans for the remaining 5%. There are difficulties in providing superfast broadband to rural communities, e.g. remote farms.

Fibre to the premises (FTTP) is more expensive and less common than fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) then copper to the premises. If premises receives broadband from a cabinet there can be competition for the service from other users, but speeds are such that any drop in speed is unlikely to be noticeable.

- Carham is now live funded by Scotland from a cabinet at Birgham.
- East and West Learmouth are also live from the Coldstream Exchange via a new cabinet.
- Carham Hall, Wark Village, Wark Common Farm, Howburn, Shidlaw, Sunilaws, Mindrum and Mindrum Station are included in the next phase of fibre rollout in 2018 with either FTTC or FTTP.
- There are several post codes not in the plan – roll out is by post code not premises:
TD5 8BW - Pressenhill
TD12 4QD - Tithe Hill, East Moneylaws and West Moneylaws
TD12 4QJ - Downam
TD12 4RS - Pressen
TD12 4RT – The Hagg

For the 5% of properties in Northumberland that are not included in any plan the County Council has allocated £2m funding for community fibre schemes. iNorthumberland pay up to £2,500

towards cost for fibre but the remainder of the cost per property has to be raised by other means e.g. grant from wind farm, individual payments or self dig. A parish council could approach residents to provide personal contact information to enable a survey to be carried out by Open Reach which should take 8 -10weeks. There are alternatives to fibre – wireless which is fast and provides unlimited data but has restrictions (less choice of provider, need to renew equipment more frequently and line of sight requirement); satellite (limited data and delay); 4G mobile internet (EE is in the process of improving the network); and TV whitespace (being trialed).

Mr Cooper hoped that the Parish Council would alert the households and businesses that are not included in the plan to these options.

979 Parishioners' Questions – issues raised by Cllr Jobson

One Way System in Wark: Cllr Jobson will draft a consultation letter for residents to obtain their views.

Safety Barrier at West Learmouth Road End: Cllr Jobson will forward the acknowledgement of his letter to NCC to Councillor A Murray in order to chase up a reply.

New Bench in Wark: The suggestion was dismissed because the ground is on private property.

Roadside Mirror: A mirror at the other entrance to the top of Wark is unnecessary because the western approach is more open to see oncoming traffic and there is a sign to slow down traffic.

The road between Wark and Sunilaws will be reported to NCC by the Clerk. Running water on Wark Bank and at the old railway bridge ices over and causes road safety issues. There is also a large pool of water at the Shepherd's Cottage. The hedge cutter has left a mess on the road and car tyres have been damaged. Grit is required at Sunilaws and the Parish Council will consider purchasing a grit bin in the next financial year.

980 Wark Play Park: The fencer has replaced some fence posts and increased the depth of the rabbit fencing but has not replaced the gates (as in quote received). The Chair will query the invoice which included gates.

981 Newsletter: Thanks were given to Cllr Poland for setting up the newsletter which has been printed and delivered to all parts of the parish by councillors.

982 Finance: Approval was given to sign cheques for the hire of hall (£150), clerk's salary (£500) and stationary (£15). It was agreed to donate £100 to the 1018 Society in support of the commemoration of the Battle of Carham to be held on 7/8 July 2018. Contact details of our new appointed external auditor (PKF Littlejohn LLP) for the next 5 years have been received. The Annual Return will now be known as the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

983 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 13 March in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm.