

**Minutes of a Meeting of Carham Parish Council held online via the Zoom Platform
on Tuesday 12 January 2021**

200 Present: Cllrs Mr P Feerick, Mr J Court, Ms V Poland, Mr J McGregor, Mrs Lynda Allan, Councillor A Murray and Mrs A Changleng (Clerk) in attendance.

201 Chair's Welcome: Councillor Poland was thanked for setting up the Zoom Meeting which is necessary because Covid-19 lockdown is still in place. He also welcomed Janet Chubb to the meeting.

202 Apologies: None

203 Declarations of Interest: None

204 Parishioners' Questions: The Clerk received an email querying expenditure on Wark Play Park and asking if quotes had been obtained from local tradesmen to carry out the work. The Clerk sent a detailed reply with extracts from the relevant minutes. Carham Parish Council is always prudent in its expenditure to enable the precept reflecting the small number of parishioners paying council tax and supports local tradesmen whenever possible.

205 The Minutes of the Council Meeting on 10 November were approved as read. Clerk to arrange signature of Chair post meeting.

206 Matters Arising: Councillor Poland was thanked for producing the December newsletter and councillors for distributing 150 copies around the parish. The land at Wark Telephone Box cannot be tidied up until an acknowledgement of ownership is received from the Land Registry. However, there is still garden rubbish being dumped amongst the trees and councillors will bag-up this rubbish in Spring. Councillor Murray will help to arrange uplift of bags by Northumberland County Council.

207 Correspondence: circulated

- Notes from Community Group Meeting on 12 November.
- Hampers for Christmas organised by Glendale Connect.
- Tree Planting Programme at West Learmouth. A letter of support has been sent to the Forestry Commission.
- Highways Programme Team Contact details. NCC wants to move to a system where all correspondence is captured centrally rather than individual officials due to the volume of work.
- Broadband Upgrade Fund. The new Community Co-ordinator Peter Straker-Smith will continue to raise awareness and encourage interest in the Broadband Fund locally.

208 Planning Application:

Proposal: Removal of the existing 15m Airwave tower and replacement with a 25m tower upon which will be attached antennae and dishes. At ground level additional cabinets and a standby generator and ancillary apparatus will be located within the existing compound on new concrete bases along with a VSAT dish link on a 3m support pole located on the new tower base. A 3m wide stone access track will also be installed from the farm yard to the site along a length of approx 280m.

Location: Airwave Communications Mast Mindrum Wooler Northumberland

Applicant: Mr Hickson (on behalf of Airwave)

Application No. 20/04201/FUL

Case Officer: North Area Team

Observations by 28 January 2021. Comments will be sent by Clerk re environmental mitigation.

- 209 Traffic Calming Measures in Carham and Wark:** Councillor McGregor reported on early discussions with Police and Highways Team on measures to reduce speeding. Carham Parish Council does not have a copy of a previous survey carried out in 2015. The possibility of getting a 20mph speed limit is remote but new early warning signs indicating a 30mph zone ahead may be considered. Further research will be carried out on other measures such as a chicane or chevrons. Residents on the main road in Wark will be asked for comments. A survey will be drafted and approved by councillors before being sent out. NCC does not see the need for any measures to be taken in Carham.
- 210 Rights of Way in Carham Parish:** Janet Chubb and the Footpaths Group have played an important part in walking the PROWs in the parish and reporting any issues to Philip Bradley (NCC) who is responsible for liaising with landowners to resolve these problems. There are volunteers who would like to carry out maintenance and improvements to some of the footpaths in and around Wark. Carham Parish Council's insurance covers volunteers but health and safety training would have to be carried out before this happens. Councillors suggested that the footpath along the river bank in Wark (which has SSSI status) should be assessed by NCC. Janet will inform Philip Bradley of issues raised and seek advice on training. A copy of any correspondence will be sent to the Clerk.
- 211 Promotion and sponsorship of flower boxes, baskets, to upgrade visual aspects of Wark village and village signs and notice boards in Wark:** There are many residents who have lovely displays of flowers during the summer and councillors discussed ways in which Wark can be enhanced even more. Planters could be sited at the 30mph signs and around the village and residents encouraged to take part in a Garden Exchange or even a "Best Garden" competition. Cllr Murray commented that experience in Wooler has shown that an exercise of this kind takes a considerable amount of time and effort. It was agreed that a volunteer in Wark should lead on this and co-ordinate all the efforts but plans will have to wait until the current lockdown is over. In the meantime councillors agreed to donate £100 to buy planters. An article will be put in the May newsletter. A notice board informing visitors of the history of Wark could be sited in the village. The notice boards at Wark Castle are the responsibility of English Heritage.
- 212 Finance:** Approval was given to payment of Hire of Hall (£150), Clerk's Salary (£500) and Data Protection Fee (£40).
- 213 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 9 March in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm or via the Zoom Platform. Councillors will be kept informed.**