

**Minutes of a Meeting of Carham Parish Council held in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm
on 9 November 2021**

278 Present: Cllrs Mr P Feerick, Mr J Court, Mr J McGregor, Mrs L Allan, Ms V Poland, Mrs A Changleng (Clerk), County Councillor M Mather and 14 members of the public.

279 Apologies: None.

280 Chair's Welcome: Cllr Feerick welcomed Councillors, County Councillor and members of the public to the meeting. Cllr McGregor signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

281 Declarations of Interest: None.

282 Parishioners' Questions: In response to a letter received from the residents of Carham expressing their concern about traffic speeding through the village, County Councillor Mark Mather answered questions. Although this is a county wide issue Carham is important and both he and Carham Parish Council are negotiating with Northumberland County Council in an effort to slow down heavy goods vehicles and cars to alleviate residents' fears. Councillor Mather has regular meetings with the police. Reports for Carham in 2019 showed that the number of speeding incidents was below the threshold that indicates there is a speeding problem (in 10 activations per hour only an average of 2.74 were over the speed limit). Numbers have dropped further during Covid-19. There will be no withdrawal of a speed van in the village but residents said it should be there at peak times e.g. 7am to 9am. Residents also suggested 1-2-3 warning signs on the approaches to Carham or a Vehicle Activated Sign. Councillor Mather explained a VAS is not always NCC property. (Carham Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the one in Wark). Councillor Mather is keen to see Average Speed Cameras which can be moved around the county. The information these provide can be used to prosecute speeding drivers. The local Community Police Officer will also be encouraged to visit Carham and speak to residents. Statistics must prove a case for further action. Carham Parish Council and Councillor Mather have already met with the Highways Manager to arrange for a survey to be carried out in Wark. Residents will be kept informed of future developments.

Residents commented on the general state of the village with weeds, blocked road drains and salt ruining established hedges. NCC is not allowed to blanket spray but weeds are targeted instead. The road gritter is automated and cannot go faster than 32mph and can be adjusted to dispense less grit. The Clerk will liaise with the Factor to report issues to NCC.

Councillor Mather advised Councillors on the purchase, running costs and maintenance of a defibrillator. He would also be able to arrange training. He explained an ambulance should arrive at the location of an incident very quickly (the target is within 8 minutes) whilst giving instructions on the number to open the nearest defibrillator.

Councillor Mather has been working with the Clerk to ask NCC why the agreed work at West Learmouth Junction has not been carried out. Northumberland County Council apologises. The plan has lapsed, therefore NCC has produced another one, after reassessing budget costs. Councillors agreed to this new plan.

283 The Minutes of the Council Meeting on 14 September were approved as read and signed.

284 Matters Arising:

Broadband Update: The letter to affected residents has been delayed because BorderLink is still awaiting a response from the Diocese about siting a mast on the tower of St Cuthbert's Church. The response will determine how they build the network. The Chair will look into this matter.

Climate Emergency Declarations: Cllr McGregor gave a few thoughts about the way in which parishioners could be informed on ways to help climate change. Any official guidance received will be publicised.

NCC Free Tree Giveaway: Carham Parish Council has been successful in its application for 10 trees for the Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The copse consists of a small group of trees as a wildlife haven, providing a valuable food and shelter source. Species include: Silver Birch, Rowan, Wild Cherry and Hawthorn. The Clerk will collect them on 20 November.

285 Correspondence:

- Came & co (Insurance) rebranding to Gallagher
- NALC AGM on Saturday 9 October
- Citizens Advice Contact Details
- Northumbria Rural Crime Team Presentation on Thursday 21 October

286 Footpath Walks: Janet Chubb has carried out a review on all the PROW walks in Carham Parish since they began in 2018. She has listed all the main problems reported to NCC, progress and outcomes. Janet has developed a good working relationship with landowners and Philip Bradley. She is prioritising paths blocked by vegetation which have not been cleared due to lack of resources at NCC and by landowners who, although they have the equipment, are not officially responsible. There are some volunteers who are willing to help to keep the paths open to allow the PROWs to be accessible for all. Cllr McGregor is surveying the footpaths in Wark and will send his report to Janet who will liaise with Philip Bradley about maintenance/repairs.

287: Planning Application: Permission has been granted for land East of Rose Cottage.

288 Land at Telephone Box in Wark: After some discussion the decision was taken for Cllr Court to contact Alex Ballantyne (Tree Surgeon) for a quote to clear fell the trees behind the telephone box. This decision was not unanimous.

289 Defibrillator: To be discussed further.

290 Wark Play Park: Adverse weather caused a large branch to fall on the equipment and damage the fence. NCC removed the debris and a Tree Inspector met with Councillors and the Clerk to discuss future safety. The large branches from the tree overhanging the park will be pollarded by NCC. The quote for £121.61 from H W Currie & Sons to repair the fence was approved.

291 Finance: It was agreed that the Precept for 2022 will remain at £2,500. There is £6,501.89 in the bank.

292 Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 January 2022 in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm.