

**Minutes of a Meeting of Carham Parish Council held in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm
on 8 March 2022**

- 303 Present:** Cllrs Mr P Feerick, Mr J Court, Mrs L Allan, Ms V Poland, Mrs A Changleng (Clerk), County Councillor M Mather, PC D Perry, Sgt D Budge, Mr R McCartney and 15 members of the public.
- 304 Apologies:** Cllr Mr J McGregor.
- 305 Chair's Welcome:** Cllr Feerick welcomed all those present to the meeting and introduced representatives of Northumbria Police and Northumberland County Council.
- 306 Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 307 Parishioners' Questions:** PC D Perry, Neighbourhood Policing (Rural) Northern, and Sgt D Budge were in attendance to update residents on increased police presence in Carham and Wark in an effort to reduce speeding. Firstly, P C Perry reported that no crimes or social issues had been reported in the parish during the past two years. The result of the recent traffic survey carried out in Carham showed 7 speeding offences out of 230 vehicles monitored and 10 drivers had received a warning. The speed gun is a visible deterrent but it is not always possible for the police to be in the village. However, there are other ways of enforcement. PC Perry informed those present of a new initiative called Northumbria Connect which will be a better way of engagement and two way dialogue between members of the public and Northumbria Police. This will be especially relevant to those who live in rural areas to report matters of concern. This information will be sent to the Clerk who will ensure its distribution through the Parish Council newsletter, notice board and Carham Community Website.
- Mr Robin McCartney, NCC Highways Infrastructure Manager, briefed those present that there is a problem with vehicles speeding throughout Northumberland and he liaises with Northumbria Police to find accident black spots. Lately accident rates have fallen from 1500 to 500 in Northumberland with the bulk of accidents in unrestricted areas and the remainder in 30mph zones. Nationally 20% is due to speeding through driver distraction, and this falls to 10% in Northumberland. When a traffic survey is completed an analysis is carried out to find if it meets the criteria for further action. The average speed of the traffic surveys in Wark and Carham was 31mph which does not merit further action by NCC. Mr McCartney holds regular meetings with the Transport Forum when log lorries are discussed. The size and weight of the lorries give a perception of speeding but, in fact, they are not. Carham Parish Council can report concerns on the yearly Local Transport Plan Programme. The monetary costs of effective measures are prohibitive but road markings, gateway signs and vehicle activated signage (although not recognized by the Department of Transport) were discussed. Mr McCartney said NCC has money for a pilot average speed camera which can be moved around the county and NCC is always working on new initiatives.
- Concerns about drains in Carham should be reported to: northernareahighways@northumberland.gov.uk
- The Chair thanked the representatives for attending the meeting and for their support to Carham Parish Council. Councillors will discuss this matter further at the next meeting.
- 308 The Minutes of the Council Meeting** on 11 January were approved as read and signed.
- 309 Matters Arising:**
- The Queen's Green Canopy – the ground at West Learmouth is ready for planting the copse of trees. After staking out the area there is room for another 10 similar trees to be planted. These will be donated. Approval was sought to purchase 20 sturdy stakes and guards and the cost of £90.00 will be shared between the Parish Council and another donation.

- Footpaths Group Walk on 5 February – 13 people turned out for the circular 5 ½ mile walk towards Shidlaw and the Scottish Border and returning via Wark Common.
- Grit Bins – the PC’s request for extra grit bins has been refused because the locations do not meet NCC’s criteria but County Councillor Mather is following this up on the PC’s behalf.
- Land at the Telephone Box in Wark – Councillors accepted the quote of £250.00 plus VAT received from Alex Ballantyne Tree Services and the work will be carried out this week.
- West Learmouth Junction – County Councillor Mather advised councillors that the work is to be carried out on 21 March or sooner. However, only road markings and signs will be completed as NCC Design Team has queried who owns the land, therefore it will not be possible to erect a fence and hedge, as previously agreed. This matter will be followed up by the Parish Council.

310 Correspondence: *circulated*

- *Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Fund* – £70,000 has been allocated by NCC to celebrate The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee on 4 June. Residents will be asked how they would like to mark this historic event.
- *NCC Storm Arwen Review 17 January*
- *NCC Storm Malik Updates 31 January – 1 February*
- *NCC Storms Dudley and Eunice Briefings 16 – 18 February*
NCC has learned from the aftermath of the storm in November and there was better communication during the next three winter storms on different ways to access help if necessary.
- *NCC Library Briefing* – encouraging reading for well being.
- *The Armed Forces Covenant* is a promise from the nation that those who serve, or have served, and their families, are treated fairly. NCC has signed the Covenant and is bringing it to the attention of Councils and asking if our PC would consider taking part and widening support for the armed forces community across Northumberland. The Chair is interested to attend a digital briefing by the MOD on Wednesday 6 April at 7.00pm to find out more.
- *Northumberland Local Plan – Inspector’s Report* - the Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in 2019. The report concludes the Plan is now ready for adoption. In order to adopt the Plan approval will be sought from the Cabinet and Full Council on 29/30 March.

311 Defibrillator: The Steven Carey Fund has been approached for information on funding, installation and running costs and they have referred the Parish Council to the North East Ambulance Service for further information. There has been no response to date but this will be followed up.

312 Parliamentary Boundaries Commission: A consultation runs between 22 February and 4 April to find out views on proposed new boundaries and constituency names. The Commission has been asked by Parliament to rebalance the number of electors in each constituency. Carham Parish Council will comment after studying the proposed changes.

313 Wark Play Park – Inspectors Report: The chain attached to the tyre on the climbing frame has come loose and needs to be anchored into the ground.

314 Finance: There is £5,732.37 in the bank.

315 Date of Next Meeting: An Ordinary Meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 May in St Cuthbert’s Church, Carham at 6.30pm. This will be followed by the Annual Meeting.