

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Carham Parish Council
held in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham on Tuesday 9 May 2023, following the Annual Parish Assembly.**

- 412 Present:** Cllrs. P Feerick, J Court, L Allan, V Poland, J McGregor and Mrs A Changleng (Clerk).
- 413 Appointment of Office Bearers:**
Chair: Cllr P Feerick proposed by V Poland and seconded by J McGregor. A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was completed and signed.
- 414 Apologies:** County Councillor M Mather
- 415 Declarations of Interest:** None
- 416 The Minutes of Council Meeting on 14 March 2023** were approved as read and signed.
- 417 Matters Arising:**
- *The speed sign at Carham will be installed by NCC on 5 June. The pole is already in position.*
 - *The speed sign at Wark is still to be repaired despite Swarco being contacted several times by Clerk.*
 - *A marquee has been purchased with a grant received from NCC's Community Fund to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles.*
 - *Carham Parish Footpath and Byway Signage Audit sent to NCC by Clerk.*
- 418 Correspondence:** *(circulated)*
- *Public Access System – Planning*
 - *Local Government Boundary Commission Consultation*
- 419 Defibrillator Project:** Twenty two people attended the Information Evening on Monday 3 April in Cornhill Village Hall to hear about the project and learn about the importance of defibrillators. County Councillor Mark Mather gave a talk and demonstrated how they work. The Travelling Tombola has visited a third of the parish, so far, to raise funds for the project. People have been very generous and it has been well supported. Another fundraiser is being planned for the autumn.
- 420 Planning Applications:**
Proposal: Erection of 3no. town houses
Location: Land at Courtyard Gardens Wark Cornhill-On-Tweed Northumberland
Applicant: Mr Lindsay Pratt
Application No. 23/01407/FUL Comments by 15 May
No objections
- Proposal: Retrospective planning permission for conversion of 2no. barns to 2no. dwellings
Location: Barn Conversion East Learmouth Farm Branxton Northumberland
Applicant: Mr J Laing
Application No. 23/01242/FUL Comments by 16 May
Cllr. Poland will draft a response from Carham Parish Council

421 Wark Play Park: Cllr. J Court has inspected the play park and reported a few holes in the fence. He has cleaned the rust off the top of the roundabout and painted it. The annual inspection by RoSPA Play Safety is due in June.

Concern was expressed about the rapid growth of weeds on land at the telephone box. Volunteers are still being sought to plant and maintain it. A majority of councillors agreed it would be better to spray it off. The Clerk will check guidance on the use of suitable herbicides. A layer of bark chippings would suppress future growth and Cllr. Feerick will investigate a free source.

422 Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022/2023 was approved by Councillors.

Approved on the motion of V Poland and seconded by John McGregor.

5.1 to 5.5 Draft copies circulated

5.1 There were no actions arising from the report of the Internal Auditor.

5.2 The Annual Governance Statement was approved.

5.3 The Draft Annual Accounts for 2022/2023 were approved.

5.4 The Accounting Statement was approved. An Explanation of Variances was given by the RFO detailing the purchase of items no longer supplied by NCC and a general increase in annual fees.

5.5 The Certificate of Exemption was confirmed and approved.

423 Approval of Risk Assessment and Register of Assets: Approved on the motion of J McGregor and seconded by P Feerick.

424 Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer: Mrs A Changleng was elected. Proposed by P Feerick and seconded by J Court.

425 Appointment of Internal Auditor: Mr J Bell was elected. Proposed by J McGregor and seconded by V Poland.

426 Finance: There is £3,516.86 in the Bank. Approval was given for payment of invoices and expenses received since previous meeting.

Defibrillator Project Expenses £54.95

NALC Subscription £93.52

WordPress £62.40

Gala Tent Marquee £475.95

427 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 11 July in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm.