

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

**TYNEDALE LOCAL AREA COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the **Tynedale Local Area Council** held at Hexham House, Gilesgate, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3NH on Tuesday, 14 May 2019 at 5.00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Councillor G Stewart

(Chair, in the Chair for agenda items 1 - 144 and 149 - 155)

(Planning Vice-Chair Councillor R Gibson in the chair for items 145 - 148)

**MEMBERS**

T Cessford  
A Dale (no.s 1 - 11)  
I Hutchinson  
D Kennedy (no.s 6 - 15)  
N Oliver

KR Quinn  
JR Riddle  
A Sharp (no.s 1 - 11)  
KG Stow

**OFFICERS**

M Bulman  
R Campbell  
D Hunt

P Johnston  
P Jones  
R McKenzie

A Olive  
E Sinnamon  
N Turnbull

Solicitor  
Planning Officer  
Area Manager (West),  
Neighbourhood Services  
Executive Director of Place  
Service Director - Local Services  
Senior Programme Officer  
(Highways Improvements)  
Highways Delivery Area Manager  
Senior Planning Manager  
Democratic Services Officer

**ALSO PRESENT**

14 members of the public  
1 member of the press

**1. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**RESOLVED** that the membership and terms of reference for the Tynedale Local Area Council agreed by Council on 1 May 2019 be noted.

Ch.'s Initials.....

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Homer and Horncastle.

## 3. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Tynedale Local Area Council held on 9 April 2019, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

***Councillor Stewart then vacated the Chair, for Planning Vice-Chair Councillor Gibson to chair the development control section of the agenda, as was the arrangement for all Local Area Councils.***

## 4 DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The report requested the Local Area Council to decide the planning applications attached to the report using the powers delegated to it. Members were reminded of the principles which should govern their consideration of the applications, the procedure for handling representations, the requirement of conditions and the need for justifiable reasons for the granting of permission or refusal of planning applications. The procedure at Planning Committees was appended for information. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the minutes as Appendix A.)

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## 5. 19/00058/LBC

**Listed Building Consent. Proposal is to attach a 50mm diameter black upvc duct to the outer face of the bridge parapet. Optical fibres will be placed in the duct and will be connected. At the bridge abutments the 50mm diameter duct will be terminated 600mm below existing ground level, and continue as the normal smaller diameter orange broadband ducts**

**Allen Mill Bridge, Allendale, Northumberland**

The Planning Officer introduced the report with the aid of a powerpoint presentation.

Councillor Hutchinson proposed acceptance of the recommendation to approve the application which was seconded by Councillor Stewart and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED** that the application be **GRANTED** permission for the reasons and with the conditions as outlined in the report.

**6. 19/00488/LBC  
Listed Building Consent for the laying of a fibre optic cable within the  
footway of Bear's Bridge  
Bearsbridge, Whitfield, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 8HA**

The Planning Officer introduced the report with the aid of a powerpoint presentation.

Councillor Hutchinson proposed acceptance of the recommendation to approve the application which was seconded by Councillor Oliver and unanimously agreed.

It was noted that this was a small section of fibre optic cabling which was being installed between Penrith and Gateshead. Different contractors were not reinstating roads and footpaths to the same standard and it was, therefore, requested that the work be closely be monitored by officers from the Planning and Highways Sections.

**RESOLVED** that the application be **GRANTED** permission for the reasons and with the conditions as outlined in the report.

**7. PLANNING APPEALS UPDATE**

A report was received which provided an update on the progress of planning appeals received. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the minutes as Appendix B).

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

*On the conclusion of the development control business at 5.12 pm, Councillor Gibson vacated the Chair and the meeting adjourned as the remainder of the agenda consisted of other Local Area Council business scheduled to begin at 6.00 pm. Councillor Stewart returned to the Chair and continued the meeting at 6.00 pm.*

**OTHER LOCAL AREA COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**8. COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS**

Councillor Cessford, Chair of the Tynedale Community Chest Panel welcomed recipients of Community Chest awards to the meeting. He commented that

the Community Chest was a valuable initiative giving grants to local groups and small charities throughout Northumberland and the evening provided an opportunity to recognise and thank organisations for their contributions to improve the lives of residents. Certificates were presented to representatives from:

- Jessica's Sarcoma Awareness
- Wylam Institute Community Association
- Hexham Football Club
- Allendale Cricket Club
- Hexham Community Church
- Hexham Community Centre
- Dragon Tale Theatre Group
- Happy Faces Prudhoe

The recipients provided a brief summary of the work of their organisation and outlined what the funding was to be used for.

Grants had also been given to the following organisations not present at the meeting:

- Young and Sweet
- Prudhoe & District Local History Society
- Friends of Prudhoe Woods
- Haydon Bridge United Football Club

**RESOLVED** that the report and presentation be received.

## **9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

## **10. PETITIONS**

This item was to:

### **a) Receive any new petitions:**

Councillor Kennedy presented a petition with 1522 signatures following concerns he had received from residents and businesses regarding Highways England's proposals for the A69 roundabout at Hexham.

The Chair accepted the petition which would be forwarded to Highways England by the Petition Officer.

## **b) Consider reports on petitions previously received:**

### **i. Hexham, Community Centre Crossing**

The Senior Programme Officer (Highways Improvements) provided a brief summary of the report following the receipt of the petition organised by Hexham Community Centre. The petition requested the installation of a pedestrian crossing in Gilesgate, one of the main streets in Hexham town centre which also provided access to the nearby Sele First School.

It was recommended that PV<sup>2</sup> survey be carried out to ascertain whether a pedestrian crossing was justified. In answer to a question, the Senior Programme Officer explained that the Council had adopted more generous criteria and a lower PV<sup>2</sup> figure than recommended by national guidance as otherwise fewer crossings would be constructed.

Whilst Members were in favour of improving the safety of pedestrians crossing Gilesgate, they were aware that a certain amount of space would be required to install a pedestrian crossing and did not want the number of disabled parking bays to be reduced; a pinch point was therefore suggested as a possible alternative to be explored.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted and that a PV<sup>2</sup> survey be undertaken in the vicinity of Hexham Community Centre to determine whether a pedestrian crossing is justified.

### **ii) Removal of double yellow lines from Beech Grove, Prudhoe**

Sam Cosgrove, lead petitioner, had been a resident in Beech Grove, Prudhoe for 7 years. She explained that the majority of residents only had room to park one vehicle on their driveways and that most families now had 2 or 3 cars. It was also really difficult for friends and families to visit as there was nowhere for them to park and many had received parking tickets. The following options had been suggested by a Council officer:

- Beech Grove South - this was now a private lane and 'notes' were left on windscreens of non-resident vehicles.
- Car park at nearby public house - this was a private car park and the landlord had threatened to lock vehicles in.
- Field adjacent to Prudhoe West Road - vehicles had become stuck when the field was waterlogged.
- Western Avenue - access was via a dark lane and unfortunately there was no funding to install LED lighting. There was also limited space for additional vehicles as most of the properties also had more than one vehicle.
- Prudhoe Front Street - was located 0.5 miles away from Beech Grove.

She commented that Beech Grove was the same width as Beaumont Terrace and Woodburn Terrace which did not have double yellow lines and that two

vehicles could pass in Beaumont Terrace. Residents in those streets were also able to park at the rear of their premises in addition to parking at the front. She was of the opinion that the B6395 was not a particularly busy road as the majority of heavy goods vehicles used the by-pass and suggested that if vehicles were allowed to park on the road, it would slow traffic down.

Ms Cosgrove requested the double yellow lines be removed from Beech Grove and that it be treated the same as other streets along the same route that were the same width.

The following information was provided by Ms Cosgrove in answer to questions from Members:

- The parking problems were worse at night and weekends. Visitors vehicles sometimes had to be left at the properties of nearby family.
- The double yellow lines had been at Beech Grove since the 1970's prior to the construction of the Prudhoe by-pass. Delivery vehicles accessed the shops using the by-pass and Station Road.

One of Ms Cosgrove's neighbours commented that it would be easier for vehicles to reverse off driveways if parking was allowed on the road as there was a steady stream of traffic which might be slowed by parked vehicles. Some Members thought that parked vehicles could make reversing more difficult as drivers could have blind spots with vehicles having to reverse further into the road.

Members of the committee suggested that the following options options be explored:

- A more up to date traffic survey be obtained as the last survey was undertaken in 2015.
- The relaxation of 24 hour restrictions, for example, to allow parking between the hours of 18:00 and 08:00.
- The grassed area in figure one be converted and utilised for residents parking.
- Removal of the yellow lines from one side of the road.

The Senior Programme Officer agreed to investigate the proposals.

The Chair thanked the lead petitioner for attending the meeting to explain the reasons for their request.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted and that the double yellow lines remain in place whilst the following options are undertaken or investigated:

- A traffic survey be carried out on the B6395 / Beech Grove.
- Implementation of relaxed parking restrictions to allow residents to park in the evening and overnight.

- Use of the nearby grassed area for parking.
- Removal of the double yellow lines from one side of the road.

**c) To consider updates on petitions previously considered:**

There were none to consider.

Councillor Gibson requested an update on schemes following petitions on a number of schemes which had been considered some time ago. He commented that it would be useful to receive an appraisal as to whether the scoring of schemes would likely make them a priority for funding in the Local Transport Plan Programme.

**RESOLVED** that an update be obtained on the following petitions:

- Bollards at Hardhaugh Cottages Warden
- Barrasford

## **11. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES**

Members received the following updates from the Area Managers from Neighbourhood Services and Technical Services:

### **Neighbourhood Services:**

- The general waste and recycling routes were working well.
- There had been a vehicle breakdown in the week commencing 29 April 2019 of which Councillors had been notified by email. Information had been shared with residents via the Northumberland Alert service on social media. The bins of affected properties had been emptied the following day.
- A new refuse vehicle had been delivered. The vehicle which was to have been replaced was to be retained to mitigate the effect of any delays caused by the road works on the A69 which were close to the depot.
- The garden waste routes had been modified to even out the number of properties and time taken. Peaks in waste collected following the good weather following Easter had been managed.
- Grass cutting was being undertaken on a three week cycle and the third cut.
- Weed control had commenced and was carried out in-house. There needed to be some active growth for the chemicals to take effect.
- Verge cutting works would commence in June and be carried out over 4-6 weeks.
- Good progress was being made by the new refuse sweeper and driver.
- The team supported the In Bloom competitions in Hexham, Haltwhistle and Corbridge, provided equipment and collected refuse following community litter picks; they also assisted Election Services with the delivery of polling booths.

- A remote control cutter had been successfully trialled in the South East which meant that steep slopes could be cut more safely and would be used in the Tynedale area in the next few weeks.

The Area Manager agreed to speak to members or staff regarding the following:

- Grass cutting of the verge along the A68 Scales Cross.
- Grass cutting be delayed in areas such as Bellingham where growth was delayed compared to localities at lower levels.
- The emptying of recycling bins at The Sele.
- Trimming of trees adjacent to Prudhoe Waterworld.
- Compliment received regarding a courteous the Civil Enforcement Officers when issuing a parking ticket.

#### **Technical Services:**

- Feedback from the Highways Inspectors that the road network was in a much better condition than 12 months previously.
- The gulley wagon was continuing with its programme of routine maintenance and had just completed work in Haltwhistle and Haydon Bridge. The programme was currently being concentrated in areas at higher elevations. They continued to give advance notification of visits via letter drops which was extremely beneficial to ensure access.
- Network Rail were contributing to road improvements at Warden which would involve overnight road closures.
- The LTP Programme was going well and completed projects had received positive feedback.
- Notification would be given to Ward Councillors when work on the A68 was scheduled to commence.
- 500m<sup>2</sup> of road surface dressing was to commence in the next few weeks including micro surface dressing.

Several members complimented officers on the quality of work undertaken and limited disruption in their wards. They also appreciated an honest appraisal of the likelihood of requests for work and the willingness of officers to visit areas within their wards and/or attend meetings of the Town and Parish Councils.

It was suggested that additional publicity be given to completed schemes and Members were encouraged to take photographs of work being carried out in their areas.

The following requests were made:

- The local councillor be consulted / involved prior to the finalisation of the design at Garden House Bank, Hexham.
- The design of the of the Halton Lea Gate bridge be reviewed following a serious accident.



**RESOLVED** that the updates be noted.

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **12. OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members considered a list of appointments to outside bodies for 2019/20.

Councillor Cessford reported that he was unable to attend the meetings of the Queens Hall Arts Trust due to clashes with other meetings.

Councillor Riddle reported that he had not received invitations to attend meetings of the Rede Tyne and Coquet Sports Centre for a number of years. The Democratic Services Officer agreed to investigate.

**RESOLVED** that the following list of appointments be confirmed:

- Groundwork North East - Land of Oak and Iron Project Board - HGH Sanderson
- Haltwhistle Partnership Limited - I Hutchinson
- Haltwhistle Swimming & Leisure Centre Man. Cttee - A Sharp
- Hexham Community Partnership - C Homer
- Hexham TORCH Centre Management Committee - T Cessford
- Prudhoe Community Partnership - K Stow
- Queens Hall Arts Trust - D Kennedy
- Rede Tyne & Coquet Sports Centre - JR Riddle
- Sport Tynedale - T Cessford
- Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership Board - A Sharp

### **13. MEMBERS' LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2018/19**

The Local Area Council received a progress update on Members' Local Improvement Schemes as at 1 May 2019. (A copy is enclosed with the minutes as Appendix F.)

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **14. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

A list of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings was circulated. (A copy is enclosed with the minutes as Appendix G.)

It was noted that an update on Hexham Hospital had been considered by the Health and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting at County Hall in April following the request made at the last meeting of the Tynedale Local Area Council.

**RESOLVED** that the work programme be noted.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 11 June 2019 at Hexham House, Gilesgate, Hexham at 4.00 p.m.

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_