

**Minutes of a Meeting of Carham Parish Council held in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm
on Tuesday 12 March 2024**

- 480 Present:** Cllrs. P Feerick, V Poland, J Court, County Councillor M Mather, Mrs A Changleng (Clerk), Lesley Robson and 3 members of the public.
- 481 Apologies:** Cllr. J McGregor
- 482 Chair's Welcome:** Cllr. Feerick welcomed all those present to the meeting.
- 483 Declarations of Interest:** None
- 484 Parishioners' Questions:** Residents of Carham requested to see the User Guide for the Evolis speed sign as they are interested in data analysis. Cllr. Feerick agreed to this request.
- 485 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting** on 9 January were approved as read and signed.
- 486 Matters Arising:** During Storm Isha the electricity supply at Wark was cut off on 21 January. The village was reconnected on 23 January and phonelines were restored. However, there was no internet connection until it was eventually restored late on 26 January. OpenReach said a third party accidentally cut through the cable that impacted broadband.
- 487 Correspondence:**
- Voter ID and Staff Recruitment Posters
 - Review of Parliamentary Voting Districts and Polling Places
 - Glendale Community Resilience Forum on 12 March at Cheviot Centre, Wooler between 12.30pm and 4.30pm

At this point the Chair introduced Lesley Robson, Rural Advocate for Glendale, who gave a brief review of her fairly new post which commenced in September 2023. The post is funded by NCC, however she works for the Glendale Gateway Trust in Wooler across the catchment area of Glendale, which includes Carham. Her remit is to engage with communities to help connect them to support they may need and access services they may not be aware of, while identifying needs within rural North Northumberland and advocating these needs back to NCC and other organisations. This post does not cover anything that falls within the remit of Parish Councils. The lack of public transport affects some residents of Carham parish and this was discussed.

- 488 Footpath Group Walks:** On Saturday 17 February 16 walkers, including new participants, followed the route under Pressen and Piperdean Lane Circular. Various difficulties encountered on the footpaths, lane and bridleway and items (fingerposts etc) needing attention have been reported to the NCC Countryside Team. On Thursday 7 March walkers enjoyed a guided walk by Tom Fairfax around Mindrum Farm, a mixed organic farm, looking at their regenerated farming methods and learning about ongoing developments in the ecology and biodiversity of the farm.

The dilapidated state of Wark Castle and its notice board was brought to the attention of County Councillor Mather. It is not owned or managed by Historic England or English Heritage. He will make enquiries to find out if this historic site can be improved.

489 Planning Application:

Proposal: Removal of Condition 3 (occupation of the dwelling) on approved application N/08/B/0637, in order to lift the limitation that the occupant be or have been involved in agriculture or forestry.

Location: West Moneylaws House Cornhill-On-Tweed Northumberland TD12 4QD

Applicant: Mrs Fiona Willoughby

The above planning application has been refused by NCC.

490 Community Telephone Box: A recent incident when books etc. were removed from the telephone box at Donaldson's Lodge was reported to PC Perry (Neighbourhood Policing) by Cornhill Parish Council. PC Perry replied that "the difficulty will always lie with having a place where people are invited to help themselves, without there being a clear condition that payment is required. As a result theft is difficult to prove". He is not aware of this problem further afield in Northumberland but he will advise his team to be vigilant. Carham Parish Council reported two similar incidents in Wark in 2023.

491 Defibrillator Project: The next fundraiser will be a Coffee Morning in April and Cllr. Poland will update residents of plans to launch an unincorporated association, open a bank account and apply for grants.

492 Finance: The insurance policy is due for renewal on 1 June 2024 and the Clerk has completed a Pre Renewal Questionnaire which will be used for a renewal quotation by AJG Community Schemes. The data protection renewal fee of £35.00 is due on or before 29 March and is payable by direct debit. There is £2,095.28 in the bank.

493 Assets: Wark Play Park has not been inspected for some months due to bad weather but the equipment will be cleaned and checked soon. Cllr. Feerick will organise a suitable date. Janet Chubb has volunteered to assist in keeping the land behind the telephone box tidy. Cllr. Feerick will inform Elizabeth McGregor. A volunteer is required to assist Janet Chubb to trim The Queen's Green Canopy. Councillors expressed concern about the condition of roads in the parish. County Councillor Mather reported that NCC has allocated 4.54m in the Local Transport Plan Programme to carry out repairs to potholes etc. on U and C road works. He also explained the difficulties and costs involved. Residents are encouraged to keep reporting potholes on Fix My Street on NCC's website, or via the Carham Community Website Page www.carhamparish.org.

494 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 14 May in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm.

The Annual Parish Assembly will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.