

MINUTES OF THE BEADNELL PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
held on 27th May 2020 at 6.00pm

Present: Parish Councillors: A Nation (Chair); J Rhind, A Baker & J Davison
County Councillor G Renner-Thompson
Clerk: I Hunter
8 Members of the public

Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillor J Hall (Vice-Chair), M Dawson & C Scott-Roy

Declaration of Interest: None

Request for Dispensation- None

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd April 2020- Parish Councillors agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2020 was a true record of the meeting. The Chair to sign a hard copy.

Min 41/2020- Coronavirus -

- The Chair stated it has been busier in Beadnell over the bank holiday weekend than during stay at home lockdown - however still very quiet. The car park has been no more than half full, cars have been spaced out and visitors seemed to be observing social distancing.
3 camper vans were seen but with public toilets closed and no cafes, this may have been a practical decision taken to enjoy a day out rather than an intention to overnight on the coast.
County Councillor G Renner-Thompson informed the meeting that at the present time the toilets will remain closed, until they are safe to open for both public and staff. He concluded by saying he is monitoring the situation daily. Parish Councillor A Baker queried that the toilets had been cleaned that day, stating the Parish Council requested that the car park remained closed until the toilets were opened.
County Councillor G Renner-Thompson reported that Northumberland County Council only receive the updates at the same time as they are announced on the TV news.
- Parish Councillors agreed to defer the update from Seahouses Development Trust until the June meeting as the Vice-Chair was not in attendance. So far there have been no requests for support
- Parish Councillor J Rhind raised a local issue regarding the delivery of weekly food parcels.

Min 42/2020- Any other non-coronavirus urgent issue

- Parish Councillor J Rhind asked County Councillor G Renner-Thompson if the Parish Council will be consulted on the recommendations which Northumberland County Council Cabinet will consider following the Library Consultation. County Councillor G Renner-Thompson replied that there is no official route for the Parish Council to be consulted. However, the Parish

Council, or Councillors could write to each member of the Northumberland County Council Cabinet regarding the recommendations, or to the members of the appropriate Scrutiny Committee as all County Council decisions are scrutinised.

- Parish Councillor A Baker raised concerns about the area cordoned off at the Long Nanny suggesting it was possibly the wrong section which is cordoned off in regard to nesting birds. He raised concerns about the communication from the National Trust. The Chair stated that the National Trust will attend a face to face meeting and she will read out a statement from the National Trust later on in the meeting.

Min 43/2020 Planning Application- Parish Councillors ratified the Parish Council's response to the following Planning Application

20/01312/FUL- Replacement of all existing windows and render to Flat 3 with various internal alterations- Flat 3 White Rock Harbour Road Beadnell Chathill Northumberland NE67 5BH. *Parish Councillors agreed to raise no objections.*

Min 44/2020- Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20 -Parish Councillors took individual votes on each of the following items.

- Parish Councillors agreed that no actions were raised from the report of the Internal Auditor
- Parish Councillors completed and approved all questions on the Annual Governance Statement
- Parish Councillor A Baker questioned the bank Interest not showing on the balance sheet and a transfer between accounts showing as an expenditure. Parish Councillors approved the draft Annual Accounts for 2019/20
- Parish Councillors agreed and approved the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances
- Parish Councillors agreed the submission of the Annual Audit Return, to be signed by the Chair & Clerk.
- A vote of thanks was given to C Brunt for undertaking the Internal Audit.

Min 45/2020- Annual Insurance premium- Parish Councillors agreed the payment of £530.73 to BHIB for the Parish Council's Insurance for 2020/21.

Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk to contact BHIB to obtain a quote to increase the cover of the Village Clock from £30K to £45K. Parish Councillors to consider the additional premium via email.

Min 46/2020- Financial Statement- Balances as at 31st March 2020

Current Account	£ 7514.62
Savings Account	£ 11336.22
Marshall Burial Ground Account	£ 154.86

Min 47/2020- Finance:

Receipts

- 9 x donations of £30
- 2 x donations of £100

In total there have been 38 donations received to date from the second/holiday home letters - ranging from £30 – £100, which has provided the Parish Council with an additional £1480 income.

Payment already made

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| • ICO | £ 35.00 | Annual Data Protection fee D/D |
| • S Ternent | £ 580.00 | Grass cutting |

Payments due

- | | | |
|------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| • I Hunter | £ 497.90 | Salary 61.25 hours @ £ 10.16 per hour |
| • HMRC | £ 124.40 | PAYE |
| • I Hunter | £ 33.04 | Expenses |
| • I Hunter | £ 74.38 | Turf for Play Area. |
| • BHIB | £ 543.54 | Annual Insurance revised Premium |

Min 48/2020- Cemetery- Parish Councillors confirmed the Cemetery charges which will come into effect from 1st July 2020, which were agreed at the November 2019 meeting, with the addition of the wording to say that new Memorial Headstones etc to be erected in line with those already in that row.

Min 49/2020- Community Police- The following police reports have been received:

18/4/2020: The crimes since last Beadnell PC meeting are as follows –

- 1) Theft of lock and chain – reported by Beadnell PC, nothing seen or heard
- 2) Theft of cash from wallet – no evidence, unable to determine whether this theft or a loss.
- 3) Theft by employee – victim not assisting investigation at this time
- 4) Theft from boat – occurred sometime since October 2019, nothing seen or heard, no forensics

I hope that everybody is safe and well in these difficult times.

28/4/2020: Further to our conversation on 27/04/20, I attended Beadnell Point that afternoon.

Of the 40 houses on that estate, 4 houses were occupied. The four occupying parties were spoken to independently, none were associating together.

All stated they were resident prior to lockdown and were staying until lockdown was over.

They were all given an explanation letter regarding the purpose of my visit and Covid 19 information.

All parties' details were recorded and all appeared to be keeping to current Covid 19 guidelines.

I have also spoken to John Rhind re this issue.

21/05/2020: There has been one recorded crime since the last Beadnell PC meeting, a minor assault, both parties known to each other, where the victim declined to assist police.

The Beadnell Beach car park was open today, 21/05/20 and I noted no issues on my attendance.

Regarding increased traffic to Beadnell, it is envisaged, that will be no more than the usual bank holiday traffic and that the opening of the beach car park will alleviate any increased pressure to the area. As well as area command response units available, there will be additional resources dedicated to patrolling the car parks at the weekend.

Any queries regarding traffic enforcement wardens should be directed to Northumberland County Council.

Min 50/2020- National Trust- The Chair said the following statement had been received from the National Trust on 14th May :

The last few weeks have proved to be challenging times for everybody. We hope that you have all managed to remain safe and well amid all the uncertainty.

Like many organisations, National Trust has been responding to unfolding events and following government advice closely. For the team here on the coast, we have closed Lindisfarne Castle to visitors, not opened the Farne Islands this season, closed our shops in Seahouses and on Lindisfarne, and have closed our holiday cottages on Holy Island and at Newton. The safety of our staff, volunteers and supporting local communities has been paramount.

About 80% of staff across the organisation are currently furloughed according the Government's job retention scheme. Locally we have a small team still working who are focussed on security, compliance and visitor safety in the countryside. This includes a number of rangers. In light of the current crisis we have had to approach our normal tasks very differently. At the Long Nanny shorebird site, we are not able to provide the usual ranger presence, however we are trying to manage the site day to day in way that will at least give the birds the best possible chance of breeding success and survival that we can within our current means. We have roped off the site in the normal way and signed some diversionary paths. We also have a staff presence at key times but are very much reliant upon responsible visitor behaviour in these challenging times.

Unfortunately, due to continued erosion events Miller's Nick remains inaccessible at the current time. When we have the opportunity, we will look into potential future options for this pathway and for reinstating the access at the top of the dunes which provides an ideal viewing area across the site. Prompted by a kind offer of a donation of natural rope from a member of the public, we also hope to replace our blue ropes with more natural fibre alternatives as soon as possible. Currently and understandably, the organisation is managing its costs very carefully whilst many of our usual income sources are ceased so it has proved more difficult than usual to do this immediately.

On 4th May our rangers began closing off the site with the intention that the north side access remained open due to the inaccessibility of Miller's Nick. While setting up the site, however, it became apparent that due to the position of the burn, a significant number of people were walking close to the dunes on the north side of the burn, making social distancing impossible and preventing the recovery and stabilisation of the sand at the edge of the dunes. Ringed plover, a shorebird in steep decline across the UK, have also been seen in the area and could potentially nest here, protected from the tides and disturbance. We therefore made the decision to close the north side of the burn and place signage further down the beach to ensure we could inform people before they reached the site that the tides would shape whether the low tide access or caravan park route was the best route to take to start a circular walk. We aim to continue doing what we can to protect our staff, volunteers and visitors as well as this internationally important site whilst ensuring there is a circular route available. Whilst our rangers will be onsite, social distancing means we won't currently be able to open our ranger platform to the public. We'd ask that people plan their route around the tides, follow signs and keep their dog on a short lead.

We have received a very small number of complaints as perhaps might be expected at this time of year when we put diversions in place. These have focussed around the blue ropes, access to benches and informal routes and the inability to view the birds. The rangers are monitoring feedback and reacting where they can.

National Trust and all the local team would really like to thank Beadnell Parish Council for your ongoing support and to the vast majority of visitors who are actively supporting the shorebird site by helping us out in small ways, being members of National Trust, following the signage or offering kind words for our rangers. It has meant a lot to a team working in such uncertain times. People's understanding and kindness has gone a long way to helping us as we try to help protect other people and a truly valuable wildlife site.

As ever, I am contactable if you have any queries or feedback.

The meeting closed at that point due to the 40-minute limit. The remaining Agenda items will be added to the June Agenda.

The date of the next Parish Council Virtual meeting will be held on 24th June 2020 at 6pm

Chair_____Date_____

Ch's Initials_____