**Minutes of the meeting of Dinnington Parish Council held on Wednesday 17 October 2018 at 7.00 pm in Dinnington Memorial Institute**

**Members Present:** Cllrs R. Thompson (Chairman in the Chair), A. Dellow, S. Hood, J. Porter, M. Wood. Councillor P. Lower (Newcastle City Council)

10 members of the public were present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minute No.</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Action required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76.</td>
<td>Apologies for Absence</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Apologies were received from Cllrs Hitchens, Oliver and Phelps.</td>
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<td>77.</td>
<td>Declarations of Interest</td>
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<td>Members were reminded of the need to declare interests at relevant items.</td>
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<td>78.</td>
<td>Public Health Services in Dinnington</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The following representatives were in attendance for this item:-</td>
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<td>Neil Morris, Medical Director, Newcastle Gateshead CCG</td>
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<td>Pamela Phelps, Senior Head of Commissioning - Urgent &amp; Emergency and Primary Care, Northumberland CCG</td>
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<td>Wendy Stephens, Primary Care Contracts Manager, NHS England</td>
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<td>Ken Youngman, Pharmacy Team, NHS England</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cllr Wood set the background to the current position. Until three years ago, there had been two doctors' practices operating from the surgery in the village - Ponteland Medical Group (PMG) which operated one morning and two afternoons per week and Woodlands Park Health Centre (WP) which operated three afternoons per week for 45 minutes. WP closed on 26 May 2017, though patients could still be seen at Wideopen. PMG then reduced their hours, with no GP at all on a Tuesday and a consequential reduction in when prescriptions were available. The pharmacy service from the PMG surgery in Dinnington was failing to meet local need.</td>
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<td>The village had originally comprised 746 houses. This was now around 950, and within the next couple of years would reach around 1170. This represented a 60% increase in the population of the village at the same time as a drastic reduction in GP services, which was patently totally unsatisfactory.</td>
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<td>This caused particular difficulties for those without their own transport, as there were no bus services from the village to Ponteland. This was important as the Ponteland doctors expected patients to attend their main practice in Ponteland, if there were problems at Dinnington, or there was no one in attendance. This was extremely important for the elderly. A taxi journey was around £20 return.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>There were also issues with the level of service being provided – GPs were often not there when expected and a nurse only in attendance. Doctors had been asked to attend PC meetings twice following numerous complaints from the public, but there had not been much improvement.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Parish Councillors had attended a meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee in</td>
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Nov 2016. The Committee had been concerned, but nothing came of it.

In April of last year PMG had been told to improve by the watchdog.

The building itself was an old prefabricated type and not fit for purpose.

There was a chemist shop in the village, who was not allowed to do NHS prescriptions.

Members of the public then raised their concerns. These included:-

- There was a six week wait to see a named GP.
- Everyone was told to ring at 8.30 am for an appointment making it very difficult to get through.
- Test results could not be obtained satisfactorily with instances of GPs not communicating the results of tests.
- Mistakes were being made, such as incorrect documentation of patient records, which put people at risk.
- It was increasingly difficult to get medication when needed.
- It was unsatisfactory to be expected to explain personal details to triage nurses over the phone if you were at work.

Mr Morris summed up the main areas of concern as:-

- Access to appointments
- Quality of services
- The surgery premises
- Pharmacy services

Ms Phelps reminded everyone that PMG were a Northumberland practice and there was a S106 process in Northumberland. She had looked at the GP premises and agreed that they were not up to scratch. NHS Property Services were the landlords of the site and they had been asked to scope out the opportunities for the site, following an application for some business use of the premises. The S106 funding and property issues would be pursued with the appropriate officers. The issues about the quality of and access to services were new to her but she would investigate them through the proper channels, and the issue of future demand would be discussed with the CCG. There were other practices in the area but she acknowledged that public transport and distance were an issue.

Regarding pharmacy services, Mr Youngman reported that applications to open a pharmacy were determined by NHS England in accordance with specific regulations. The recent pharmaceutical needs assessment had identified a gap in Dinnington so there was an opportunity there for applications to be made. Regarding current services, certain postcodes within the Dinnington area could have prescriptions dispensed by PMG and delivered via the daily service. However, it was noted that this was only for regular medication. A new pharmacy had opened recently in Great Park.

Ms Jutinder Kaur of the new Great Park pharmacy was present at the meeting. She advised that the practice had opened 6 weeks ago and worked almost exclusively from deliveries, which were done for free. The business had considered Dinnington in its decision to locate, but the village was judged to be within a controlled locality, which meant it was rural in nature and this restricted the level of pharmacy services which could locate.
Mr Youngman advised that this was a hugely transformational time for the NHS with a lot of reconfiguration of both pharmacy and GP services still ongoing. He reassured members that NHS England were committed to working with Andre Yeung and the Health and Wellbeing Board to look at the detail of pharmacy services in Dinnington in order to get the best service for residents. Regarding individual issues, NHS England did have a complaint system which looked at cases in depth and he encouraged people to access that service if they had specific concerns.

Members thanked the representatives for attending and listening to their concerns. A report back on the outcome of the issues raised would be made to the Clerk for reporting to the Parish Council.

79. **Police Report**

PCSO Shaun Cowan (6655) and PCSO Linda Mahlia (9460). They reported that a couple of calls had been received from Horton Crescent and Mitford Way in the last month, and a report of some damage to the White Swan. There had also been some thefts from cars, one of which had been unlocked. There had also been a theft from the cabin on the Bellway site. The public were reminded not to leave valuables in cars and to secure them, and also to report incidents to the Police on 101. The Police were asked whether it would be possible to have a greater visible presence given the recent vehicle thefts. PCSO Cowan advised that they did try and get around as much as possible but they now had a very large area to cover and relied on intelligence from the public to be able to tackle these incidents effectively. The Police also reported that Speedwatch had been out again on Prestwick Road the day before.

A member of the public reported the number of vehicles parked all along the main road from the White Swan to Moorey Spot Farm, effectively narrowing the road to one lane. This was an emergency route to the airport and these parked vehicles were causing a dangerous obstruction. This would be raised with NCC Highways by Cllr Lower and the Police. Cllr Dellow asked that the same problem on Cochrane Terrace/Front Street also be raised.

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80. **Sue Wannop, Communities Officer. Newcastle City Council**

Sue Wannop re-introduced herself to members as the Communities Officer for Castle Ward, which included the Great Park. She outlined her role which included supporting councillors in their leadership role and managing their budget, managing the grant aid budget and requests for work, and partnership work and the provision of advice to community organisations. She advised that she would also raise the highways concerns mentioned.

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81. **Open Forum**

Revd. Edwards wished to place on record his thanks to Cllr Phelps and Cllr Porter for their efforts in arranging the recent commemorative plaque event, which had been well attended.

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82. **Minutes of previous meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 September 2018 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

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83. **Matters Arising**

- Cllr Wood had met with the Chairman of the allotments and agreed a position for the sign on the fence on the left hand side of the entrance, just beside the field gate. He had asked that the sign make no reference to "allotments" but just say "Private No Public Access", which members...
agreed was sensible.

- Main Road Resurfacing – Cllr Wood reported that the wrongly orientated road gullies had now been corrected.

### 84. Newcastle City Council’s Pre-Submission Development and Allocations Plan Public Consultation

Cllr Wood reported that there was nothing in the new document which affected the village that was not already known about. A “District and Local Centre” demarcation zone had been placed around the existing shops area in the centre of the village and he noted that a local landowner had offered two sites to the west of the village to NCC for housing. This had been rejected by the City Council as it was in the Green Belt, but the issue could come back at some point in the future after 2030 when the Green Belt was reconsidered.

### 85. Request for Donation from Community Action Northumberland

Agreed that £40 donation be made.

K. Hadfield

### 86. Members’ Items of Concern

#### 86.1 Cllr Hood

- the footpaths at Sycamore and Oak Avenues and the kerbstones near the school (where cars were parking) were breaking up. A resident reported that overhanging trees were also an issue. Cllr Lower would raise these issues with NCC.

Cllr Lower

#### 86.2 Cllr Dellow

- fallen leaves were making paths very slippery. She queried whether there would be any more grass cuts this year. It was noted that this could still be possible as cuts were still being done.

Cllr Lower

#### 86.3

- A resident expressed concern about the amount of dog fouling and agreed about the amount of leaf build up on the path between West and East Acres which tended to freeze in the winter.

Cllr Lower

#### 86.4

- Cllr Thompson – also commented on the overhanging trees at the end house next to the school.

Cllr Lower

### 87. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

### 88. Planning Application

**2018/1206/01/DET**: Demolition of bungalow and erection of a detached houses (Class C3) with provision of associated boundary treatment, car parking and landscaping/ North Hill , North View, Dinnington, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE13 7LG

Members had no comment on the application. **Agreed** that this response be submitted by the Clerk.

K. Hadfield

### 89. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Wood reported that the consultant had completed the review and reality check of the findings of the 2017 consultation exercise, and had concluded that there was a basis for moving forward with the NP in terms of its substantive subject matter.

### 90. Updates

90.1 Keepmoat Homes –
Cllr Wood reported that Ian Prescott had rung to apologise for missing the Commemorative plaque event, as he had got his diaries mixed up.

There had been 83 completions to date, 13 contracts exchanged, and 9 reservations. The scheme was currently expected to be finished in just under a year’s time.

**BT Fibre Broadband** - based on an update received from BT at the end of last week, the situation was as follows:

- The new cabinet was in place
- Power to the cabinet was scheduled for that week, to be followed by the copper connection between the existing cabinet and the new cabinet, and then the fibre connection from the new cabinet to the exchange.
- All being well commissioning activities would commence next week with the cabinet ready for service by mid-November and residents should be able to apply for fibre broadband from their suppliers late November or early December.

**Site security** - Keepmoat Head Office had been in touch with the site manager in connection with concerns raised about theft of materials and the fact that this meant people had been able to access the site with the obvious health and safety implications. They had asked him to be extra vigilant in terms of regularly checking the Herras fencing for any movement/gaps, and also reminded him half term was looming which could lead to an increase in this type of activity.

They had installed security cameras at the far end of the site so hopefully this would serve as a deterrent against unauthorised access. They were also carrying out daily perimeter checks, so were doing what they could to keep on top of the issue.

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<tr>
<th>90.2 Persimmon Homes –</th>
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<td>The site was progressing well with the phase 1 site houses. The external works for the site access including the construction of the new crossing and associated signage works were about to start in the next week or so. This work would not result in the removal of any trees.</td>
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<td>The plot construction works and sales were progressing well with both on target, but no new releases in the past few weeks.</td>
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<th>90.3 Bellway Development –</th>
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<td>65 houses out of a total of 71 had now been completed and to date, 62 were occupied.</td>
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<td>The site cabins had been removed and they were building the last houses where the site compound was. They were finishing off around the sales office as well and should be finished all house construction by mid-December.</td>
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<th>90.4 Dinnington First School - Kier Construction –</th>
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<td>the works were going well and on programme ready to hand over the building to the School at Christmas, to enable them to move in over the holidays. Demolition of the old school building would commence in the New Year, probably taking about 2 months.</td>
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<th>90.5 Village Hall</th>
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Cllr Porter reported that a grant of £5,000 had been offered by Banks, slightly less than had been asked for. She had also had a request from a cycle club interested in using the hall for meetings.

| 90.6 | **Newsletter**<br>It was time to submit material to the Clerk for the next meeting. | All |
| 90.7 | **Library**<br>This was going ok. A successful coffee morning had been held in the MI on Sat 29 Sept and £160 raised to buy some new books. |
| 90.8 | **Northumbria in Bloom/Adopt a Planter**<br>Cllr Wood reported the results as follows:-

- the Village again won a Silver Award in the Large Village category
- Bracken Close again won Gold in the Residential Community award
- The Allotments won a Silver award in the Allotments category, at their first attempt and
- 38 Horton Crescent won a Silver Gilt award in the Private Gardens category.
- The White Swan did not get an award in the Pubs & Hotels category this time.

Cllr Wood asked members to consider whether the PC should enter the competition again next year. The village was being marked down for things which were outwith its control, such as the quality of the street signs and street furniture. He suggested that the PC take a year off from the competition in 2019 and have a concerted effort the following year, reminding members that the original purpose of entering the competition had not been to win prizes, but to improve the village.

Ms Ceri Pawlett felt that more volunteers needed to get involved. Areas were being missed because of lack of helpers and there was no momentum to move things forward. She supported taking a year off as it would take the pressure off, though she was still prepared to do planting work. It was **agreed** that this be an item for the next agenda, and that the usual reception to thank the volunteers and to present certificates be arranged. *K. Hadfield/ M. Wood*

| 90.9 | **Allotments**<br>Cllr Porter advised that the AGM was planned for 19 November 2018. |
| 90.10 | **Website**<br>This was up to date. |
| 90.11 | **Dinnington Surgery**<br>Dealt with under Minute No. 78. |
| 90.12 | **Commemorative Plaque Event**<br>Cllr Wood expressed his appreciation to Cllrs Phelps and Porter for their efforts in organising the event, to Cllr Thompson for his efforts on the day, to Revd. Edwards for delivering the service, and to Cllr Anita Lower for her assistance with YHN. |
| 91. | **Reports**<br>Cllr Wood reported as follows:- |
**Hartley Burn Liaison Group** – meeting held on 16 October 2018. The meeting had been an interim one to discuss / check that the corrections made to the draft report at the previous meeting were correctly annotated to everyone’s satisfaction and to monitor progress on the ongoing actions in the document.

**Meeting with Jimmy Murray and Steve Paget from NCC** – 20 September 2018. Issues discussed were and the responses were:

- **Grass cutting generally** – the concern was that this was not frequent enough and therefore ended up a mess. In addition trimming around bases of trees was not being done. The response was that the level of grass cutting was due to financial constraints. Trimming would not be done around trees (low priority), but he would arrange weed killer application.

- **Integration of road sweeping and grass cutting** i.e. to co-ordinate them better in correct order – he had advised that the Johnson was on a 10 day cycle, usually to coordinate with bin emptying, not grass cutting.

- **Location of new larger litter bins** throughout the village and removal of previous ones from important/necessary locations - Bus Stop & East Acres – he agreed that the bin from the Doctors would be moved to the Bus Stop. He could not provide an additional bin for East Acres, but was willing to relocate another bin, if the PC could identify which one. He would also be able to supply usage statistics soon to assist the PC with its choice.

- **Litter generally, not being swept up/picked up** around the village on a regular basis. They had had a walk around the village centre, garages path and school path. He had accepted that the centre part of the village could do with a targeted litter pick and had arranged with Kevin to carry this out to the school cut and the path opposite the shops by the garages. Kevin was back covering the village and would keep an eye on this in future.

- **Grass along road edges** (particularly from the village towards Horton Grange) not being cut - there was no planned cut, as this was classed as low priority, but if it was felt to be getting too long, members or the public should contact Envirocall and NCC would arrange to get it cut.

- **Footpath from North Mason Lodge to Old Vicarage on Horton Grange Road** overgrown with weeds - there was no planned cut at present, but the Highways inspector would look at it periodically. Steve Charlton (NCC) was looking to see if it could be placed on their list of planned cuts.

- **Dog fouling around the village, but at the recreation field in particular** – a better cleaning regime was required. They had walked around on the day and it was perfect. It was assumed that the football pitch/recreation ground had just been cut and that they’d cleaned up beforehand.

- **Leaves not being swept up around the village, particularly on footpaths** - Autumn generally, but along school cut at present - organised litter pick along the cut, but he confirmed that the Johnson could not access. He would make Kevin aware. He also confirmed that they concentrate the Johnson on leaves at the end Oct / Nov.

- **Hedges overhanging footpaths or projecting onto them, not being cut** – who checks them and when? Apparently more inspectors are now available so
the situation should improve with a better inspection regime, but if there were any issues he could be contacted, or ideally contact Envirocall.

- Grass cutting of old school field (adjacent the Doctors surgery) – this was not planned, because the current landowner, NCC (possibly Education) would not pay. He would include in the normal cutting regime if the PC pressured them (probably around £100 / year).

Other Issues raised:-

Possible parking on grassed areas - Cllr Hood had reported that residents of Ash Avenue were requesting that the green area be replaced with tarmac to provide more parking and reduce the amount of grass cutting. Ash Ave was on YHN land and the request would have to be made to them, but there probably wasn’t any money for this. There was very little saving to be obtained from no longer cutting the grass.

Main Road flats & Horton were on Highways land, but there was no money for this work.

Street sweeping and timing - Little Johnson was used on the normal cycle, and the large road sweeper only sent to village as/when required.

Kevin was back to look after the village.

Move / New seat opposite Bellway development - this was actually on Highways land and therefore NCC would have to carry out the work. They would provide an estimate if the PC wished to proceed, but there was no money for a new seat. There would also be a cost if the PC wanted to relocate from elsewhere. He had suggested the PC check with people living opposite before going ahead. It would probably be less than £1000 for a new seat and the work.

92. Financial Matters

92.1 Members approved and authorised the signing of cheques in payment of invoices received and presented at the meeting:-

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K. Hadfield</td>
<td>£201.86</td>
<td>200028</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. P. Jones</td>
<td>£57.60</td>
<td>200029</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Advice Plus</td>
<td>£500.00</td>
<td>200030</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. Thompson</td>
<td>£75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. Thompson</td>
<td>£37.17</td>
<td>200031 (£112.17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. Hagan</td>
<td>£12.50</td>
<td>200032</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Pawlett</td>
<td>£80.00</td>
<td>200033</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAN</td>
<td>£40.00</td>
<td>200034</td>
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92.2 Dinnington Hall Village Committee

The Clerk reported that a request for the annual subsidy for £4,000 had been received from Dinnington Village Hall Committee. The Chair moved that this be supported, which was seconded by Councillor Dellow. **Agreed** that a subsidy of £4,000 be made to Dinnington Village Hall Committee.

93. Items for Next Meeting

The Chair reported that, following some expressions of interest in becoming a parish councillor, these should be submitted to the Clerk for consideration by the Parish Council.
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<td>Northumbria in Bloom Entry</td>
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| 94. | **Date of Next Meeting**  
Wednesday 21 November 2018 at 7.00 pm. |
| 95. | **Conclusion of Meeting**  
The meeting closed at 9.10pm. |

CHAIR………………………………………

DATE………………………………………