

## **Minutes of Rothbury Parish Council Ten Year Plan & Governance meeting held on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 in the Jubilee Hall Rothbury commencing 730pm**

**Those Present:** Cllr Reynolds (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Edes, Cllr Mrs Dawson, Cllr Mrs Lickiss, Cllr Bridgett, Cllr Fendley

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Gilson

### **Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded all Councillor's of their duty to declare, at the start of any such item on the agenda, if they have a personal or prejudicial interest.

### **Public Questions**

No public questions.

### **Governance Issues**

- Master Sheet: Overview of governance documents required, based on material from NALC, covering statutory and non-statutory, but advisable.
- Standing Orders: Minor amendments made – document agreed, approved and adopted by Rothbury Parish Council.
- Financial Standing Orders: partly NALC recommendations together with legally required financial regulations merged together – document agreed, approved and adopted by Rothbury Parish Council.
- Complaints Procedure: as a result of further letter received with 12 complaints from a member of the public, Cllr Reynolds reassessed proposals against NALC recommended procedure. Agreed there has to be a name on written complaints – document agreed, approved and adopted by Rothbury Parish Council.
- Data Protection: slight amendments to original version – document agreed, approved and adopted by Rothbury Parish Council. Individual Parish Cllrs do not have to notify ICO, although County Cllrs do.
- Who We Are: Agreed to amend public participation – ‘members of public to let clerk know 7pm the day before the date of the meeting if they wish to speak’, amended from 7pm on date of meeting.
- Publication Scheme: Document previously agreed, approved and adopted by Rothbury Parish Council.
- Annual Financial and Operational Risk Assessment Form: To be completed annually.
- Finance Advisory Group to look further at BDO audit report to establish any further action.

### **Noticeboard**

Historically, Parish Council did have a panel on outside of Jubilee Hall. Cllr Bridgett declared an interest. Agreed to formally ask Jubilee Hall Committee if a board could be displayed, and to retain board outside of CO-OP, however it was agreed current design not workable, Cllr Gilson had said he would approach a local joiner.

### **Items for Ten Year Plan**

Last meeting held September 2007 with projects in three groups: Projects running with at the time; Projects working on and New projects to consider.

- Enhancing public areas: always on agenda, any specific projects can be spelt out.
- Speed camera: partly responsibility of police volunteers. Jubilee Hall to install CCTV for police use, but will not monitor speeding. Interactive signs in progress.

Cllr Bridgett suggested asking the community what they would like to see. Since 2001 Rothbury's population had increased by 20%, and from 832 properties to 1006. Major changes had occurred since 2007, a more strategic view could be taken and the plan broken down into different categories. However the plan had been developed over the years with requests and comments taken into account from the public.

Specific groups need to be created, Cllr Reynolds not greatly in favour of referendums, but from listening to residents views the Parish Council have a good idea what would be beneficial to the area, PC do publicise their work and the public are invited to attend PC meetings, if a consultation stage is undertaken progress will be slow and whatever is tackled, some projects will work easily and others not so. The PC will need to choose a number of realistic projects.

When village design statement was created, there was great discussion beforehand with the version created, then consultation came in. Cllr Reynolds suggested the PC take the lead on projects, and with the localism approach to planning, the PC will be legally obliged to consult with the parish over this.

- Cyclepath to Thropton: Was originally to go from Thrum Mill to Thropton, however objections from landowner and some residents. Worth keeping project in mind.
- Haugh land for recreational use: Duke would not grant lease for longer than 15 years.
- Parking: To be reviewed following election in May 2013.
- Recycling: Problems due to trading estate owners. Do have bins at Haugh, could request additional bins.
- Townfoot: General, always on agenda.
- Cragside footpath/Armstrong Ground footpath: raised as part of Whitton View, ongoing.
- Heritage Centre: Progress being made.
- History Signage: To keep in mind.
- Amenity Project, south riverside – have been attempts in terms of planting on riverbank.
- Road Crossing War Memorial – Cllr Bridgett following up proposals.
- Stepping Stones – spawning season needs to end, and before this the river had not been at a suitable level to action. Environment Agency had informed Robin Murray they had given permission for the work with no constraints. Cllr Bridgett reiterated NCC are not permitted to work in river during spawning season – October to April.
- Bridge Street: Widening, were previous detailed plans for improvements.
- Whitton View Footpath: Widening.
- Beggars Rigg Footpath: Looked at previously, objections from householders.
- Improvements to East end of village: National Parks did carry out successful planting.
- Bus shelter: Approval awaited from Punch Taverns.
- Enhancing Village Greens: RAFA triangle classed as village green, dubious whether RAFA can continue to replant. Project ongoing to register other areas. Church had plans to attach a hall to the church, which would result in fears the green in front of the Parish hall could be sold privately. Suggestion PC invest in Parish Hall should it be put up for sale, funding could be available.

#### **Recently proposed projects**

- Improving signage
- Access by public to Rothbury Fire Engine (1788)
- Churchyard/closed graveyard historic trail and nature reserve – co-ordinated approach required with all churches.
- Mark 100 years to start of WWI in 2014 – commemoration should be in 2018 when peace regained.
- Mark Coronation 60 years in June 2013
- Mark 100 years since building of Lee's Garage in 1913 and first bus service to Newcastle.
- Develop more facilities for sport and recreation – Cllr Lickiss suggested improvements, need to gauge public feeling, there is an Olympic Legacy Fund available. Skateboard park had been looked into but problems encountered.
- Allotments: Additional allotment space would be beneficial due to large waiting list for allotment holders.
- Churchyard wall abutting river: reconstituted footpath, but wall itself has crack.
- Riverside WC's: If recreation at Haugh pursued, WC facility could be placed on higher ground beside Haugh.
- Information signage alongside riverside bridleway: could cover history, plants, birdlife, Simonside peaks.

#### **Possible Sources of Funding**

- New Parks and People Fund
- The Landscape Partnership
- Church Community Fund
- Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
- Heritage Lottery Fund