

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of **Neasham Parish Council meeting** held April 1 2019 at 6.30pm in Neasham Reading Room.

Present: Councillors G Crute, D Dodwell, P Dunn, J Grainger, E Miller, K Sandick, J Weighell (Chair). Ward Councillors J Kelley, L Tostevin, J Walker (Clerk).

Apologies: Apologies from G Conlin (on holiday) were accepted.

19/001 J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

19/002 Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

19/003 Minutes of the last meetings.

It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on March 4 2019 were a correct record.

19/004 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.

18/157 DBC Register of Land without known Ownership. G Crute confirmed that he had provided L Tostevin a list of those areas within the Neasham PC boundaries as requested

19/005 PACT Report

J Weighell reported that there was only one crime reported at the last meeting, which was at Fishlocks when a 2000 litre oil tank had been filled on the Thursday and found empty on the Friday.

19/006 Roads and footpaths.

- J Weighell reported that Darlington BC have the removal of 4 dead chestnut trees at Low Dinsdale in hand but were waiting for the electricity board to arrange an outage to isolate the adjacent overhead power cables.
- The re-routing of the No 12 bus via Neasham Abbey continues to cause consternation with both Neasham and Hurworth parishioners. L Tostevin confirmed that there would be a review of this varied route in October and that she would continue to strive for improvements to the service. It was reported that a parishioner had flagged down a bus at Neasham Abbey corner and having boarded the bus purchased a return ticket and was dropped off the same point on the return. It was rumoured that Arriva would unofficially allow the bus to be flagged down and boarded at a point that was not an official bus stop. Whilst this was a welcome innovation, problems could arise if it continues on an un-regulated basis.
- Following the email received from a parishioner at Neasham Covert, it was referred to Darlington BC and it was reported that the damaged chevrons had been replaced. J Weighell agreed to check on site.
- The posts for the speed sign had been installed by Darlington BC, but seemed rather tall. G Crute explained advised that once the signs were fixed, the posts would be cut down and an end cap fitted.

19/007 Environment Agency Matters.

- The Chair reported that there had been no contact with the Environment Agency this month.
- The proposed sign for Kent Bridge, M Blundell had made the sign backboard, the sign can be ordered.

19/008 Village Green.

- In the verge opposite No 34 Teesway a resident's car had been observed driving over it destroying a large area of daffodils. It was agreed that the Chair should fix a small post to display a "Do not drive over grass" sign. In respect of the motion passed at a previous meeting to fix "Please Keep off the Grass" to various trees, it was felt not to be a good idea, nor indeed an alternative suggestion to fix them to posts in the ground, as it could lead to Neasham PC being sued if any damage occurred.
- Street Scene had now commenced grass cutting, but the weedkilling around the village fixtures had been executed badly with an oversized band with and areas accidentally sprayed between fixtures. The Clerk was instructed to write to Street Scene.
- A series of emails had been received from a parishioner regarding the temporary diversion of the right of way around the New Lane development. The Chair had previously explained that this was private land outside the jurisdiction of Neasham PC, also that the Rights of Officer from Darlington BC had confirmed that this a right of way and not a footpath. S Petch has agreed to inspect on site again.

19/009 Planning.

- Applications received since last meeting.
 - 19/00192/FUL 4 Dibdale Rd – Alterations to detached garage to form residential annex. **APPROVED.**
 - 19/00205/FUL New Lane Development site – Variation to Application 16/0120/OUT. **APPROVED.**
- Decisions by DBC received since last meeting.

19/00084/FUL – **APPROVED**, 19/00084/FUL – **APPROVED**.

- It has been confirmed that Gladmans had withdrawn their appeal against the planning application refusal for 260 dwellings within Middleton St George and Neasham PC boundaries, however it is understood that they have submitted an application for an alternative site within Middleton's boundaries.

19/010 Risk Management.

- There were two inspections scheduled for March (village green & trees) have both been carried out.
- Two defects raised 1) Damaged dog waste bin replaced by DBC (who will check all bins on a 3 month cycle), 2) Tree damaged by passing vehicle has been trimmed back by G Crute. Both defects closed.
- G Crute had updated Tree Schedule which included two additional trees scheduled for pruning.

19/011 Finance.

- Payments made since the last meeting – Nicholson Restoration £ 95 (Roll of Honour remedials), Clerk £30.41 (expenses 2018/9), Clerk £316.15 (salary and PAYE), ICO £35 (Data protection fee). No further payments for year ending 31/03/19. Year end account balances:- Barclays £2716.86, NS&I £5859.30.
- The clerk reported that he was being subjected to aggressive marketing by McAfee and was seeking to ensure that Neasham PC were obtaining value for money. The clerk authorised to decide on the supplier.
- The clerk's appraisal had taken place on April 1 and will be discussed at the next meeting.

19/012 Ward Councillor Matters.

- J Kelley announced that he would not be standing for re-election in the May election. The Chair thanked Joe for all his support during his time as ward councillor. J Kelley reported that there was money still available for installing broadband in Neasham and should be pursued. L Tostevin will now liaise on broadband matters.

19/013 Correspondence.

- Email from "Keep Britain Tidy". The Chair's proposal that there was no need for Neasham PC to be involved as there many volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the high standards in the parish were maintained, was agreed. It was also reported that a new parishioner, had carried out a "litter pick" on the whole of Neasham Road from the ring road downwards, a considerable task resulting in over 20 sacks of rubbish. Concerns were expressed over his safety on such a busy road, but it was confirmed that he was at least wearing a Hi-Viz jacket. Many thanks to this person and all other volunteers.
- G Crute confirmed that he had responded to the Darlington Borough Council email regarding the Middleton St George Neighbourhood Plan.
- Other correspondence listed in the agenda was for information only.

19/014 Other Village Matters.

- Speed Warning signs. Installation date awaited from Swarco. The clerk to request copy of their Risk Assessment and Method Statement.
- Durham Tees Valley Airport – there will be meetings on April 3 and 13 when it is hoped that more information will be available regarding the transfer of ownership and operational plans.
- Local elections on the May 2, Neasham councillors nomination had been submitted and approved, closing date for nominations April 3 with Statements of Persons Nominated issued on April 4.
- The Neasham PC AGM is to be held on May 8 followed by the initial parish meeting.
- The Parish Assembly is to be held on May 16 .A reminder to be circulated to all parishioners in the previous week. It was also agreed that the format would be informal (as last year) but include an update on any issues raised last year. Refreshments to be provided. The Chair indicated that he was going to propose the erection of a flagpole and already had costings.
- A parishioner had written about several matters within the parish. Neasham PC has sympathy with some of the items raised and pursue them where possible, but there are some which are beyond it's control.
- The Chair reported that Mark Hannaford would continue to spray the riverbank for hogweed control.
- P Dunn confirmed that they were preparing for the flower tubs, the costs would be similar to last year.

19/015 Date of next meeting.

Wednesday May 8 2019 at 6.30pm (AGM & Ordinary meeting). The meeting concluded at 7.40pm

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed(Chair) Date08/05/2019