

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary meeting held 1 February 2021 at 6.30pm (held remotely via Zoom).

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

Apologies: Apologies were received from C Chou (working) were accepted.

20/122 J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting and it was agreed that the meeting could be recorded.

20/123 Declarations of interest.

A declaration of interest in agenda item 11 (website) was made by G Crute.

20/124 Minutes of the last meetings.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 7 December 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

20/125 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.

There were no matters arising.

20/126 PACT Report

No meeting held, but the Rural PACT reported several sightings of potential poachers but no arrests made.

20/127 Roads and footpaths

- There has still been no progress made by Darlington BC in effecting repairs to 3 outstanding defects to road repairs.
- The issue of the signage to the right of way through the New Lane development was raised by K Sandick who stated that the sign was continuing to cause confusion and he had been asked by 3 separate families if through access was allowed. K Sandick suggested that a traditional circular right of way sign with a yellow directional arrow, that could be fixed to the gate or post, would resolve it. However it was pointed out that Neasham PC have no authority to place signs on private property. It was agreed that K Sandick should have an informal discussion with John Ryan (resident) on the matter.
- The road from Neasham Hill to Low Dinsdale is badly damaged and in one section was down to a single carriageway. This would appear to be caused by regular use by heavy goods vehicles in particular the chicken feed wagons. The matter had been referred to Darlington BC who attended site last week and carried out some remedial work. On 29 January a further complaint was sent by our Chair to Highways Authority for whom N Campbell (Inspector) responded stating they would return during this week to carry out the repair works.

20/128 Environment Agency Matters

- G Crute reported that he had received the Risk Assessment, however he stated that he would be emailing the Agency on two queries relating to the monitoring the trees on the west side of Kent Beck and also the assessment of the varying water conditions and any mitigation measures.

20/129 Village Green.

- It was agreed that fixing of the seat numbering was not urgent and could be carried out as conditions allow.
- The Chair stated that he had a provisional price for the supply of seed, for the proposed wild meadow near Kent Beck bridge, but in the near future, he would liaise with Darlington BC to see if a more advantageous price could be obtained.
- The Chair reported that the Christmas tree lighting had been an excellent display and thanked those involved. The lights have been taken down and stored away, except for the top strings 20m long which are at high level and out of reach to the public and could remain in position permanently.

20/130 Planning.

- Applications received since the last meeting:-
20/01222/TF Work to willow tree, Wood View, Dinsdale Spa - reviewed by members under emergency procedures **(No Comment)**.
- Darlington BC decision notices received since last meeting:-
20/00889/FUL- Development of Land opposite Sovereign House **(Permission Refused)**.
- L Tostevin reported that applications for both traveller sites had now been refused, but that she understood that it was anticipated that appeals would be lodged against both refusals. It was reported that the badly constructed bridge forming access to one site from Neasham Road and which had been carried out without permission, was causing flooding to the highway. This bridge was subsequently rebuilt incorporating pipework, again the work was carried out without permission.

- The Chair reported that the four diseased 4 chestnut trees at Low Dinsdale, which had been reported to Darlington BC, who were awaiting a power outage in order to cut them down, have now been removed and four new trees planted.
- Darlington BC's Local Plan 2016/36 has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. G Crute reported that nothing had come out that would affect Neasham's position, but he was monitoring the process.

20/131 Risk Management.

- 1 Scheduled inspection due in January (Post-inspection of Christmas Lights) – carried out by the Chair.
- The third quarter Risk Management report had been issued which showed 3 outstanding defects at the end of December. 2 further defects were added in the last week of January.

20/132 Provision of New Website

- Website sub group meeting had been held 10 December 2020 and a copy of the notes of the meeting circulated. Two training days had been held 6 and 13 January by Adam Crute with provisional access to the site given to Neasham PC. An informal meeting was held 19 January between G Crute, H Crute and the clerk where Helen outlined the work on templates and styles for use on the new website. An understanding was also reached on the proposal to utilise the html format rather than PDF attachments.
- The Cookie Policy, Site Accessibility Report, Accessibility Statement, Accessibility Policy and Disproportionate Burden Assessment were all approved subject to a minor correction on the ownership of the golf club.
- G Crute outlined the progress and advantages in converting PDF attachments to html document which would improve accessibility for future developments. However some documents (Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Planning Register and Model Publication Scheme) were more difficult to convert. Because of this and possible further work by the designer on "skip links", G Crute proposed a target date of 1 April for the website to go live, which was agreed.
- The Neasham PC address for enquiries displayed on the website was agreed, but there were no takers for individual email addresses for the members.
- The Chair proposed a Vote of thanks to Helen for the hard work she has carried out for Neasham.

20/133 Finance.

- Third quarter finance report had been brought forward to end of November for budget purposes and the Precept request of £8034 was submitted to Darlington BC 10/12/20 and acknowledged.
- Approved payments made in December and January: J Walker Expenses (Zoom £14.39), J Walker (Salary/Expenses £453.24), HMRC (PAYE £113.40), J Walker (Paid by bank transfer AC Media, Scanner for Chair, Zoom £712.38).
- VAT refund of £222.48 received from HMRC.
- Mandate form for change of a signatory on bank account received and completed, but require attendance to bank for witnessing, deferred until safety acceptable.

20/134 Ward Councillor Matters.

- L Tostevin had little to report except to remind the members that Roundhill Road, Hurworth would soon be closed for 3 months, also garden waste bin collections will commence shortly and run through to December.
- D Dodwell proposed a formal vote of thanks to the leader of Darlington BC for their part in providing such a well organised vaccination centre.

20/135 Correspondence.

- All as listed in the agenda with no issues raised by the members.
- G Crute has completed the land ownership survey requested by NALC on behalf of HM Land Registry.

20/136 Other Village Matters.

- G Crute was given authority to provide arrows at by-pass points on the embankment footpath as a precaution against Covid.
- The Chair reported that £1.3m alterations to the airport departure lounge and security had been completed.
- A complaint from Christine Bayes on dog mess was discussed, although the members sympathised with her views, her offer to distribute a flyer was not taken up, but it was agreed to display more warning signs.
- E Miller queried ownership of the roadside trees near the kennels on Neasham Road which were hanging dangerously over the road. The Chair agreed to speak to Darlington DC Highways.

20/137 Date of next meeting

Monday 1 March 2021 at **6.30pm.** The meeting concluded at 7.40pm

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed(Chair) Date01/03/2021