

## NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

**Apologies:** Apologies from E Miller (working) were accepted.

**19/047** J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

### **19/048 Declarations of interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **19/049 Minutes of the last meetings.**

It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on June 3 2019 are a correct record.

### **19/050 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports .**

- **19/006 Re- Routing of No 12 Bus.** G Crute presented a proposed action plan in respect of the No 12 bus route which he had prepared on behalf of Neasham PC. The proposal was that the return leg of the half hourly service to Hurworth would alternate between the current “experimental” service via Neasham Road and an alternative route via Middleton St George, Brass Castle and Dibdale Road into Neasham village. Which potentially would serve a greater proportion of the population. G Crute further set out a series of actions including seeking support from adjoining parishes, assessment from public records by the clerk to provide an indication of household numbers that would be served by the alternative services, parish questionnaire to establish potential use and possible public consultation all of which are designed to provide evidence supporting any Neasham PC complaint. L Tostevin stated that there had been no complaints about the experimental No 12 bus route and as such was not scheduled for review in October. Therefore Neasham PC should formally write to the Darlington BC Transport Manager (Gill Hutchinson) stating that Neasham PC were unhappy with a service that excludes Neasham. The list of possible actions (see appendix A) was approved and G Crute agreed to email Gill Hutchinson as advised and also to compile the questionnaire.

### **19/051 PACT Report.**

The scheduled meeting for last week had been cancelled and will now be held on Wednesday July 3.

### **19/052 Roads and footpaths.**

- J Weighell reported that there was now only one tree requiring felling, the others had recovered. Darlington BC were awaiting a power outage in order to carry this out. As DBC had had now taken responsibility for this work it was agreed that the defect could be closed by Neasham PC.
- Two overgrown footpaths (Sockburn Lane to the stile and the path adjacent the hedge in the field next to the northern floodbank) had now been cutback by Darlington BC.
- Following a complaint by a resident regarding the temporary diversion of a public footpath at New Lane across adjacent private land, Neasham PC asked the Darlington BC Right of Way officer to inspect the route again and we quote his findings *“I have inspected the path and I find it to be a well worn route. Part of the path is uneven. Nevertheless in my judgement I do not consider the temporary path to be unsafe for use by the general public”*.
- Proposed planter adjacent Kent Beck. In view of the Environment Agency agreement to maintain the whole of the paved area, it was felt that there was no longer any requirement to construct the large planter (as previously agreed) to restrict parking in the area whilst maintaining access for emergency vehicles. It was resolved to provide a small planter to which a sign advising the public that “this paved area forms part of the village green and is not part of any public highway or footpath”.
- K Sandick reported that he had received a complaint from Christine Crossen that the veg box needs repairing. K Sandick to raise a defects notice, repairs would be done after the vegetables had been harvested.

### **19/053 Environment Agency Matters.**

- The Chair reported that The Environment Agency had recently carried out remedial works to several mortar joints in the floodbank steps which were crumbling.
- G Cutter (EA) had circulated affected residents about the EA’s intention to trim back the vegetation overhanging the dry side of the Tees floodbank from adjacent gardens. Work to commence July 15.

### **19/054 Village Green.**

- The Reading Rooms and Neasham PC had exchanged insurance details confirming levels of insurance held. The clerk had been informed by the insurer there was no need to inform them of the Duck Club derby as it was not a Neasham PC event.

#### **19/055 Planning.**

- Applications received since last meeting:-  
19/00491/FUL Manor Farm Low Dinsdale – Install biomass heating and retrospective approval for 2No SS flues – **APPROVED.**
- Decisions received since last meeting:-  
19/00205/FUL New Lane Development – Variation to Condition 1 – **APPROVED.**  
19/00192/FUL 4 Dibdale Road.- Alter garage to form residential unit – **APPROVED.**

#### **19/056 Risk Management.**

- Scheduled Inspections for June (Flower tubs, notice boards, general inspection of electrics, pumphouse and verges) have been undertaken.
- The quarterly Risk Management report was presented and it was noted that one defect was closed in June and one defect outstanding (Dead Chestnut tree at Low Dinsdale) agreed to close this as work to be carried out by Darlington BC.
- It was reported that the Dinsdale Park notice board was difficult to open and will soon need attention.
- Despite flood warnings nationally because of heavy rain, there had been no alert raised in Neasham. G Crute reported that he had not the opportunity to finalise the Flood Emergency Procedure but agreed that it would be available for the September meeting.
- Clerk to place veg box on village inspection schedule.

#### **19/057 Finance.**

- The clerk's salary grade was confirmed at NJC Payscale from April 2019 SCP Grade 7 plus out of pocket expenses allowance for office running costs.
- Payments in respect of the following invoices were approved:- J.Walker £413.52 (salary and office costs), HMRC £103.20 (PAYE) and Neasham Nurseries £318.00 (Flowers and compost for tubs).
- The clerk confirmed that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been posted on the website with public right to inspection set at June 10 to July 19 inclusive.

#### **19/058 Ward Councillor Matters – NONE.**

#### **19/059 Correspondence.**

- The clerk had received an email from NALC confirming that they currently have no plans to make a joint approach, on behalf of parish councils, to any website provider in respect of the new Website Accessibility Regulations, nor are they aware of subsidies becoming available.
- The Chair reported that Swarco had been on site for several hours earlier in the month and would return the following day to complete. Neasham PC have received no further notification from them. Clerk to send a further reminder and the works will not be signed off until a response is received

#### **19/060 Other Village Matters.**

- The Chair reported that he had opened a trade cash account for Neasham PC with Wilkinsons Plants, which offered generous discounts. D Dodwell proposed a motion of thanks to Pam & Paul Dunn for all their hard work in producing such a splendid display with the flower tubs.
- The Clerk agreed to provide the members with the access codes to the NALC website.
- The Code of Conduct training organised by DBC on the June 18 had been an excellent presentation, although unfortunately not very well attended.
- L Tostevin reported that the Community Broadband meeting on June 18 had been well attended Money was available for fibre optic broadband in the Neasham area until March 2020 but would be lost if not spent by then. The main area of the village should be done but unlikely to include the outlying areas. Progress can be monitored on the Darlington BC website or the Hurworth Live Facebook page.
- G Conlin reported that the painted road markings were worn and need replacing, after road re-surfacing.

#### **19/061 Date of next meeting**

Monday September 2 2019 at 6.30pm. The meeting concluded at 7.45pm

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed .....(Chair) Date .....02/09/2019

## **APPENDIX A – DRAFT PROPOSAL IN SUPPORT OF NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL LOBBYING DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL / ARRIVA IN RESPECT OF REVISIONS TO THE No 12 BUS ROUTE**

Neasham Parish Council

Bus service route 12: Suggested action plan

### **Introduction**

On the basis that NPC agrees to recommend and press for changes to the current “experimental” service (which travels down Neasham Road via Skipbridge before turning into Hurworth Road and travelling westbound only through Hurworth before returning to Town) we would seek that every alternative bus should travel through Middleton St George via Station Road, Thorntree, Brasscastle, Neasham Covert and down Dibdale Road to the east end of Neasham Village, and then along Teesway into Hurworth Road and Hurworth. This would follow the route of the school buses, and is therefore obviously a tried and tested route from a traffic viewpoint. It would also serve a significantly greater proportion of the population than the present route limited to Neasham Road, where the new Residential Caravan site is likely to take some years before it is fully occupied, and even then will not provide a footfall equivalent to the proposed variation.

### **Possible actions**

1. Make contact with relevant authorities to discuss the proposal and ascertain how to make representations in the review process, which apparently will take place in October 2019;
2. Contact Hurworth Parish Council to seek their views (on the assumption that their objections to the present route through Hurworth westbound only will be retained by the transport authority);
3. Contact Middleton St George Parish Council to seek their support on the basis that the service suggested will provide a significant increase in the areas of their Middleton St George currently served by public transport;
4. From available public records assess the number of households which are served by the former service, the present service, and the proposed service (excluding Hurworth village where the “count” would be the same), establishing the appropriate criteria for such assessment – the aim being to demonstrate how many additional households would be brought within the scope of the service. The assessment could be extended to the number of additional adults serviced by the proposals, in accordance with electoral rolls.
5. Within Neasham Parish, conduct a survey by questionnaire delivered door to door to ascertain the potential use of the proposed service (frequently/reasonably regularly/occasionally – defining criteria).
6. Investigate the amount of subsidy presently paid for the No. 12 service, and for the present Monday service, to consider whether the total subsidy available would be better spent on the suggested route, or indeed whether increased usage would increase the available subsidy; and
7. If the survey demonstrates reasonable support for the proposition (in terms of likely usage) consider whether there is any “mileage” in inviting the authorities to hold a public consultation event to debate the pros and cons.