

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of **Neasham Parish Council meeting** held June 1 2020 at 7.00pm (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, J Walker (Clerk).

Apologies: None.

20/017 J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

20/018 Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

20/019 Minutes of the last meetings.

It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on May 4 as amended by Appendix A (attached to May minutes) are a correct record.

20/020 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.

There were no matters arising

20/021 PACT Report.

No meetings to report on, however the Chair reported that a quad bike had been found in the Tees near to his house and informed the police. On returning to the river the Chair found two men from a nearby village on another quad trying to pull the original one out claiming it was theirs. When the police arrived it had been removed, although no quad bike had been reported stolen.

20/022 Roads and footpaths.

- L Tostevin had reported the spring water seeping up through the tarmac on Neasham Hill to DBC, but no response to date. L Tostevin to follow up with Darlington BC.
- J Grainger had been to investigate the standing water in the gutter outside 67/9 Teesway, it is not a major leak but never goes away. J Grainger queried whether it could from the builders mixing concrete but this was ruled out as it had never dried up over the last 3 months. L Tostevin to take up with DBC.

20/023 Environment Agency Matters.

- Both email and hard copy reminders had been sent to T Robson (Environment Agency Asset Manager) requesting a response to our earlier letter asking for a resumption of the twice annual meeting on site. Since we are still awaiting a response it was agreed that we should contact a Mr Robson (a senior manager) upon his return to work next week and take the matter up with him.
- The Clerk confirmed that no response had been received to our letter of May 19 2020 from Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations requesting various risk assessments and site inspection reports associated with the Floodbank.

20/024 Village Green.

- The Chair reported that no decision had been made in respect of the dedication on the flagpole. It was agreed that the Neasham Parish flag should be flown instead of the NHS one for a short period.
 - The Chair reported that a villager (Neil Massey) had asked if he could paint parts of the bus shelter, backs of notice boards and the like, which has since been carried out. G Crute advised caution as Neasham PC did not wish to jeopardise their position that the shelter was not under their ownership. The Chair acknowledged this, but some works had been carried out to prevent deterioration into a state of disrepair.
 - The Chair reported that another villager (John Ryan) wanted to do something for the village and had offered to replace the damaged goalposts and would pay any costs. It was agreed to accept this offer. Clerk to send a letter of thanks to J Ryan.
 - In response to a query by D Dodwell, the Chair confirmed that Darlington BC had resumed grass cutting. J Grainger queried whether bins are being emptied as the one on the green was full, it was confirmed that Street Scene have resumed operations and would be emptied
 - P Dunn reported that the flowers for the tubs had arrived and were ready for planting. The cost of the flowers and compost were under budget and included sufficient plants for the planters outside the Reading Rooms. P Dunn agreed to send a letter of thanks to S Sanderson. The Chair thanked Pam and Paul Dunn for their efforts in providing what is anticipated to be a magnificent display. The Chair also
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thanked Geoff and Liz Conlin for taking on the responsibility of watering the tubs. The Chair had contacted the supplier of the water trolley about a broken wheel, who supplied a replacement free of charge.

- K Sandick raised the issue of the confusion over the signs to the right of way through the New Lane development, which are not clear and the access gate was hung incorrectly (denied by the contractor). The Chair stated he would speak to the parties involved but little could be done until S Petch returns to work.
- Parking around the village green area had been a problem recently with cars obstructing pavements. G Conlin asked if a leaflet could be posted advising obstructing pavements not allowed. The Clerk/ Chair to contact DBC to see if a standard notice available however it was agreed that it would be better to report incidents to the enforcement team (01325 406999). Each incident (including vehicle Registration numbers) to be emailed to Clerk to keep a formal record

20/025 Planning.

- There had been no applications or decisions received since the last meeting, however it was agreed that in respect the application for alterations to the access to Abbey Farm Cottages (approved previously) the works should be monitored against the planning conditions.
- G Crute reported that he understood that an appeal had been lodged with the appeals office in Bristol against the refusal of Planning permission for 5 houses off New Lane (Application 19/00834/OUT) with a hearing in the third week of June which would leave little time for Neasham PC to consider and prepare a response. L Tostevin had received a letter from DBC giving notice of the appeal. Subsequent to the meeting L Tostevin forwarded a copy of the letter which confirmed that the appeal had been set for June 26. G Conlin stated that he had measured the road widths which established difficulties on access should any cars be parked and queried as to why this was not part of the refusal. In view of the short timescale to the appeal date, subsequent to the meeting it was agreed that the Neasham PC emergency planning committee should be convened to agree the course of action.

20/026 Risk Management.

- No scheduled Inspections for previous months had been possible because of virus restrictions, however the tree inspections had been carried out last week, village green and flower tubs this month.
- The volunteers register had been amended to include N Massey and one villager removed.
- The Annual all Risks Checklist had been circulated and was approved.

20/027 Finance.

- Following approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in the May minutes, the Certificate of Exemption can now be submitted to the internal auditor.
- Invoices received in May and approved for payment: CLCA (Membership) £107.45, Spanglefish (Website) £29.95, WEL Medical (Defibrillator pads) £46.68, Neasham Nurseries (Flowers) £226.44. All of which are within the budget.
- The Clerk's annual appraisal was approved, the salary remains as set out in the Neasham PC letter of August 13 2019.

20/028 Ward Councillor Matters

Matters raised by L Tostevin are covered elsewhere in these minutes

20/029 Correspondence.

Correspondence listed in the agenda is for information only, no member had any matter arising.

20/030 Other Village Matters.

- The Chair reported that he had circulated his annual report which is normally presented at the Parish Assembly which has been deferred due to Covid-19. However there still a requirement for an Assembly to be held but It was impractical for it to be held outside and we will await developments.
- New defibrillator pads had been fitted and the Chair thanked E Conlin for her maintenance work.
- There are no developments to report on the installation of high speed broadband in the village. Because of this and home working, E Miller reported that he had to invest in an alternative source.
- D Dodwell proposed a round of thanks to J Day for organising the weekly visit of the mobile fish and chip shop, also the Fox and Hounds for providing Sunday Lunches, much appreciated by the villagers.

20/031 Date of next meeting

Monday July 6 2020 at **7.00pm.** The meeting concluded at 8.00pm

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed(Chair) Date06/07/2020

Edited to Comply With Website Accessibility Regulations

