

## NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

(Copies of minutes and agendas are available on the website at: <http://www.neashamparishcouncil.co.uk>)

Minutes of **Neasham Parish Council meeting** held December 2 2019 at 6.30pm in Neasham Reading Room.

**Present:** Councillors G Conlin, G Crute, P Dunn, E Miller, J Weighell (Chair), J Walker (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Apologies from D Dodwell (Holiday), J Grainger (Working), K Sandick (Alternative Arrangements) were accepted. L Tostevin (Ward) attended briefly to give the Chair an update then had to leave to attend the hustings. C.Chou – not in attendance.

**19/107** JWe welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

**19/108 Declarations of interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**19/109 Minutes of the last meetings.**

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

**19/110 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.**

- **19/006 Re- Routing of No 12 Bus.** There was nothing further to report, except that the Chair had identified the Regional Manager for Arriva as Nick Knox who was based in Darlington.
- The Clerk had emailed Tom Bryant to request a list of dates for which he would be available in order to arrange a meeting. As there had been no response the Clerk was asked to follow this up.

**19/111 PACT Report.**

- In the absence of D Dodwell, G Conlin had attended the meeting along with the Chair, but that there was nothing to Neasham to report. The Chair wished to record his thanks to the Enforcement Team, who had responded rapidly to his request for them to remove fly tipping on the road near Abbey Mill.
- Tees Rural Crime Forum November 18 had been attended by G Conlin who reported that although it was a good meeting, there no issues that affected Neasham. The Chair indicated that this may change when the new Crime Commissioner takes up his post.

**19/112 Roads and footpaths.**

- The Gas Board had been carrying out works in a field adjacent Hurworth Road and had temporary left their plant and equipment on the grass verge, cutting up the surface. The Chair complained to them and was informed that it would be re-instated shortly, which was carried out within a few hours.

**19/113 Environment Agency Matters.**

The Chair reported that there was still a problem with moles in the embankment, Environment Agency had been informed but still had not attended site. The Chair had been advised by Alex Murray (Environment Agency contact who had previously arranged for their removal) that there was now a different procedure where the EA regional office organised the "catcher". The Chair further reported that he had not been able to contact G Cutter but would continue to pursue the matter as he felt it was becoming urgent. The Chair also indicated that he had contacted a local control company who suggested it would cost in the region of £300 to eradicate them. This was not pursued.

**19/114 Village Green.**

- The cherry tree outside No 21/23 Teesway requires further work, Miss Trees seem to have forgotten the footpath side. G Crute to ask them to return to site, if they don't, work to add to next year's schedule.
- The Chair reported that all light bulbs in the Millennium Garden spotlights had blown because of extended use, as they were controlled by PIR sensor. The Chair had arranged for the sensors to be replaced by a timer, reducing the illumination period and Bernard Crossen volunteered to carry out the work. The Chair requested that thanks to Bernard be recorded.
- Christmas tree lighting. K Sandick and volunteer Terry Waterfield hung the lights on Saturday ready for the switch-on on Sunday December 1, earlier it was felt more lights were needed and these were delivered on November 29. The cost was £27.30 were ordered without prior council approval as permitted under the Financial Regulations. The consensus is that it is a magnificent display and the Chair recorded his thank to K Sandick and T Waterfield. During the process suggestions were put forward that a flagpole would enhance the garden and the Clerk was instructed to obtains cost for the supply from Harrisons to present to council at the next meeting.

**19/115 Planning.**

- Applications received since last meeting:-
  - 19/01031/FUL 4 Dibdale Road– Dormer extension and enlarge garage – **APPROVED.**
  - 19/01050/FUL 31A Teesway –Erection of Single Garage -**APPROVED** (Emergency Sub-committee).

- Decisions received since last meeting:-  
None

- Planning application No 19/00834/OUT, Two emails had been sent to Darlington BC by G Conlin disputing the width of the approach road and property numbers served. Both G Crute and G Conlin agreed to attend should the application go to Committee hearing.

**19/116 Risk Management.**

- There were no scheduled inspections outstanding at the end November. Scheduled inspections for December are:- General Inspection of Electrics, Notice Boards, Old Pump House and Verges
- There were no new defects raised in November and there are none outstanding
- The Village Green Risk Assessment is work in progress which should be completed by January.

**19/117 Finance.**

- No payments were made in November, however the cost of £27.30 for additional Christmas tree lights ordered by the Chair was approved. Currently the only payments anticipated in December are the Clerk's salary and associated PAYE.
- The previously issued draft budget had been amended in accordance with instructions at the November Neasham PC meeting. The clerk was instructed to reduce the budget by £150 and the precept was agreed at £8,034 for 2020/21.
- The Clerk reported that North East Ambulance Service had submitted an invoice stating there was an outstanding balance of £653.30 in respect of the defibrillator installed 18 months ago. The Clerk sent them all the payment details again and they finally apologised saying it was an accounting error on their part.
- The Financial Regulations are being updated and will be ready to approve at the next meeting.

**19/118 Ward Councillor Matters.**

- L Tostevin had to attend to other matters in connection with the General Election, but reported that it was still anticipated that Neasham would be connected to high speed broadband by the end of 2020.

**19/119 Correspondence.**

- There were no volunteers in response to an email November 27 2019 from P Dalton (DBC) asking for assistance in Bad Weather Planning for the forthcoming election day.
- In response to an email November 27 2019 from NALC requesting parish councils to vote in their forthcoming election to their Small Community Committee, the Clerk was instructed to vote for the two northern candidates.
- All other correspondence listed was for information only.

**19/120 Other Village Matters.**

- D Dodwell had attended the CLCA meeting on November 20 where he raised the issue of the Website Accessibility Regulations, the CLCA agreed to investigate what further guidance NALC can provide to small councils and revert back to us. It was agreed to defer any action by ourselves until after this.
- G Crute reported that a neighbour had spoken to him about the closure of the footpath on the Newbus Loop and that Hurworth Parish were encouraging the use of this route. However Neasham PC had previously consulted the Darlington BC Rights of Way Officer who was adamant that this path was not a public right of way. The Clerk was instructed to ensure that this does not appear on any of the walks on the Neasham PC website.

**19/121 Date of next meeting**

Monday February 3 2020 at 6.30pm. The meeting concluded at 7.25pm

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed .....(Chair) Date .....03/02/2020