

## 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 February 3 2020 at 6.30pm in Neasham Reading Room.

**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:** Apologies from Councillor C Chou (working) were accepted.

**19/122** J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

**19/123 Declarations of interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**19/124 Minutes of the last meetings.**

It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on the December 2 2019 are a correct record.

**19/125 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.**

- **19/006 Re- Routing of No 12 Bus.** A copy of the Parish Public Transport Survey had been sent to Gill Hutchinson (Darlington BC) who agreed to take up the issue with Nick Knox (Arriva regional manager), although she did not appear confident of any progress on the issue, particularly as any slack in the No 12 bus timetable had been taken up by a diversion via the airport. The launch of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Tees Flex service is imminent with a briefing meeting February 6 and a drop in advisory session on the operation of the service for the general public on February 18 in Neasham Reading Rooms. Although Neasham PC would still prefer improvements to the No 12 Bus, it was agreed to defer any action until the Flex service was evaluated.
- Stagecoach (Flex operator) were to provide flyers for the drop in, Neasham PC would arrange a leaflet drop.

**19/126 PACT Report.**

- The Chair stated that there was only 1 crime reported in Neasham, a vehicle roaming the golf course. It was queried why there were currently so few Rural Watch nights, reply awaited.

**19/127 Roads and footpaths.**

It was reported that there were a lot of potholes in the village requiring attention, particularly Neasham Hill/Lane and Abbey corner. It was also felt that the method used by DBC to effect repairs was only temporary and soon deteriorated. L Tostevin to refer to DBC Highways.

**19/128 Environment Agency Matters.**

The Chair reported some success with the eradication of moles, on January 2 a trapper arrived on site and caught 5 moles on the embankment, but would not trap any on the village green as outside Environment Agency area of responsibility. Returned a few days later and caught 3 more on the bank.

**19/129 Village Green.**

- The Chair raised the issue of a flagpole that he felt would benefit the village. A quotation had been received from Harrisons of £259.00 (excluding V.A.T.) for supply of post to site. It was felt that the installation could be carried out locally at minimal cost. S Grey (parishioner) has flags which he would lend Neasham PC. Also the Chair stated that he would donate a 1.50m x 1.20m flag. It was resolved that the clerk should demonstrate value for money and place an order.
- The embankment had eroded to the rear of a seat near the Fox and Hounds and required stabilising with steel angle and scaffold board to retain the soil. The Chair agreed to carry out the work and also advise Darlington BC to limit the spraying around the seat to avoid similar problems in the future.

**19/130 Planning.**

- Applications received since last meeting:-  
*19/01131/FUL* 6 Dibdale Road Single storey extension **Approved by Emergency Committee 17/12/19.**  
*19/01036/FUL* 5 The Courtyard Single storey extension **Approved by Emergency Committee 17/12/19.**  
*19/00607/FUL* Neasham Abbey -Convert Coach House **No comment Emergency Committee 30/12/19.**  
*19/01190/FUL* 6 The Courtyard Single storey extension **Approved by Emergency Committee 31/12/19.**  
*19/01156/CU* Abbey Farm Cottage, Neasham Rd – Alteration to existing access. The return date for response to DBC had been extended to allow discussion at the NPC meeting. Grounds for objection were outlined by G Crute and it was subsequently resolved that these form a basis for objection to the application. G Crute agreed to write a letter of support to the objection for the Neasham PC response.  
*19/01189/FUL* Low Maidendale Farm – New Extension **Approved by Emergency Committee 10/01/20.**
- Decisions received since last meeting:-

**19/131 Risk Management.**

- All scheduled inspections for December and January had been carried out. Visual inspection of the speed signs had been added to the January schedule and were retrospectively inspected in February.
- The quarterly Risk Management report (extended to January 1 2020) showed 1 defect notice outstanding (work in hand).
- G Crute presented his draft Village Green Public Safety Risk Assessment and outlined his concerns particularly the dangers in the Kent where there were extremely steep falls and feels that we should write to Environment Agency requesting in the strongest of terms that they extend the fence along from the penstock valve to mitigate this. Also because of recent high river water levels Neasham PC should provide additional warning signs on the existing posts. Additionally it was proposed that a flotation device be provided near the Fox and Hounds (located to reduce threat from vandalism). This device also has the advantage of emphasising the dangers. The risk assessment was provisionally approved. The indicative cost of these measures was £327 plus fixings (excluding VAT).

**19/132 Finance.**

- Approved payments made in December/January were £27.30 (extra Xmas tree lights), £413.32 (Clerk's salary) £103.40 (PAYE). Expense claim by G Crute of £36 for tree protection materials was approved.
- The Finance Report to end of December was issued showed an uncommitted amount of £488, however this excluded any costs in respect of the flagpole.
- The updated Neasham PC Financial Regulations were approved and would take effect immediately.
- Website Accessibility Regulations. Because of difficulties communicating with Spanglefish, the Clerk is to explore alternative sites, in addition G Crute will make enquiries with his contacts for other options.

**19/133 Ward Councillor Matters.**

- L Tostevin reported that there was to be a meeting on Wednesday February 5 at the Mustard Tree to discuss the roll out of broadband in Hurworth and Neasham when officers from Darlington BC and Tees Valley Combine Authority will be in attendance to answer any questions raised. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Darlington BC is organising a campaign to keep Locomotive No 1 in Darlington (rather than Shildon) and urged everyone to go onto the website and register their support.

**19/134 Correspondence.**

- D Dodwell reported that DBC request for a Wishlist for S106 monies had been discussed at the Darlington Association of Parish Councils meeting on January 29 2020, but the response had been disappointing. D Dodwell re-iterated the need for all parishes to forward a list to Dave Coates (DBC). Neasham PC had forwarded several suggestions for inclusion and D Dodwell would finalise the Neasham PC list based on this.
- D Dodwell stated that he would be representing Neasham PC at the next CLCA meeting on February 19 2020.
- Other correspondence listed was for information only.

**19/135 Other Village Matters.**

- J Weighell had attended the airport management committee on January 8 2020 where advance notice had been given of the announcement of additional flights. The air show was confirmed as May 24 2020.
- Unfortunately Neasham PC were unsuccessful with our nomination of D Dodwell to attend the Buckingham Palace garden party.
- J Grainger referred to a young man who relentlessly carries out litter picking throughout the parish. J Grainger felt that he should have some recognition for his work, but evidentially he would shun any such attention.
- Defibrillator. G Conlin reported that new pads would be needed shortly and would forward costing.
- P Dunn reported that a) one laurel near Kent Beck was suffering from windburn and would continue to monitor, b) Neasham Nurseries had donated some plants (grasses and thrift) which she had planted in the raised pile section of the verge and would be formally thanking them, c) the veg box would now be maintained by Neasham PC but would contain a selection of herbs, d) the flower boxes up Dibdale bank would need watering as they had been maintained by Peter who unfortunately has passed away.

**19/136 Date of next meeting.**

Monday March 2 2020 at 6.30pm. The meeting concluded at 8.10pm

*Edited to Comply With Website Accessibility Regulations*