

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of **Neasham Parish Council meeting** held June 3 2019 at 6.30pm in Neasham Reading Room.

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

Apologies: Apologies from J Grainger (working) and L Tostevin (family bereavement) were accepted.

19/032 J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

19/033 Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

19/034 Minutes of the last meetings.

It was confirmed that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Parish Meetings held on May 8 2019 together with the Notes of the Parish Assembly held on May 16 2019 were correct records.

19/035 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.

- **19/006 Re- Routing of No 12 Bus.** It was felt that Neasham Road was not ideal for buses and while the circular route via Middleton St George was the best option, alternating the route between the two options would be an improvement. Regarding the October review of the service as advised by L Tostevin, G Crute suggested that Neasham PC should investigate with Arriva as to how we could obtain representation in the review process. We would need establish the level of support among the parishioners for any proposals and possibility of enlisting Middleton St George support. It was agreed that the matter be placed on the agenda for the July meeting.
- **19/019** Members were reminded of the new councillor training to be held on the June 10 2019 at 5.30pm in Darlington Town Hall Committee Room 2.
- The Chair reported that he had delivered all documents relating to the recent Elections to Darlington BC and as there had been no queries raised, he assumed that that they were all in order.

19/036 PACT Report.

D Dodwell reported that no crimes had been recorded in Neasham Parish last month, however there had been an incident where a transit style pickup had crashed into a wall on Neasham Hill and then clipped a parked car. Despite being chased the vehicle escaped.

19/037 Roads and footpaths.

- J Weighell had visited Low Dinsdale and found that the first four of the chestnut trees growing in the verge were in a healthy condition and only one was dead. It was agreed to monitor their condition.
- The large pothole in Neasham Road, reported by E Miller, had been repaired by Darlington BC.
- K Sandick reported that he had discovered a stop cock sized iron cover, adjacent Dibdale Road, which had become dislodged leaving a dangerous hole. D Dodwell agreed to replace it and if possible fill the chamber to prevent accidents in the future.
- The Chair stated that the footpath between Sockburn Lane and the stile on the riverbank and the official footpath from Dibdale Road to New Lane were overgrown. The clerk was instructed to write to S.Petch (Darlington BC) requesting that they be cut back.

19/038 Environment Agency Matters.

- The Chair reported that it was a year since the Environment Agency had had completed their work to embankment steps and had recently visited site to snag the works and had discovered several mortar joints which were crumbling. Environment Agency will carry out the remedial works in the near future.
- G Crute informed the meeting that he had not written to Environment Agency to complain about location of warning signs at Kent Bridge as he felt the tone of his letter would have to be strongly worded and suggested an alternative solution. G Crute suggested the Neasham PC install a large timber planter to which the sign could be fixed and would also deter parking in that area. G Crute provided a sketch of his proposal and the Chair agreed to provide a cost.

19/039 Village Green.

- An application by the Reading Rooms to hold the Annual Duck Derby on the July 6 had been received and approved by the members. The Clerk to issue the formal approval letter and enclose a copy of the Neasham PC liability insurances.

19/040 Planning.

- Applications received since last meeting:-
19/00464/FUL 10 Neasham Covert Erection of Detached Garage – **APPROVED.**
19/00433/FUL 7 The Courtyard, Dinsdale Park Rear Extension – **APPROVED.**
- Decisions received since last meeting:- **NONE.**

19/041 Risk Management.

- Scheduled Inspections for June are Flower tubs (when planted up), notice boards, general inspection of electrics, pumphouse and verges. A proposal by D Dodwell that Neasham PC should open an account with Wilkinson's Plant Centre in order to take advantage of the discounts on offer was agreed.
- There were no defects raised in the month.
- An updated Village Green Risk Assessment was tabled by G Crute who explained that all mitigation in respect of identified risks had been taken into account, however should any member identify a new risk not currently included, it should be raised at the following meeting. The updated Village Green Risk Assessment was approved.
- A Flood Emergency Procedure was tabled by G Crute who explained that since we had been issued with equipment by the Environment Agency, we need to be able to demonstrate correct action was taken and therefore a procedure was necessary. The current call round system was not ideal and monitoring via the Environment Agency website was now available. An offer by H Crute to be the volunteer monitor was accepted by the members., The Chair stated that the flood warning signs are held by M Blundell, J Alderson and J Weighell and once put out they will stay until the alert is removed.
- Clerk had raised with the insurer an apparent ambiguity in Pump House address on the Insurance schedule. CAME had confirmed that it was clear that the pump house was not used as an office.

19/042 Finance.

- The clerk confirmed that a payment of £29.95 had been made to Spanglefish for renewal of the website licence, the clerk had also raised a query with them as to whether their website complied with the Public Sector Bodies (Website and Mobile) Applications (No 2) Accessibility Regulations, but had received no response. It is clear that the site as it currently stands does not comply, but Neasham PC do not need to comply until 2020. Compliance with these regulations could prove to be quite costly to a small council like Neasham PC and the clerk was asked to write to NALC to enquire if they were considering any scheme that may help.
- D Dodwell asked the clerk if he could check how many hits the website had for the next meeting.
- It was agreed that the list of services offered locally on the website should remain in the short term.

19/043 Ward Councillor Matters. – NONE.

19/044 Correspondence.

- Emails listed under this heading were generally for information only not requiring any resolution.
- It was agreed not to respond to the Middleton St George email regarding their Neighbourhood plan.

19/045 Other Village Matters.

- Speed Warning signs have been adjusted so that they are activated at 32mph, however concerns were expressed as to their visibility in bright sunshine and the clerk was instructed to write to Swarco before the work was signed off.
- Low Dinsdale seat and bin. As the seat was not owned by Neasham PC, it was felt that we should not decorate it, but would monitor it's condition. Darlington BC had provisionally agreed to empty the bin. It was also noted that the Sockburn bin was often full and needed regular emptying.
- The email from Dr Russell re fibre optic internet was discussed and possible involvement in the Community Scheme. G Crute stated that he would ask H Crute to investigate.
- D Dodwell stated that there was a joint board with Hurworth regarding burials, but no burial certificate had been received in respect of deceased from Neasham Parish. Further research required.
- P Dunn confirmed that she will buy the flowers for the tubs this week and should meet the budget.

19/046 Date of next meeting.

Monday July 1 2019 at 6.30pm. The meeting concluded at 7.50pm

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed(Chair) Date01/07/2019