

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of **Neasham Parish Council meeting** held May 4 2020 at 7.00pm held remotely via Zoom.

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

Apologies: Apologies from G Conlin, L Tostevin, (both with connection failure) were accepted.

20/001 J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting. Two members had attempted to join but the internet failed.

20/002 Declarations of interest.

D Dodwell declared an interest in the planning application by Dinsdale Golf Club for a Driving Range, shop and other works.

20/003 Minutes of the last meetings.

It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on the March 2 2020 are a correct record. Members also accepted the Summary of Neasham PC business executed in March 2020 as reasonable.

20/004 No AGM Due Coronavirus Restrictions.

As there would be no AGM held this year, it was determined that the current officials:- Chair (JWeighell), Vice Chair (D Dodwell), Management Officials K Sandick (Asset), J Grainger (Business) and G Crute (Risk) would remain in office until the AGM in May 2021

20/005 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.

19/006 No 12 Bus and TeesFlex. The Scarlet Band No 20 bus service has been suspended and the TeesFlex on demand bus appeared to be running a reduced service. Nothing else to report.

20/006 PACT Report.

No meetings to report on, however it was noted that there had been two incidents of concern. One being sight of a "transit" van which possibly could carry quad bikes, the other involved a blacked out car following a resident up Neasham Hill and back. Neither reported to police, but vigilance urged.

20/007 Roads and footpaths.

DBC only repairing pot holes, nothing else to report.

20/008 Environment Agency Matters.

- G Crute reported that there had been no response to letter requesting resumption of twice yearly meetings and other matters, which had been sent to the Environment Agency Darlington office in March. It was agreed to send a reminder. If there was still no response then a letter would be sent to the Health and Safety manager in Newcastle. The Chair agreed to find the contact details.
- Although Neasham PC had been unsuccessful in their grant application to Tees Valley Nature Partnership for providing a flotation device on the river bank, monies had been included within the budget. It was agreed to proceed when current restrictions to activities were eased.

20/009 Village Green.

- The Chair reported that the flagpole was erected and flying the NHS flag in support of the staff and all other key workers. The Union flag will be raised on Friday in celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE day. A final decision on a dedication plaque for the flagpole was deferred until later in the year.
- The Chair reported that mis-use of bench seating had been a problem, because temporary signs had issued by NY police, however new signs warning that the seats could carry disease had helped. J Grainger raised a concern about the high number of cycles riding the embankment. C Crute advised that there was no legal right to cycle along the footpath, only the village green. It would require an amendment to the bye-laws to alter this, which is not worth pursuing as it is an onerous task.

20/010 Planning

- Applications received since last meeting:-
20/00270/FUL - Dinsdale Golf Club - Proposed shop, studio and driving range – **APPROVED.**
- G Crute reported that *19/01156/CU* – Abbey Farm Cottages alterations to access – had been Approved by DBC (Subject to Conditions.)

- K Sandick reported that there was still confusion over the signage to the Right of Way through the New Lane development and the style was still open (closed by Rockell next day after being informed) and additional signage needed. It was agreed to leave until S.Petch (DBC) could attend site.

20/011 Risk Management

- Scheduled Inspections for March and April have not been carried due the restrictions from the virus, also it had not been possible to complete the Annual “all risks” checklist and other documents for presentation at the May meeting. The clerk to liase with the Business and Risk Management Officers to complete the outstanding tasks and schedule.
- The clerk reported that all existing defect notices had been closed and no new notices raised in April.

20/012 Finance.

- The accounts had been approved by the internal auditor. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 was presented and the Certificate of Exemption, Internal Audit report, Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statement, Schedule of Significant Variances and Bank Reconciliation were all approved by the members. In addition the 30 day Period for the Exercise of Public Rights of Inspection were set as commencing Monday June 22 and ending Friday July 31.
- Approved payment made in April Elm Ridge (Compost). Anticipated invoice in May CLCA (Membership), Spanglefish (Website), Neasham Nurseries (Flowers) North East Ambulance Service (Defibrillator pads)
- P Dunn confirmed that price for the flowers for tubs would be similar to last year’s cost.
- The Clerk reported that Noel Pringle had installed AVG anti-virus on the laptop, but there were some ongoing difficulties which Noel would resolve when lockdown restrictions eased.

20/013 Ward Councillor Matters.

- L Tostevin attempted to join the meeting but was thwarted by the quality of the internet connection, however she did remain on line and listened in, without being able to take part. Lorraine emailed us post meeting asking us to forward anything we feel she take up on our behalf.

20/014 Correspondence.

Correspondence listed in the agenda is for information only, unless any member had a matter arising.

20/015 Other Village Matters.

- It had been noted by some villagers that there had been some Openreach operatives in the village appearing to be carrying out some survey. One villager had been informed that the improvement to broadband in the village would be done by the end of 2020. However Neasham PC have heard nothing formally.
- The Chair reported that he had nominated Sam Walters in 4 categories for is outstanding voluntary services litter picking local roads, indeed had been spotted on the by-pass on the day of the meeting
- The Chair reported that the Parish Facebook page had been launched a few weeks ago and was proving to be a very useful tool for communications locally.
- The Parish Assembly is still required by law to be held this year but will be deferred until a later date.
- D Dodwell stated that there was water standing in the gutter outside the house in Teesway which was having an extension built and wondered if there was a problem. J Grainger agreed to make enquiries.
- K Sandick stated that there had been a re-occurrence of water from an underground spring “seeping” up through the tarmac on the Neasham Hill road which needed attention. DBC to be informed.

20/016 Date of next meeting.

Monday June 1 2020 at **7.00pm.** The meeting concluded at 8.00pm

APPENDIX A

Request by Councillor Crute for the following amendment to Minute 20/009 (Agreed at the Neasham PC meeting June 1 2020)

OMIT the words: *“It would require an amendment to the bye-laws to alter this, which is not worth pursuing as it is an onerous task.”*

ADD the words: *“it would require a bye-law to prevent cycling on the flood bank or the village green. In the absence of any record of enforceable bye-laws, when we tried to introduce modern ones two or three years ago, we were discouraged by the Home Office from progressing the matter.”*

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed(Chair) Date01/06/2020

Edited to Comply Website Accessibility Regulations

