

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Minutes of **Neasham Parish Council meeting** held 5 October at 6.30pm (held remotely via Zoom)

Present: Councillors G Conlin, G Crute, D Dodwell, P Dunn, J Grainger, E Miller, J Weighell (Chair), Ward Councillors C Chou, L Tostevin, J Walker (Clerk).

Apologies: Apologies for absence were accepted from K Sandick (Working).

20/076 J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

20/077 Declarations of interest.

G Crute declared an interest in the provision of the new website.

20/078 Minutes of the last meetings.

It was confirmed that the minutes of the Neasham PC meeting on 7 September 2020 are a correct record.

20/079 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.

There were no matters arising .

20/080 PACT Report

No meeting had been held, two incidents. 1) The Chair reported that an attempted theft of a "ride on" mower at Fishlocks was thwarted by the CCTV system. 2) E Miller reported that a car transporter trailer had been stolen from the Kennels, Hurworth Moor and taken out through a neighbour's field.

20/081 Roads and footpaths.

- At the last meeting six items of necessary repair to roads were recorded and referred to Darlington BC. Of these five were defect notices and one (DN 20/006) has been completed, the other four remain open together with one complaint by a parishioner regarding the disrepair in the road to Low Dinsdale.
- The issue of confusing signs around the New Lane Development site was raised, G Conlin felt it was a disgrace that there had been no response from Darlington BC despite several requests to S Petch over recent months. L Tostevin agreed to send a further email to S Petch on the matter.

20/082 Environment Agency Matters

- Following the meeting on site between our Chair & G Crute and A Haley & B Hird (EA) which had gone well , we had now received a response from the EA which provided contact details and confirmed that they would be carrying out some of the safety work discussed, however G Crute advised that it may take a while for it to be implemented. G Crute has provided his notes of the meeting which have been circulated.
- The Chair stated that the EA still had not eradicated moles in the river bank and had sent an email to Alex Haley, response awaited.

20/083 Village Green.

- Flagpole – no decision on dedication.
- A proposal by the Chair to provide a communal paved area of approximately 40m² at the Millennium Garden with two seats and flower planters for a suggested budget of £2500 was approved in principle. It was further agreed that funding for the project would be from a combination of precept monies and monies available from a review of the need to continue with a village green maintenance fund. The Chair agreed to obtain a budget cost from a local builder in order that a final decision could be made at the December meeting.
- It was resolved to provide identification numbers to all village seats. G Crute agreed to carry out the work.
- In response to query from G Conlin regarding a seat under threat of collapse from erosion that he had measured up but another seat had work done, the Chair confirmed that these safety works were on going and M Harrison would carry out the works as necessary.
- G Crute reported that following the latest tree inspection which had established that the major work required was to the Leylandii hedge, a stray hazel tree to remove and four trees need trimming, he would be meeting Miss Trees to agree the work required and would proceed subject to it being within the agreed budget.

20/084 Planning

- There had been no applications or decisions received since the last meeting, but it was understood that Application 20/00270/FUL Dinsdale Golf Club proposed shop etc had been approved by Darlington BC.
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- G Crute gave a brief summary of the ground for refusal identified by the Inspector relating to the Appeal against planning permission refusal in respect of Application 19/00834/FUL. It is understood that the applicant will possibly re-apply in 5 years time.
- DBC Local Plan, G Crute had written to Darlington BC confirming that as Neasham PC comments on the previous plan had been incorporated into the updated plan, we had no further comment.
- A planning application has been submitted to Darlington BC for a proposed traveller development for 5 units adjacent Neasham and Burma roads. Members felt the application was un-necessary as there was a 5 year supply of traveller sites. Concern was also expressed over the existing site and whether it had been expanded without permission. There had been complaints from parishioners. Whilst Darlington BC are the only organisation with the power to instigate enforcement, one member felt it was important that Neasham PC write setting out it's stance on the sites. G Crute agreed to investigate the planning applications of both in order to establish the position and whether any objection could be lodged against the latest application and whether work had been carried out without permission on the existing site.

20/085 Risk Management

- The quarterly risk management report was presented which showed 5No defects remaining open.
- Scheduled inspections due in September (Village Green and Trees) had been carried out. Inspection of flower tubs will be carried out as tubs emptied in October.
- The informal list of volunteers was reviewed and following a by D Dodwell regarding flood wardens, it was agreed that the Chair would write to the EA to clarify the position of the wardens. 1 Person added to the list.

20/086 Finance.

- The quarterly finance report was presented which showed the balance at 30 September in the current account to be £7984.57 (less un-presented cheques = £7212.61)
- Approved payments made in September: Skipbridge Signs (Safety Signs) £210.00. M Harrison (Underpin seat) £25.00, Wel Medical (Defibrillator Pads) £46.69, J Walker Expenses (Zoom and paper) £22.94, J Walker (Salary) £421.12) ,HMRC (PAYE) £105.20).
- The clerk's suggestion that the Salary Scales for 2020/1 issued by NALC should not be implemented in current financial year was rejected.
- New website. The clerk reported that the designer was making satisfactory progress and the first draft issued, which was impressive. Some clarifications had been requested, which were resolved and the final draft will be issued in the near future.
- G Crute had been unable to attend NALC course on 28/09/20, it was agreed the approval could be rolled over.
- The clerk reminded members that the amount of the precept had to be submitted to DBC in December and if they had any items that had a cost implication, they should raise them at the November meeting.

20/087 Ward Councillor Matters.

- The ward councillors had no issues to raise.

20/088 Correspondence

- All as listed in the agenda with no issues raised by the members.

20/089 Other Village Matters

- L Tostevin reported that she not received an update on the installation of broadband in the village, however the Chair stated that he had heard unofficially that fibreoptic cabling had already been run through to the cabin near the village and draw lines have been placed in the underground ducts to pull the cables. D Dodwell queried if it was worth asking for confirmation from Openreach of this. L Tostevin also reported that she was awaiting a statement on the subject from Tees Valley Combined Authority. G Crute stated that he had been investigating the Gigabit Broadband Voucher scheme and he had intended to suggest a survey of the village to assess broadband speeds to provide evidence for a campaign, however in view of the above he would defer his suggestion for a month.
- P Dunn reported that the flowers in the wedding cake had been removed and the rest shortly and would carry out the inspections at the same time.
- A request by G Conlin on behalf of Liz to return the old defibrillator pads to NEAS was agreed.
- Morrisons Trust had circulated a "flyer" regarding assistance for villagers affected by Covid and a proposal by D Dodwell to display them on the village notice boards was agreed.
- It was agreed not to complete the MHCLG "Right to Contest" survey as it was not relevant to Neasham.

20/090 Date of next meeting

Monday 2 November 2020 at **6.30pm**.

The meeting concluded at 7.45pm

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed(Chair) Date02/11/2020

