

## 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 July 6 at 7.00pm (held remotely via Zoom).

**Present:** Councillors G Conlin, G Crute, D Dodwell, P Dunn, J Grainger, K Sandick, J Weighell (Chair), Ward Councillor L Tostevin, J Walker (Clerk).

**Apologies:** E Miller (Working) were accepted.

**20/038** J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

### **20/039 Declarations of interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **20/040 Minutes of the last meetings.**

It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on June 1 and the Emergency Meeting June 18 are a correct record. It was agreed that a clarification raised by L Tostevin did not require an amendment.

### **20/041 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.**

**19/006 -Public Bus Services:** The Chair reported that the Flexibus service appeared to be going well. G Crute queried whether any statistics were available on usage which would be useful in deciding the Neasham PC future approach on transport issues. The Chair stated that when the colleges re-open this would dramatically affect numbers and it was agreed to defer any decisions until then.

### **20/042 PACT Report.**

No meeting had been held and no crimes recorded.

### **20/043 Roads and footpaths.**

- Darlington BC were monitoring the issue of spring water seeping up through the tarmac on Neasham Hill. The traffic lights set up in that area were related to the repairs to a boundary wall to DBC which was scheduled to last two weeks. Because of the difficulty of gaining access and egress to his property these lights caused, a local parishioner queried when the work would be completed. The Chair agreed to contact P. Ibbotson (DBC Highways) on the issue.
- The water board had attended to the leak near 67/9 Teesway and patched the road, however water is still leaking from an adjacent stop valve cover. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.
- The tyres fly tipped on the side of the road to Low Dinsdale were still there, L Tostevin had reminded Street Scene of the problem earlier. **Post Meeting:** DBC informed L Tostevin that they would send their team back to remove the tyres. The builder's rubble deposited up Sockburn Lane has now been removed.
- A meeting had been held between J Weighell, G Conlin and Martin Ash (Enforcement Officer) regarding parking on pavements who advised that it was not illegal to park on pavements, however D Dodwell felt it was illegal to obstruct the pavement and that the police could enforce this. It was felt that the installation of bollards may provide a solution, the Clerk to contact P Ibbotson (DBC Highways) on the matter.

### **20/044 Environment Agency Matters.**

- The Chair had written a stern letter to Terry Robson complaining about the lack of response to previous correspondence, which finally did prompt a response from him explaining that the virus had disrupted their work and also that he was no longer the Asset Manager, but he would contact the staff now responsible and request that they contact us. G Crute explained that a meeting was needed with the Environment Agency to clarify the necessity of additional fencing and other safety measures adjacent Kent Beck as it could affect the Village Green Risk Assessment and identify any particular risk that needs bringing to the attention of the insurers and that both contacts should be followed up. In addition the Chair agreed to contact the EA Community Engagement Officer (Anna Caygill) on the subject.
- It was stated that no response had been received in respect of the Freedom of Information request for risk assessments submitted May 19 2020.
- It was resolved to proceed with the purchase of a flotation device, G Crute agreed to provide a specification for the Clerk to place an order.

### **20/045 Village Green.**

- A decision was deferred in respect of the dedication on the flagpole.

- A letter was sent to John Ryan thanking him for his donation in replacing the damaged goalpost.
- The lockable bollards to the village green access have been added to the Asset Register as a donation.
- Application by L Blundell for holding weekly pilates classes on the village green was approved.
- The Chair stated that due to the bad weather it had not been possible to take down the Christmas lights and consequently were damaged. The Chair had ordered replacement lights at a cost of £90 (including Value added tax).

#### **20/046 Planning.**

- There had been no applications or decisions received since the last meeting, however it was understood that an application No 20/00316/LBC for a porch/canopy to the rear of 18 Teesway had been submitted. **Post Meeting:** Councillor Tostevin confirmed that this had been approved by DBC on July 1.
- G Crute reported that the Neasham PC response to the Appeal in respect of application No 19/00834/OUT had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate within the deadline and it could take 3 to 4 months for a decision. DBC are tracking it through their portal which may indicate any movement.

#### **20/047 Risk Management.**

- All scheduled Inspections April/May/June had been completed. The quarterly Risk Management Report was approved, 2 outstanding defects were referred to other authorities for remedial action.
- The revised Village Green Public Safety Risk Assessment, a response from the EA was awaited before finalising.
- The question of social distancing along the embankment was raised in particular in the area of the seats. The path is a single slab width and if anyone was sitting on the seat, then passers by have to leave the footpath and go along the grass embankment which could be dangerous, there was also a problem with cyclists forcing people off the path, although it is the Teesdale Way, it may be possible to display “no cycling signs”, but enforcement could be an issue. Early in the pandemic Neasham PC had fixed warning signs to the seats rather than remove them. Relocating the seats is not a viable option. It was agreed that G Crute would prepare a “Covid-19” risk assessment and also a new sign for fixing to the seats.
- G Crute reported that it appears that little tree maintenance work would be required in Sept/Oct and it was agreed, that as the cost would be less than £150, to order it under the Chairs delegated authority.
- It was agreed not to replace the dead tree in the tub at Kent Bridge, but to plant up with flowers.

#### **20/048 Finance.**

- The accounts for the year 2019/20 had been posted on the website and the period of Exercise of Public Rights of Inspection advertised as June 22 to July 31.
- The Certificate of Exemption has been sent to the external auditors (Mazars).
- Approved payments made in June:- Zoom (Pro membership) £14.39 (including £2.40 non-recoverable VAT), Clerk £421.12 (Salary), HMRC £105.20 (PAYE.), Lights4 Fun £90.00 (Christmas Lights), G Crute £6.70 (Postage), Imelectrical £17.99 (Trolley replacement wheels).
- The Clerk’s salary has been moved one point to SCP 8 as Neasham PC letter August 13 2019.
- Copy of the Finance Report to 30<sup>th</sup> June as circulated

#### **20/049 Ward Councillor Matters.**

G Conlin reported that a lamp post in New Lane had been broken off and was taped up and that he had contacted DBC to enquire when it would be replaced and was informed that they were waiting a spare part to repair it, which was not satisfactory. L Tostevin agreed to follow up. **Post meeting note:** DBC informed L Tostevin that the post would be replaced on the July 20.

#### **20/050 Correspondence.**

- Website Accessibility. Clerk advised the meeting that he needs external input to carry out the basic check and was making enquires. D Dodwell agreed to speak to P Allan.
- The Chair had responded to Alan McNab regarding his query on Neasham PC tree surveys.
- Noted that NALC had circulated an updated Model Code of Conduct for Councillors for consultation

#### **20/051 Other Village Matters.**

- The defibrillator pads have been replaced, next set due for replacement in September (To order August).
- G Conlin queried when “face to face” meetings could be resumed, it was agreed to review in 6 weeks time.
- P Dunn proposed a motion of thanks to M Townsend, whom had recently passed away, for all his services on behalf of Neasham PC and which were much appreciated. This was unanimously agreed.

#### **20/052 Date of next meeting**

Monday September 7 2020 at **6.30pm.** The meeting concluded at 8.25pm

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed .....(Chair) Date .....07/09/2020

*Edited to Comply With Website Accessibility Regulations*