

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary meeting held 7 December at 6.30pm (held remotely via Zoom).

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

Apologies: Belated apologies were received from J Grainger (family matter).

20/106 J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting and it was agreed that the meeting could be recorded.

20/107 Declarations of interest.

A declaration of interest in agenda items was made by G Crute (Website) & G Conlin (18 New Lane).

20/108 Ward Councillor Matters.

The Chair agreed that as L Tostevin had to attend another meeting the agenda could be amended for her to present her reports earlier. Regarding the unauthorised development in Neasham Road, L Tostevin outlined the position and confirmed that Darlington BC Planning are dealing with the issue and have the matter fully in hand. On the question of broadband, L Tostevin stated that despite sending several emails regarding Neasham she had received no response. D Dodwell queried the work that Openreach had carried out recently and was confirmed it was the installation of underground ducting. It was also reported that the scheme that broadband could be installed for a payment of £4k was unrealistic as there were unseen additions. The Chair stated Openreach had committed to connect the village by 2021 and only option was to wait.

20/109 Minutes of the last meetings.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 2 November 2020 was confirmed a correct record subject to the words "the new entrance gates and" from item 20/099 (paragraph 4) being deleted. This was agreed.

20/110 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.

There were no matters arising .

20/111 PACT Report

No meeting had been held but several incidents had been recorded. The Chair reported two notorious criminals had been spotted and in the ensuing chase turned up Sockburn Lane and into the Wrightson estate where they abandoned their vehicle but were soon picked up by the following police vehicles and helicopter. In the other incident, two sets poachers were arrested in the same field by the same lone Officer, one near Cree Beck, followed by a gang of two parked in New Lane but heading towards Cold Comfort Farm.

20/112 Roads and footpaths

- There had been no progress made by Darlington BC in effecting repairs to 4 outstanding defects to road repairs. It was subsequently agreed that Defect Notice 20/001 (Neasham Hill) could be closed.
- A response had received from S Petch stating that he intended to take no action regarding the "confusing" signage around the New Lane Development. K Sandick felt that an extra sign to clarify the position was required. The Chair proposed that a sign be attached to an existing 100x100mm galvanised post by Neasham PC rather than respond to Darlington BC. A proposal by that the sign should read "Public Footpath to Dibdale Road" was agreed and also install "way marker" signs where possible.

20/113 Environment Agency Matters

- G Crute was happy with the work the EA had carried out, but had not received the Risk Assessment.

20/114 Village Green.

- The Chair reported that the wreath was excellent and had been obtained from Royal British Legion Two other wreaths had been laid independently by P Howell (MP) and P Barron (Lord Lieutenant). The wreaths have now been lifted and the Neasham PC one was in excellent condition and a proposal by the Chair to re-use it next year and make a donation to the RBL was approved.
- G Crute reported that the tree identity discs were not fixed due to other commitments, but shortly will be.
- G Crute reported that Miss Trees had carried out the maintenance work (including a hazel tree which had been difficult to remove), but there were still some minor items he would carry out. Clerk to remind Miss Trees that an invoice had been promised and was still awaited.
- The cost of the proposed wild meadow area next to the Kent Bridge, has been included in the budget.
- The Chair had sent an email to Street Scene thanking them for their excellent work over the year including cutting of the hedge towards Hurworth. Brian Graham appreciated the praise and will inform his staff.

20/115 Planning.

- Applications received since the last meeting – **None.**
- Decision notices received since last meeting – **None.**

- Update on possible breach of planning regs at 18 New Lane. The Chair had recommended that Joe (the complainant) and G Conlin should speak the neighbour, but they decided against this approach and Joe is now considering his options as to further action. It was agreed to close this as an agenda item.
- Update on unauthorised development by travellers has been reported on under item 20/108 (above).
- 2 Letters received from Darlington BC (Applications 20/00439/LBC and 20/00513/FUL) regarding alterations to previously approved applications for external works 4 & 5 The Hall, Dinsdale Park, Received less than 1 week before the Darlington BC planning committee. An email was sent to DBC advising them of the position, but no response received. As it was a variation and English Heritage involved, agreed no further Neasham PC action was necessary.

20/116 Risk Management.

- Scheduled inspections due in November (Pre-inspection of Xmas Lights) – carried out by the Chair.
- 1 Defect (20/008) raised and 2 closed (20/001 and 20/008) in November, 3 defects remain open.

20/117 Finance.

- The Clerk reported that a cheque in the sum of £107.45 issued to NALC to replace the one which went missing between themselves and their bank, has now been cashed and the original timed out.
- Approved payments made in November: Miss Trees – Tree maintenance (£260), British Legion (£50), Zoom (via J Walker) £14.39.
- Website. A Crute has progressed the new website as far as possible and there is a sub-committee meeting this Thursday to discuss points of detail and the date to go live. Draft accessibility documents and reports have been prepared. Further matters such as the extent of expense that is reasonable for Neasham PC to incur accommodating technical accessibility aids and an assessment of the numbers of parishioners likely to benefit can be resolved after the site goes live.
- The clerk presented an amended budget supported by an interim finance report to the end of November. The budget for the year 2021/22 allowed for the closure of the grass cutting reserve of which £1000 would be used a for a contribution to costs of the communal seating area the balance would be transferred to the general reserve. The precept for 2021/22 was agreed at £8034 which is no increase on 2020/21. The clerk confirmed that the monthly Zoom costs were included under the general contingency items of the report.
- The proposal to replace D Dodwell by J Grainger on bank accounts, should be instigated immediately.

20/118 Ward Councillor Matters.

- C Chou reported on Darlington Memorials's plans to roll out the Covid 19 vaccination program which will be administered from the hospital due to the limited availability of suitable deep freeze storage facilities, but as and when other vaccines become available then this would allow it to be rolled out more widely.

20/119 Correspondence.

- All as listed in the agenda with no issues raised by the members.
- An email from a Nicola Atkins from Neasham Covert enquiring about allotments was deleted because of the strange nature of the email, it was felt it may some sort of scam. On a similar issue the Chair stated that he had requests from two villagers enquiring about availability of the Hurworth allotments which he had forwarded to P Allen but had not had any response. K Sandick stated he understood that P Allen had contacted them direct asking them to apply to HurworthPC and would check.

20/120 Other Village Matters.

- The Chair reported that there was good news over Teesside Airport. Although they had incurred a trading loss of £2M, the new departure lounge was now finished and additional airlines were flying out of there. These included Ryanair, TUI Holidays, Eastern, Logan, Jersey, Balkan Holidays and possibly EasyJet
- It was confirmed that K Sandick will take over as Vice Chair when D Dodwell confirms his date of resignation.
- The Chair thanked Keith and Terry for putting up the Christmas decorations.
- P Dunn reported that they had received a complaint from a parishioner regarding cars parking on the service road causing wheel chair users to cross the road. G Crute advised that this part of the service road had been adopted by the Local Authority but were unlikely to take any enforcement. Cars were also parking on the footpath and damaging the grass verges. It was agreed to report any incidents to the Chair who would speak to the party involved.

20/121 Date of next meeting

Monday 1 February 2021 at **6.30pm**. The meeting concluded at 7.30pm

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed(Chair) Date01/02/2021