

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of **Neasham Parish Council meeting** held October 7 2019 at 6.30pm in Neasham Reading Room.

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

Apologies: Apologies from G Conlin, (illness), G Crute (holiday), J Grainger (working), C Chou (holiday).

19/077 J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

19/078 Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

19/079 Minutes of the last meetings

It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on the September 2 2019 are a correct record.

19/080 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.

- **19/006 Re- Routing of No 12 Bus.** The survey on public transport requirement conducted throughout the parish had been completed with an excellent return rate of 66%. The results were analysed in detail by G and H Crute which showed there was strong support within the village for improvements to the public transport, but understandably little support in the outlying areas. Therefore at the sub-committee on September 18 2019 it was agreed to drop proposals for an alternate route via Brasscastle and pursue a request for a short diversion into the village with two possible turning points being considered. It was reported that there was no review of transport for Hurworth and Neasham scheduled in October. However it was agreed to take up Councillor Paul Howell's (DBC) invitation to meet with Neasham PC to discuss transport matters, J Weighell, G Crute and D Dodwell to attend. It was also agreed to invite Tom Bryant (Tees Valley Combined Authority Head of Transport). Meeting to be scheduled when availability known. The Chair recorded his thanks to H and G Crute for their hard work on the questionnaire.
- The draft letter to Paul Howell and Heather Scott regarding the Tees Valley Combined Authority Strategic Transport Plan had been approved at the transport sub-committee held on September 18 and posted.

19/081 PACT Report.

There were no crimes recorded in Neasham last month. A police task force was out the previous night.

19/082 Roads and footpaths.

- Following the complaints from several villagers regarding the disruption caused by the lorries collecting chickens at all hours of the day, the Chair contacted Trevor Dent (the farmer) to advise him of the concerns raised and request that he explore all avenues to reduce the disruption. It was stated that welfare regulations only allow the chicken to be in a lorry for a maximum of 2 hours and that once a cycle starts it requires a flow of lorries at 1.5 hourly intervals. Mr Dent passed these concerns on to the collection company. Their reply stated that all the drivers will be warned to minimise any disruption.
- Neasham PC had complained to Darlington BC regarding the poor state of Sockburn Lane after recent repairs had been carried out. DBC responded by stating that it was regularly inspected for defects and had been earmarked for possible re-surfacing in next years Highways program.
- Cars parking on footpath adjacent 30 Teesway. The Chair reported that he had contacted Darlington BC again to see if they would be prepared to install steel posts in the path. Unfortunately they were not prepared to do so as their investigations showed that the minimum requirement of 1m for a footpath to be considered passable was being complied with.

19/083 Environment Agency Matters.

The Chair reported that the idea of putting out signs advising of possible flooding had been abandoned, however G Crute was concerned that Neasham PC may be sued if any member of the public fell in. The suggestion of providing a permanent lifebelt was rejected as it would soon be vandalised. A suggestion to provide a fence along a section of the floodbank was also rejected as it would not be acceptable to the Environment Agency. It was agreed the Chair and G Crute would prepare a risk assessment.

19/084 Village Green.

- It was reported that tree works would be carried out by Miss Trees on the October 23 and this would include cutting back the Leylandii hedge around the pump house to a manageable height. It was also agreed that G Crute should research for the setting up of contracts for it's future maintenance.
- The Chair reported that the horse chestnut tree had developed canker disease, however it could live for a further 10 years before needing to be felled. It's condition would be closely monitored.

- The Clerk reported that after consultation with G Crute and our insurers, they both considered that the risk of our trees causing injury or damage to third parties was minimal, however we should ensure that we comply with any conditions that could affect the indemnity. CAME and Co stated that they would normally recommend inspections by an arboriculturist, but that was not mandatory if Neasham PC were satisfied with their inspection and regime.
- There is an old timber flower tub outside 32 Teesway that is in a poor condition and is privately owned by No 34. Will be checked with the end of season flower tub inspection. The Chair recorded his thanks to Paul, Pam and others for an outstanding display throughout the year.
- Christmas tree lights to be switched on December 1, the Chair reported that John Alderton could no longer help in putting up the lights and a request to pay M Harrison for 2 hours to assist K Sandick was approved.

19/085 Planning.

- Applications received since last meeting:-
19/00733/FUL Cold Comfort Farm – Extensions to South and West Elevations **NO COMMENT.**
- Decisions received since last meeting:- **NONE.**

19/086 Risk Management.

- The scheduled inspection of trees due in September has been deferred until after the tree works have been carried out in October. Other inspections scheduled for October were planters and the Millennium Garden and it was agreed that in future the Millennium Garden inspection should be carried out by P Dunn when inspecting the planters.
- There were no defects outstanding, however the Chair noted that the broken shale bed to Millennium Garden required topping up. K Sandick agreed to provide 4 bags at cost.
- Flood Alert Monitoring Procedures. G Crute reported that the Environment Agency website monitoring posts were incompatible with our procedures and therefore this approach was abandoned and we were to revert back to the previous Neasham PC procedures. J Wieghehl and G Crute to prepare new risk assessment.

19/087 Finance.

- The following payments had been made since the last meeting:- Clerk £413.32 (Salary and expenses) HMRC £103.40 (PAYE), NS&I £1235 (Transfer to saving account). Further payments (previously approved) anticipated in October:- Miss Trees £520 (Tree maintenance), H Crute £145.57 (Survey Costs).
- A Value Added Tax refund of £939.32 was received from HMRC principally in relation to the new speed signs.
- A preliminary draft budget had been issued for input by the members. It was resolved to increase the tree maintenance allowance to £1000. Finance Report to September 30 issued for clarification on the draft budget.
- A revised edition of the Financial Regulations had been prepared and as Brexit could have a further impact it was agreed to leave further review until after October 31 2019. All members to approve before issue.

19/088 Ward Councillor Matters.

L Tostevin was meet to BT next week to discuss their plans for the roll out of high speed broadband. In response to a query to the criteria for it to be a requirement for any new development, D Dodwell to raise the issue with Dave Coates at their meeting on October 31 2019.

19/089 Correspondence.

- Tees Valley Combine Authority Small Sparks Fund. There were no suggestions proposed on which to base an application. It was agreed to leave issue open until the closing date of November 15 2019 .

19/090 Other Village Matters.

- The Chair had attended the Airport Consultative Committee meeting where it had been reported that there had been a 14.2% increase in passengers, it was hoped that Amazon would use the airport and requests made to amend the airport name on road signage.
- Swarco had finally returned to site and replaced the defective part. Both units now working correctly.
- A complain by a resident that the Newbus loop path had been closed by the angling club had been forwarded to S Petch (DBC) who confirmed that it was not a right of way. The resident was informed.
- G Conlin and G Crute to attend the presentation by Darlington Association of Parish Councils and Dave Coates on planning issues on October 31 2019.

19/091 Date of next meeting

Monday November 4 2019 at 6.30pm. The meeting concluded at 7.45pm

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed(Chair) Date04/11/2019

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