

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of **Neasham Parish Council meeting** held September 7 at 6.30pm (held remotely via Zoom)

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

Apologies: No apologies were presented.

20/062 J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

20/063 Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

20/064 Minutes of the last meetings

It was confirmed that the minutes of the Neasham PC meetings held on the 6 and 27 July are a correct record.

20/065 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.

19/006 -Public Bus Services: Road closures had affected the No 12 service and it was rumoured that a contraflow system was to be introduced with a change of direction for alternative buses. It was noted that this had been rejected previously as bus stops would be on the wrong side of the road. D Dodwell felt that there was no need to continue lobbying for this bus to turn into Neasham, as villagers were happy with the Flexibus service, which would be there for 2 years and two extra buses had been ordered.

20/066 PACT Report.

No meeting had been held, one crime reported attempted break into a garage.

20/067 Roads and footpaths.

- Although the issue of spring water seeping up through the tarmac on Neasham Hill is not as great as earlier in the year, it was agreed that the defect remains open until Darlington BC carry out investigation works.
- Obstruction of footpaths near access points to the embankment continues to be a problem, although it is not currently illegal members felt it should be deterred by the installation of bollards, however it was agreed not to approach Darlington BC at the moment as they were inundated with other roadworks.
- Road closures on Neasham Road had been implemented in August and the re-surfacing works carried out.
- K Sandick reported that he not received a reply from S Petch in response to his earlier email regarding the confusing signage on the New Lane development and would send a reminder. There was also an ambiguity regarding signs in respect of control of dogs and the fact that some persons were deliberately leaving the gate open. E Miller reported that such developments were not permitted in an adjacent parish, however that with regards to this development it was pointed out that although DBC did not approve it initially, they do not have a problem with it, provided the public had full access through. The situation regarding the waste bin area outside the gates had been resolved with council vehicles having the access codes.
- The damaged light standard in New Lane had been replaced and was again in working order.
- The crumbling tarmac in the layby outside 77 Teesway had been reported to DBC who issued a job number, as yet the work is outstanding.
- D Dodwell reported that he had sent an email to Darlington BC complaining about a noisy manhole cover and lamp standard permanently switched on in Dibdale Road. DBC had arrived on site the same morning, but his complaint was ongoing. Although DBC had given an order to a subcontractor they had not turned up to carry out the work.
- L Tostevin had forwarded the complaint from B Pickersgill regarding the condition of the road to Low Dinsdale to P Ibbotson (DBC) who had agreed to one repair and may agree to others after the next fortnightly inspection.
- G Conlin reported that the road from Neasham Covert and the bank itself were in great need of repair. L Tostevin agreed to take up the matter with DBC.

20/068 Environment Agency Matters.

- The Chair & G Crute had a site meeting with representatives of the Environment Agency (A Haley & B Hird). G Crute reported that we now had a full disclosure from our Freedom Of Information request and it appears that their Risk Assessment had not included the lowest section of Kent Beck. The EA argued that there was no need to construct a fence at the top of the embankment, but would not object should Neasham PC wish to install it themselves, however this was rejected by Neasham PC on the grounds that if it was too steep to cut then it could not be safe for the public. EA would consult further with their managers on this issue. The members felt it was important to demonstrate Neasham PC were raising risk issues with the EA, even if not empowered to execute the mitigation measures. EA agreed to confirm what they were doing and provide contact details. G

Crute will provide his notes on these discussions.

- The Chair stated that the EA had done nothing to eradicate moles to river bank. The Chair to chase up.

20/069 Village Green.

- Flagpole – no decision on dedication, however it was agreed that the Union flag should be flown as respect of national commemorations. Either the Neasham PC or NHS flag should be hoisted at other times.
- The seat from the Fox and Hounds had been relocated to the Millennium Gardens and it was agreed that consideration could be given to making this a focal point in next year's budget.
- The Covid and safety signs in respect of Kent Keck were now installed. It also was to agreed attach small number plates to each of the 10 seats for ease of identification.
- The life saving device had been installed. A motion that the Neasham PC contact details should be marked on it for identification and return should it be used and washed downstream, was agreed.
- G Crute reported that there were some minor tree maintenance works that he could carry out, but there are some works which would need a contractor in November.

20/070 Planning.

- Applications received since the last meeting:-
20/00513/FUL Units 4 & 5 The Hall Dinsdale Park - External Works (**APPROVED Emergency Committee**).
20/00599/FUL Former Coach House, Neasham Abbey – Conversion (**APPROVED Emergency Committee**). It was queried whether the response should have been “no comment”, but agreed no alteration required.
- Decisions received since last meeting:-*None*.
- It was reported that Appeal against planning permission refusal for 5 Houses off New Lane (Application 19/00834/FUL) had been dismissed (**Post Meeting Note**: G Crute had received a copy of the Inspectors Report which was circulated to the members).
- NALC had circulated a series of consultation documents on the proposed reforms to planning system requesting response from local councils, G Crute had produced a detailed set of notes to assist members. It was felt that any response from Neasham PC would have little impact and agreed not to respond.
- Darlington BC consultation on Local Plan. G Crute advised that very little had changed to the document that he had reported on 2 years ago, however it was noted that the Local Authority would have to review the land allocated for development every 5 years, with other being safeguarded. As there was very little difference to matters affecting Neasham PC it was agreed there was no need to respond further.
- G Crute had been asked to manage planning arrangements, but while he was more that happy to offer guidance, he felt there was an onus on all members to be directly involved in the debate. A discussion followed on the planning applications for which a return of comments to DBC was required before the next Neasham PC meeting, in addition it was pointed out that the informal emergency planning group would need to be formalised in order to be compliant. It was agreed to revert to the old system with the clerk required to request an extension to the return date if necessary.

20/071 Risk Management.

- There were no Scheduled Inspections due for the months July and August.
- 2 Defect notices were raised in July/August and the remedial works now carried out.
- The village green Public Safety Risk Assessment was approved at the July 27 meeting and mitigation measures implemented.
- Informal list of volunteers to be circulated to the members, it was agreed to review the list quarterly.

20/072 Finance.

- Approved payments made in July/August:- Zoom (Pro membership) £14.39, M Harrison £60.00 (Relocate seat), M Harrison £25.00 (Relocate post), Glasdon UK £301.30 (Lifebelt), Zoom (Pro membership) £14.39, J Weighell (Micro, timber, screws) £41.36, Skipbridge Signs (Safety Signs) £180.
- CAME & Co agreed to omit the £50 arrangement fee, therefore their revised invoice of £359.28 has been paid as agreed at the 27 July meeting, this includes an increased valuation for street furniture.
- Website Accessibility an order has been placed with AC Media to design a new website at a cost of £500 plus hosting and domain registration
- Expenditure of £30 cost for G Crute to attend NALC virtual course on 28/09/20 was approved.

20/073 Ward Councillor Matters.

- L Tostevin reported that she had been contacted by Mrs Bell (Orchard Cattery) who was objecting to plans for a Caravan & Camping Club CL site for touring caravans in a field to the rear of the cattery and was not aware of any planning application. Although planning permission is not required, but Caravan & Camping Club were no longer interested in the site.
- There had been no further information issued on the roll out of high speed broadband

20/074 Correspondence

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

20/075 Other Village Matters.

- The Chair reported that he had participated in the Teesside International Airport Zoom meeting where it was reported that progress was going well with new flights to London and Southampton.
- The obligation to hold a parish assembly is removed and will only be held under safe conditions.
- P Dunn reported that the flowers in the tubs were past their best and would be taken up in a fortnight.
- G Conlin reported that new defibrillator pads had been purchased. G Conlin also reported that there had been some bonfires burning garden waste which upset the neighbours, however controlled burns are legal.

20/076 Date of next meeting

Monday October 5 2020 at **6.30pm.** The meeting concluded at 7.45pm

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed(Chair) Date05/10/2020

Edited to Comply With Website Accessibility Regulations