

## NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

(Copies of minutes and agendas are available on the website at: <http://www.neashamparishcouncil.co.uk>)

Minutes of the **Neasham Parish Council Annual Meeting** held on Wednesday May 8 2019 at 6:30 pm in Neasham Reading Room, Sockburn Lane.

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

Apologies: J Grainger, C Chou.

### **AM19/01 Minutes of the last meeting.**

It was confirmed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on May 8 2018 had been recorded as correct at the Parish Meeting held June 4 2018.

### **AM19/02 Chair's Annual Report.**

Councillor Weighell (Chair) presented his annual report for the year 2018/19. (copy attached). In response to a query by D Dodwell, it had been confirmed by an email from Darlington Borough Council that the posts for speed signs would be provided free of charge. G Crute advised that he had not been directly involved in General Data Protection Regulations preparations.

### **AM19/03 Any Questions.**

No questions

### **AM19/04 Election of Chair.**

J Weighell was proposed (by D Dodwell), seconded (by E Miller) and elected as Chair for 2019/20

### **AM19/05 Election of Vice Chair.**

D. Dodwell was proposed (by P Dunn), seconded (by G Conlin) and elected as Vice Chair for 2019/20

### **AM19/06 Appointments to Support the Chair in Risk Management.**

The following were proposed, seconded and elected to serve in the roles listed:-

- Asset Management. K Sandick was proposed (by D Dodwell) and seconded (by J Weighell).
- Business Management. J Grainger was proposed (by G Conlin) and seconded (by D Dodwell).
- Risk Management. G Crute was proposed (by D Dodwell) and seconded (by J Weighell).

### **AM19/07 Date of next meeting.**

Provisionally set at Tuesday May 5 2020 at 6:30pm The meeting concluded at 7.00pm.

## APPENDIX A

### Chair's annual report 2018/2019.

Councillors, another year of achievement for Neasham Parish Council.

At the beginning of the year we had a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and we co-opted and welcomed Geoffrey Conlin who has made good input to date.

Following request from parishioners for a defibrillator and speed warning indicator signs at the last Annual parish assemblies, we have this year successfully installed both in the village.

We had quite a worrying time at the start of the year with the introduction and adoption of GDPR. I wish to thank Derek, Geoffrey and John for the efforts they put to understand the new legislation and adapt the necessary parts of it to make us compliant.

The defibrillator was installed on the front wall of the Fox and Hounds and Elizabeth Conlin kindly volunteered to be the guardian which entails weekly inspection and written report which she submits to

NHS. We extend our thanks to Liz for her efforts.

As we have very little police presence in the area, we decided that a possible solution to the speeding problem, which is high on everyone's agenda, was to install speed warning signs. We looked at various ways of funding these but decided that time was of essence and we decided that the only way to not let this drag on for years, was to include the cost in this years budget for them. After studying various brochures, we decided in Swarco signs which were installed and operational on the April 26. We extend our thanks to DBC Highways Department for installing the mounting posts and the power supply free of charge and to our clerk for his negotiations with Swarco and Highways to finalise it.

We now have an annual tree pruning rota in place and have further plans in place for at least four more to be done in the autumn.

The floral display was once again a credit to Neasham. Many thanks to Pam and all residents who helped in planting and maintaining these and also to John and Anne for their tireless work in the Millennium garden and the surrounding area.

The Christmas tree lighting was all changed this year. We decided to illuminate the Millennium garden instead of the old fir tree and to that end we had a new power supply installed and Councillor Sandick volunteered to take it on. He was given free hand to buy new coloured lights and white spotlights. I'm sure you will all agree that the result was outstanding and praised by all villagers. Our thanks also to Tony Ireson who installed cables and sockets and tested free of charge.

Last year, to mark the centenary of the end of WW1, a joint programme between the Parish Council and the Reading Room Committee was arranged with a week long display of items relating to wartime which was a great success and finished with wreath laying and poppy placing by adults and children alike. Many thanks to all who organised the entire programme.

We have had numerous planning applications during the year but the most controversial one was the Gladman application for 260 houses in the parish which was rejected by DBC but Gladman launched an appeal which was later withdrawn. Nearly all other applications met with our approval.

The Environment Agency completed works to the various steps along the riverbank walkway, replacing some and removing two which were little used and no longer needed. Various signage has been installed by both the EA and ourselves warning of the dangers near a watercourse.

We now have several people who are dedicated litter pickers covering all roads surrounding the village. It is a pleasure to drive along such spotless roads. One volunteer single handedly picked the full length of the bypass to Morrisons roundabout and several other villagers can be seen clearing litter around the area. I wish to thank them all but don't want to name them in case I miss anyone but our thanks to you all. Well done.

We record our thanks to Joe Kelley who decided not to stand as a ward councillor this time. Thank you Joe for all your help during the past eight years and also many thanks to Lorraine for her prompt attention to our requests for help.

At the recent elections we were all returned unopposed. Lorraine was re-elected as Ward Councillor along with Christy Chou who we extend a warm welcome to this evening. I understand that Lorraine achieved the highest number of votes in all contestants in the elections for which we congratulate her.

Finally, I wish to thank our Clerk, and all fellow Councillors and Ward councillors for your help, guidance and support throughout the year.

Councillor John Weighell

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