

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 May 8 2019 at 6.30pm in Neasham Reading Room.

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

Apologies: Apologies from J Grainger (on holiday) and C Chou (Prior Commitment) were accepted.

19/016 J Weighell welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

19/017 Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

19/018 Minutes of the last meetings

It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on April 1 2019 were a correct record.

19/019 Matters Arising from Ward and Parish Council Elections Held on May 2 2019.

- Persons elected to serve on the Neasham Parish Council in an uncontested election were:- G Crute, D Dodwell, P Dunn, J Grainger, E Miller, K Sandick, J Weighell (Chair), G. Conlin
- Elected to represent the Hurworth Ward on Darlington Borough Council were L Tostevin, C Chou
- All members signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form (except J Grainger on holiday) which were countersigned by the Clerk. J Grainger to complete the form prior to participating in Neasham PC activities.
- All members completed the Register of Members Interest Form except J Grainger who will be requested to ensure that it is completed within the 28 day period from taking up office on May 6.
- Two Election Expenses Forms were outstanding (J Grainger and K Sandick) and these must be returned to Darlington BC within 28 days from the election date of May 2.
- The new councillor training session by DBC on June 10 included on the Agenda for the June meeting.

19/020 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports.

- **19/006 Re- Routing of No 12 Bus.** The Chair reported that Arriva and the police had visited the location of the suggested bus stop adjacent Neasham Abbey and both ruled out that location for use as a bus stop (whether official or unofficial) as an accident was almost inevitable. L Tostevin reported that there would be a review of the service in October and Neasham PC should submit any new proposals in time for that review. A suggestion by G Crute that the route of the return to Hurworth should be alternated between Neasham Road OR via Middleton St George, Brass Castle, Dibdale Road and Neasham, which received a favourable response. It was also agreed to table a proposal to carry out some form of canvassing with regards to potential usage, although it was accepted that the current lack of residents at Hurworth Springs would influence findings. Consideration should also be given to diverting funding from the Monday No 20 service to a more viable alternative. It was agreed to formulate these suggestions into a formal proposal at a future meeting.

19/021 PACT Report.

J Weighell reported that there had been a complaint about 3 youths and parent begging in the village. It transpires that they were raising funds for a charity which totalled £275. Andy Cusick has been appointed Police Community Support Officer.

19/022 Roads and footpaths.

- J Weighell reported that Darlington BC were still awaiting the electricity board to arrange a power outage in order to carry out the removal of dead chestnut trees at Low Dinsdale.

19/023 Environment Agency Matters.

- The Chair stated that there was nothing to report except that they had trimmed the river bank and verges destroying the spring wild flowers. G Crute reported that the Environment Agency had fixed one of their signs on the wall which had been the agreed location for the Neasham PC parking sign. There was no room for the Neasham PC sign and as a consequence of this people were parking across the entrance. The Neasham PC sign was ready to be fixed but no available location, G Crute agreed to write to the Environment Agency advising them that this was in contradiction to our agreement.

19/024 Village Green.

- The "Do Not Drive Over the Grass" sign installed by the Chair to protect flower beds was vandalised the next day. A concerned villager was observed replacing it and has remained insitu since then.
- It was agreed that the motion to provide 6 "Keep off Grass" signs (**Minute 18/153**) should be rescinded

as it left Neasham PC open to potential claims for any damage.

- Following complaints regarding weedkilling to Street Scene, Brian Graham (Head of Dept) had visited site and subsequently ordered the re-seeding of affected areas, which has now been carried out.

19/025 Planning.

- Applications received since last meeting:-
19/00275/LBC Neasham Hill House Internal Alterations – **APPROVED.**
- Decisions received since last meeting:- **NONE.**

19/026 Risk Management.

- Flowers tubs scheduled inspection will be completed when planted up. 1 Defect raised in month.
- Quarterly Risk Management Report (to March 31 2019) shows 2 defects outstanding both of which were referred to external authorities. 1 defect (repairs to pumphouse roof) raised in April was closed
- The draft “All-Risks” Check prepared by the Clerk in consultation with the Risk Management Officer and other available information, had been previously circulated to the members, and it was resolved that this should be accepted as a true and accurate record of the comments and responses to the questions raised
- Clerk to clarify with insurer an apparent ambiguity in Pump House address on the Insurance schedule.

19/027 Finance

- It is noted that the sum of £9035 had been received from Darlington BC in respect of the Precept 2019/20 and £162.78 received from HMRC in respect of value added tax VAT reclaim 2018/19.
- Payments of £106.58 CLCA membership, £26.99 McAfee antivirus, £5112 Swarco speed signs, Neasham Reading Rooms £120 room hire were approved. It was also agreed to renew the Spanglefish licence £29.95, however the Clerk was instructed to query with them as whether their website complied with The Public Sector Bodies (Website and Mobile) Applications (No 2) Accessibility Regulations.
- The Annual Accounts for the year 2018/19 were approved and had been audited by P.Allen
- The Annual Governance and Accountability 2018/19 and Certificate of Exemption of External Audit were approved and the dates for the 30 days of the Exercise of Public Rights were set as June 10 to July 19 2019.
- The clerk’s appraisal had been carried out and amendments to the clerk’s salary as Resolutions 1a, 1b, 1c 1d and 2 (as attached) were accepted, except proposal 1d. The proposal to raise the Clerk’s allowance for general petty expenses to £200 per annum was amended to £120 and therefore agreed.
- The Clerk requested approval to move monies (ring fenced and proportion of general reserve) from the current account and it was agreed to monitor the position in the short term

19/028 Ward Councillor Matters.

- LTostevin nothing to report, except there should be no disruption to services due to change in control of Darlington BC.

19/029 Correspondence.

- Emails listed under this heading were generally for information only not requiring any resolution.
- In view of the correspondence regarding the condition of the temporary diversion around the New Lane Development, S Petch (Darlington BC Right of Way Officer) had revisited site and had confirmed that it was acceptable as it was a right of way not a public footpath. One parishioner had been under the misguided impression were to be a permanent feature and not just temporary site protection.
- G Crute requested access to the NALC website, the clerk to follow this up. A recent issue was “A Guide to CIL” setting out benefits to parish councils over the S106. Under CIL parish councils would receive a set %, unlike the S106 system operated by DBC where Neasham PC have not received any monies at all. D Dodwell agreed for Darlington Association of Parish Councils to undertake a review in supporting change and asked L Tostevin to invite the leader of DBC to the next meeting.

19/030 Other Village Matters.

- At the Durham Tees Valley Airport consultation meeting held on April, 3 Ben Houchen gave an informative presentation on the take over of the airport with Stobart being awarded the contract to operate the airport, also hoped a major airline will be attracted there. No significant increase in flights expected until next year.
- The Parish Assembly next week, H Crute had drafted a “flyer”, printed by K Sandick and will be delivered at all households in the next two days. P Dunn volunteered to organise refreshments.
- Speed Warning signs are now operational, minor adjustments required and User Manual awaited from Swarco prior to signing off. Signs to be added to the inspection regime and risk assessments reviewed.

19/031 Date of next meeting.

Monday June 3 2019 at 6.30pm. The meeting concluded at 7.55pm

CONFIRMED AS A CORRECT RECORD AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Signed(Chair) Date03/06/2019

Edited to Comply With Website Accessibility Regulations
