

## **SACRISTON PARISH COUNCI**

# Minutes of the meeting held on the Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 Via Zoom at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs H. Dixon (Chair), E. Waldock (Vice Chair), S. Wilson, B. Smith, K Wilson, D. Robson, C Waggott, R. Sharp, E. Metcalfe, R

Harrison, H. Hubber and C. Wilson (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs L Claughan and G. Ludlow

| Item<br>No. | Subject                                       | Discussion and Decision  | Lead<br>Cllr (s) | Action/<br>Timescale |
|-------------|---|--|------------------|----------------------|
| 1.          | Introductions and<br>Apologies for<br>Absence | Chair opened the meeting @ 6.30pm and welcomed everyone.  Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs L Claughan and G. Ludlow  Cllr H Hubber joined the meeting at 7.14pm.   | HD               |                      |
| 2.          | Disclosure of<br>Interest from<br>Members     | None   |                  |                      |
| 3.          | Public Questions                              | <ul> <li>(Questions &amp; Comments from the public in attendance – max 5 mins per item/individual)</li> <li>Mr Kevin Wake – Education Plus</li> <li>Kevin Wake introduced himself and gave the Parish Council an insight into Education Plus. Questions were asked regarding the plans Education Plus have at Fyndoune School. Concerns were raised from residents in relation to the farmland. Mr Wake advised of the plans regarding the development of the farmland and informed the council of funding they had received in connection with this. Mr Wake advised he is happy to host an event at the school for members to attend.</li> </ul> | CW               |                      |

| 4. | Minutes of the   | Council meeting held on 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2020   |    |  |
|----|------------------|---|----|--|
|    | Previous Meeting | Minutes were then accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.  | HD |  |
| 5. | Police Matters   | PACT Report No Report received in time for the meeting.   | CW |  |
| 6. | Clerks Report    | Planning Applications  Mr Andrew Moralee of 17a Front Street, Sacriston, DH7 6LD - new shop front to existing retail unit (A1).  Mr John Smith of 17 Church Street, Sacriston, DH7 6JL - single storey side and rear extension  Mr Jahanshir davoudian-Beni of 7 Front Street, Sacriston, Durham, DH7 6LD - Proposed changes to shop front and new advertisement sign board.  Roadworks  B6312 - From Sacriston to A167, Tan Hills, Nettlesworth - 2 way lights - 13th - 23rd November - Northern Power Grid  B6532 - Front Street, Sacriston - Renew manhole cover and frame - 2 way lights to be controlled at peak times 7:00am to 9:30am and 3:30pm to 7:00pm on 26th November - Northumbrian Water  B6532 - Edmondsley Lane, Sacriston - New service connection, 2 way lights - 3rd to 8th December - Northern Gas Network | CW |  |

|    |          | Durham Cathedral   |     |  |
|----|----------|--|-----|--|
|    |          | Thanks very much for your donation, this is excellent news. Please convey our sincerest thanks to members of the Council.  |     |  |
|    |          | Once again, thanks for supporting the Cathedral, especially at this time. It has been with great sadness that we have once again suspended public worship and moved major events, such as our annual Service of Remembrance, online. |     |  |
|    |          | However, with good support from so many people, we are confident of a strong recovery in the years ahead, which will also enable the Cathedral to play its part in the cultural and commercial revival of the city and region.       |     |  |
|    |          | Sacriston Salvation Army Passed on thanks for donation.  |     |  |
|    |          | Email sent regarding two areas where tree planting will take place within the village.   |     |  |
|    |          | Cllr Smith has asked for copy of the minutes to be sent via post.  | CW  |  |
| 7. | In Bloom | Currently on hold.   | HD  |  |
|    |          | Cllrs Dixon and Robson carrying out repairs to the polytunnel by putting a new frame and door on. HD has purchased goods in connection with the repairs and will provide invoices for items purchased.                               |     |  |
|    |          | RESOLVED All agreed to reimburse Cllr Dixon costs for items purchased.   | ALL |  |
|    |          | Cllr Robson would like to pass thanks Graham Couzens for all of the hard work put in by him and his team in replacing all the bedding plants etc.  |     |  |
|    |          | RESOLVED It was agreed that Cllr Dixon would send correspondence to Graham on behalf of the Parish thanking him for his efforts.   | HD  |  |

| 8.  | Village Schools             | Nothing further to report.  | HD |  |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|----|--|
| 9.  | Parish Assets               | Bus Shelters – Nothing to report  Village Clock – Nothing to report   |    |  |
|     |                             | Parish Building – Nothing to report   |    |  |
| 10. | County Councillor's Reports | <ol> <li>Clir Simon Wilson Report</li> <li>Meals from Fulforth Centre - Heather and I will be putting in £999 to this from our small grants pot, this being available to utilise a lot more quickly.</li> <li>White Lines – the lines have gone down today.</li> <li>Crossleas - Still trying to get a date for the light</li> <li>Crosslane development - As sent out earlier in the month, there is now an investigation into whether persimmons are following the conditions of their planning approval.</li> <li>Christmas Lights - have managed to arrange the stress testing for 27th (by time of meeting should have an idea as to outcome, with LITE looking to install the week after the tests all being well), thank you to my Dad and Claire in helping to tie up the loose ends and get it to this point!</li> <li>Fyndoune - as seen the initial consultation has closed. I had a meeting with Olwyn Gunn and the education department due to the way things are running and trying to get community groups into the building and operating (such as Durham United). Basically, the education dept are saying that as the school won't officially be deregistered until March there can be no movement at this stage. I am in talks with Carl and Olwyn still though. Concerned how things have been left and communication is poor also regarding how Education Plus have now been given funding towards developing the farmland as this had not been mentioned previously when the parish registered interest in the farmland.</li> <li>Finally as this is the last meeting before Christmas, I'd like to wish everyone the best for Christmas and the New Year. This year has been unlike anything I've ever known and has thrown up some real challenges for the Parish. The Parish and all connected projects can rightfully be proud of what has been achieved this year</li> </ol> | SW |  |

| across the board. fingers crossed everyone gets a chance to be well rested over the festive period.   |    |
|---|----|
| The white lines were discussed – it was agreed that the lines do not go far enough down the road and that the lines which are down will not prevent anyone from parking a car there and it is still a health and safety hazard.   |    |
| RESOLVED Cllr Wilson will ask the warden to keep an eye on the area to ensure that people are not parking there.  | SW |
| RESOLVED Clir Wilson to contact Clir Olwyn Gunn to find out what is happening regarding the school and will cc Kevan Jones MP.  | SW |
| Charlaw Terrace There have been sightings of rats and Environmental Health has visited the area to inspect it. However, did not find any evidence.  |    |
| RESOLVED Cllr Wilson will ask the wardens to keep an eye on the area for any rodents.   | SW |
| Cllr Heather Liddle Report  |    |
| October's report received and distributed to rest of Parish Council.  November Report Food for Thought  | cw |
| Please see attached flyer.  All donations received for the Christmas appeal have been sent to Sacriston Salvation Army. Myself and Cllr Wilson have contributed £999 to the food bank, Nettlesworth community centre hot meals (and to The Fulforth Centre hot meals who are not part of the FFT project) we have also donated £999 to the SYP Christmas present appeal. We wish we could give more, unfortunately we only each receive £2000 small grants fund each year which has to be distributed across the whole division. There have been over 100 requests from families in Sacriston and the surrounding areas. Any donations can be |    |

made direct to either Sacriston Youth Project or Sacriston Salvation Army. Please contact <a href="mailto:Christmas@sacristonyouthproject.co.uk">Christmas@sacristonyouthproject.co.uk</a> for further information or information on how to donate.

Christmas Day hot meals – I am relieved that the PACT House in Stanley has offered to provide a free cooked hot lunch on Christmas Day. This is such a generous act of kindness and we are lucky to have support from such a fantastic charity whose volunteers are already stretched to capacity. If anyone is available to help deliver meals for PACT House on Christmas Day please email Darren McMahon at pacthousestanley@outlook.com

#### **Sacriston Enterprise Workshops**

SYP - JD Sports head office in Bury are project managing the youth projects refurbishment. JD will be publishing a tender for the work any day now.

Live Well North East – work on their new Community Wellbeing Centre is due to start today. Well done to Emma and Debs (and a little support from Gemma) for achieving a fantastic amount of funding (approx. £155K) to bring these two units back into use.

Architect tender – the deadline is 8<sup>th</sup> December. The CIC directors are hoping to appoint an architect by the 19<sup>th</sup> December with a project start date of 5<sup>th</sup> January to repair/replace the roof and start the shop front improvements.

SEW CIC Director Emma, with the support of DCC has started completing funding bids for 3 of the empty units. We are hoping to have secured funding before the end of the financial year.

The Woodshed Workshop CIC and RecycLD continue to complete funding applications to fund the work required on their units.

SEW CIC has partnered with New College Durham. Students from various courses (construction, engineering etc) are now supporting with the restoration project. This is another positive collaboration and brings benefits to both the workshop project and the students.

## Targeted Business Improvements/Front Street Improvements

You will see some of the shrub areas have been removed or cut back to open up the area. If there are any grot spots in the Front Street area that need improving or tending to please let me know.

#### Football pitches

I am supporting Sacriston Victoria's Football Club and Kimblesworth Parish Council with projects to improve the football pitches at Sacriston Welfare and behind The Green in Nettlesworth.

### **Police/Community Speed Watch**

Thank you to Derek Briggs and his team of volunteers from Chester le Street for continuing to come to the Sacriston Division to carry out community speed watches.

Following Dave Coxon's promotion, we have a new Neighbourhood Inspector – Lee Morris.

### **Community issues**

The lady who was causing concerns in Sacriston Cemetery has now moved out of the area.

There has been an increase in youth nuisance in the corner of the Welfare/cricket grounds which is causing concerns for residents on the Hallowdene Estate. The neighbourhood warden and other DCC officers have been very proactive and responded quickly to the issues.

I carried out a drive about with the new warden for Sacriston – a number of issues were identified and have been reported to either DCC or Karbon Homes for action.

If you have any questions or would like me to support your projects, please let me know.

Thank you to everyone who has worked or volunteered above and beyond since the first lock down in March. I am privileged to work alongside the most selfless, hardworking, caring and supportive people who take no credit or limelight for the huge contribution they make to Sacriston division residents every day.

I hope you all manage to have some down time over the festive period.

Best wishes for 2021

|     |                                       | Stay safe everyone   |     |  |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--|-----|--|
| 11. | Reports from Group<br>Representatives | Fulforth Centre Committee Meeting  Nothing to report - no meeting held   |     |  |
|     |                                       | Sacriston Community Development Group  Nothing to report - no meeting held   |     |  |
|     |                                       | Sacriston Parish Allotment Committee  Nothing to report – no meeting held  |     |  |
|     |                                       | New Hill Allotments  • Nothing to report.  |     |  |
|     |                                       | HR & Finance Group  • Nothing to report.   |     |  |
|     |                                       | <ul> <li>CDALC</li> <li>Cllr R Harrison discussed double taxation and advised that this will be discussed at the next Small and Medium Council Meeting and more information will be provided.</li> <li>Armed Forces covenant was discussed.</li> </ul> | RH  |  |
| 12. | Budget & Grant                        | As at the 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 there was £67,419.85 in the bank.   | CW  |  |
|     | Applications                          | Invoices to be paid LITE - £3420 - VAT £520 Roch - £1750 plus VAT Printer Invoice - £1.99 Zoom Subscription - £14.39 B Smith – Christmas Wreath - £30.00 H Dixon – items purchased for repairs to polytunnel Room Hire at The Fulforth Centre - £1000  | ALL |  |

|     |                                | Invoices Paid HD was reimbursed £12.00 for sand and cement for concreting and securing the metal soldier figurines at the cenotaph area.  Donation Request Salvation Army Toy Appeal – this was requested and agreed by all via email that the parish would donate £500, and payment has already been made.  | ALL |  |
|-----|--------------------------------|--|-----|--|
| 13. | Events and Information         | Christmas Lights – the stress tests were carried out and all columns passed except the column outside the medical centre therefore, no lights will be fixed to this column. The lights are to be switched on from 4pm – midnight. Concern raised as to why the column that failed was not repaired when it failed in 2015. The cost for the licence going forward needs to be planned into the budget.  RESOLVED  Cllr Wilson will report the failed column. | CW  |  |
| 14. | Date & Time of Next<br>Meeting | Next meeting – 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 @ 6.30pm  Chair thanked everyone for their attendance  Meeting Closed @ 19.55pm  Signed  |     |  |