

SACRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Fulforth Centre on Wednesday 6 September 2017 at 6:30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors B Mulvey, D Robson, Ms E Waldock, R Harrison, Mrs H Liddle, G Ludlow, Mrs B Smith, S Wilson, K Wilson, Mrs G Holmes and H Dixon.

68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors L Claughan and F Morrell.

It was with deep regret that the Chairman reported a letter of resignation from Councillor Mrs SJ Harrison. Members reluctantly accepted the resignation which came after Mrs Harrison had committed over 50 years to the Council and her local community. A letter of thanks would be sent.

69 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 5 JULY 2017

In relation to minute no. 53, it should read K Wilson and not S Wilson. The amendment was noted.

RESOLVED: "That the minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 July 2017, as amended, be confirmed as a correct record".

The Chairman proceeded to sign the minutes.

70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

71 ISSUES/QUESTIONS – GENERAL PUBLIC

The Council welcomed the Headteacher of the Durham Federation and also the Business Manager. Both addressed Council in relation to the progress being made at the Federation and the plans for the future. Following a brief presentation, both responded to questions from Members. The Council thanked the speakers for attending the meeting and looked forward to a good working relationship going forward.

72 POLICE MATTERS

There were no representatives from the Police in attendance.

73 GROWING SACRISTON TOGETHER/IN BLOOM

The recent judging had gone well and the Clerk reported a response now received in relation to the issue regarding no brackets being received for the lamp posts. It was clear in the trail of correspondence that DCC would cover any unforeseen costs.

It was also agreed that 3 tickets should be obtained for the In Bloom event the following week and that Councillor Liddle should be reimbursed £5 for the ticket she had purchased for herself.

It was agreed that Ms G O'Brien be invited to the next meeting to discuss with members the workloads and responsibilities relating to Growing Sacriston Together and In Bloom.

74 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

Councillor Robson provided an update and the associated costs for all the necessary works. Following due consideration, Members agreed to enter into an arrangement with Lite Ltd.

75 SICKNESS ABSENCE POLICY

Members gave consideration to a new Sickness Absence Policy which had been prepared by the Chairman. Upon a vote being taken it was:

RESOLVED:- "That the Sickness Absence Policy be adopted".

76 STANDARDS TRAINING SESSION

The Clerk reported a free Standards Training Session which was to be held on 3 October at County Hall. Following discussions it was agreed that 6 places should be reserved for Parish Members.

77 WEBSITE

The Clerk reported a message of praise which had been received regarding the content of the new website.

78 GRASS CUTTING

A letter had been received from Karbon Homes regarding the grass cutting contract which the Council had. It advised that having reviewed all current contracts, the company was not able to provide the service for the original

agreed price and the new quote was considerably larger than what the Council had previously agreed to.

It was therefore agreed to explore other options and see whether Mr H Robson of Budget Gardens would be willing to provide a quote.

79 DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Councillor Waldock provided an update in relation to the Development Group. Party in the Park had gone very well and the Group were looking at getting signage to direct vehicles to use the bottom carpark.

80 FULFORTH CENTRE

Councillor Robson provided an update in relation to the Fulforth Centre. It was reported that Mrs G O'Brien had resigned and as such an advert had been placed for a new Project Development Worker.

81 ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Councillor Dixon provided an update in relation to Cross Lanes Allotments. There were several issues relating to the allotments, issues regarding horses on the allotment site and also a right of way issue which the MP had also written to the Parish Council about. It was understood from DCC that there was no Right of Way in the area of concern, furthermore it was the understanding of the Council that no horses could be either tethered or exercised on the allotments. Having discussed all the issues brought to Councils attention, it was agreed that a letter of clarification be sent to the Secretary of the Allotment Association.

82 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Liddle and Councillor S Wilson provided updates in relation to County Council business which affected the village.

Councillor S Wilson advised that resurfacing works would be undertaken on the Front Street. He also advised of issues with the Prince Bishop Homes development.

Councillor Liddle reported that the Youth Project was going well.

Councillor Ludlow advised of issues regarding grass cutting at the Methodist Church, while the area had been cut it had not been done to a high standard. Councillor Liddle agreed to address the issue both there and a similar issue at the Welfare Ground.

Councillor Waldock raised concerns regarding an overgrown hedge at St Cuthberts Drive.

In relation to the damaged church fencing, it was agreed that a quote should be sought from a different local company.

83 HUMAN & FINANCIAL RESOURCES PANEL/QUALITY STATUS WORKING GROUP

The Clerk provided an update from the previous meeting. Councillor Robson advised that he would be standing down as Chair of the HR Panel. Following due consideration, Members agreed not to recruit a HR professional to the Panel.

A meeting would be arranged ahead of the next Council meeting.

84 CDALC

Councillor R Harrison provided an update in relation to CDALC. Members were advised that a representative from ADVICE would be willing to come and talk to the Council about setting up a Food Bank. It was agreed that the representative should be invited to a future meeting by Councillor Harrison.

Members were advised that there was potentially a need for the Council to appoint a Data Protection Officer and that NEREO were running a course on 1 November in County Hall.

It was further reported that the CDALC AGM would be held on 21 October.

Councillor Harrison also advised that the DCC Standards Committee were attending a course on social media at South Tyneside Council.

85 TRAINING

Councillor Waldock provided an update further to the Good Councillor training which she and Councillor Liddle had recently attended. Members were advised of the need to adopt a Social Media Policy and a Delegation Policy.

It was suggested that the Newsletter should be proof read by the Editorial Sub Committee and that there should be a sheet on display at meetings advising that meetings may be recorded.

86 ACCOUNTS/GRANT APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: "That authority be granted for payment of the following accounts:

CDALC - £54.00 – Training Courses
Councillor Liddle- £5.00 – In Bloom Ticket
Northumbria In Bloom – £15.00 – Event Tickets
NPOWER - £48.50 – Energy Bill
Harry Robson – £30.00 – Grass Cutting
J Lawton - £412.60 – Salary
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HMRC - £103.15 – PAYE Deductions
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87 PLANNING

Consideration was given to an application regarding Barrass Hill Farm. Following due consideration it was agreed that an objection should be submitted on the grounds that the access was too dangerous.

Signed_____Chairman