

SACRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Fulforth Centre on Wednesday 7 March 2018.

PRESENT: Councillors B. Mulvey, H. Dixon, Ms. E. Waldock, R. Harrison, G. Ludlow, F. Morrell, K. Wilson, Mrs. B. Smith, P. McLoughlin, D. Robson, S. Wilson. L. Claughan, Mrs G. Holmes

172. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Mrs H. Liddle,

173. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 7 FEBRUARY 2018

RESOLVED. That the minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 7 February 2018, be confirmed as a correct record.

The Chairman proceeded to sign the minutes.

In relation to minute 133 re: cars parking on the grass verges at Findon Hill, Fyndounne and Dunelm areas of the village, councillor S. Wilson had once again contacted DCC for answers. Councillor Robson stated the problem remains ongoing.

ACTION. *Councillor S. Wilson to further re-iterate our concerns and seek appropriate answers before our next meeting of the Parish Council on the 4 April 2018.*

In relation to minute 152 re: Parish web-site. Due to other major commitments this action is to be temporarily put on hold.

ACTION. *Parish web-site update to be put on hold for two months.*

In relation to minute 159 re: Cross Lane Allotments

RESOLVED. *Two mediation meetings had taken place on the 13 & 27 February 2018 where an agreed and satisfactory conclusion had been reached between all parties concerned.*

In relation to minute 163: External Audit Training (MAZARS).

RESOLVED. *Temporary Clerk submitted names to Steve Ragg, and all had been added to the training course for the 28 March 2018 at County Hall.*

174. GAP SITE PROJECT (S106 FUNDING)

The Chair welcomed Gemma and Daniel O'Brien to the meeting. Gemma had been invited to attend to discuss the S106 money allotted to the GAP site project.

The Parish had paid out an initial invoice to Deerness Fencing and Landscapes on the 6 September 2017 to the sum of £35,369:48 and, had received back from DCC the sum of £29,156:51 on the 20 October 2017. The difference between the two figures is the VAT reclaim we can make.

However, a further invoice had come to the attention of the Parish for a further payment to Groundwork North East and Cumbria of £6,251:04 for the GAP site project of which we had not been re-imbursed from DCC.

Gemma informed the meeting that she had sent both invoices to Stephen Reed at DCC who has oversight of all S106 funding in October 2017 however, she agreed that DCC had only re-imbursed the Parish for the initial £35,369:48 (less VAT) of the project.

It was Stephen Reed's and the then Parish Clerk's responsibilities to inform Gemma that DCC still had S106 money outstanding for the GAP site project, if both persons had done this Gemma would have requested the remainder of the money went into the Parish accounts.

Gemma stated she would resubmit the Groundwork invoice for £6,251:04 again to Stephen Reed at DCC.

Councillor McLoughlin informed the meeting that he felt many of the Parish believed we gain by getting the VAT back however, this is incorrect, and we do not profit from any S106 money.

The Parish Council acts as a conduit to enable payments, which may include VAT, to be made to suppliers prior to reimbursements from S106 fund which do not include VAT. The Council then reclaims VAT paid.

The Parish are now being pushed by Groundworks for payment before the end of the financial year.

Gemma had felt she had been individually targeted at the Parish meeting in October 2017 however, she had clearly done all the work appropriately and payments made in a professional manner.

The GAP site project has been ongoing for over two and a half years, overseen by the Parish but managed by the Development Group.

Work is now nearing completion, the benches for the area are not yet in position however, it is hoped that this will be rectified before the end of March 2018.

Gemma also informed the meeting that there is a retainer cost for the project which amounts to £755:76, enabling any repair work to the site to be carried out.

ACTION. ***Gemma O'Brien to contact Stephen Reed at DCC and resubmit invoice for payment on behalf of the Parish Council re: the GAP site project.***

175. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS.

There were no planning applications to consider.

176. POLICE MATTERS.

There were no Police matters raised.

177. ISSUES / QUESTIONS - GENERAL PUBLIC.

There were no issues / questions raised from the general public.

178. GROWING SACRISTON TOGETHER - IN BLOOM.

Councillor Robson stated that although we had not entered the "Village in Bloom " competition this year the Parish would still be supporting any project work being undertaken to maintain / improve the overall good work done over the previous years.

179. EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA.

Councillor Robson informed the meeting of this event which is to take place on Good Friday the 30 March 2018.

The event is to begin at 9:30am at Sacriston Methodist Church car park where we share the journey of Good Friday with Churches together and Sacriston Youth Project, in a walk of witness up to the Fulforth Centre where a short service is to take place at the Cenotaph.

This will be followed by an Easter fayre which will include rides from O'Briens funfairs, Tombolas and stalls.

There will also be an Easter egg hunt for the children with many prizes. Further prizes are to be won for best Easter Bonnet and egg decoration.

Refreshments will be provided within the Fulforth Centre by Andrea Meek and her team.

A special thank you should be given to Andrea for organising the event.

180. CORRESPONDENCE.

The County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership are providing a free "Allotments" event on the 11 April 2018. The venue is Shotton Hall in Peterlee and starting at 9:30am with refreshments and the event starting at 10:00am. Bookings to be made to Steve Ragg before the 2 April 2018.

ACTION. *Temporary Clerk to submit names to Steve Ragg before the 2 April 2018.*

npower account – informed of change of address for correspondence.

There is a possibility we are paying too much for the account. A telephone call has been arranged with Oliver Marshall of npower business section to review the account

ACTION. *Temporary Clerk to discuss with Oliver Marshall in reducing our electricity account.*

181. DEVELOPMENT GROUP.

There was no report received.

182. FULFORTH CENTRE

A discussion took place with regards to considering Andrea Meek to take on the temporary role of Acting Project Development Worker on behalf of both the Parish Council and Sacriston Community Association. Andrea could link this role in with her current role as Jubilee Tea Rooms Manager.

Discussion then took place on how this would be financed as we already donate annually to the Community Association to ensure project work and funding come into the Centre.

This would be a temporary role and should be funded for the duration of her tenure therefore, if she leaves, the Parish does not suffer financially.

This could be managed over a six-month probationary period and her appointment would alleviate the need for volunteers to staff the Fulforth Centre daily.

The Council agreed a £4000:00 donation to part fund the temporary post.

183. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATIONS.

Cross Lanes Allotments – Other than the mediation meetings already discussed, nothing to declare.

New Hill Allotments - The Annual General Meeting took place on the 21 February 2018. Both the Chair and the Secretary have resigned, both posts are up for election however, a new secretary has since been appointed, that being a Mr. Mick Shereton. The Annual accounts statement was produced and discussed, no problems identified.

184. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS .

There was a bad accident on the 5 March 2018 on Plawsworth Road / Garden Cottages exit. Illegal parking on Plawsworth Road contributed to the accident. Police attended the incident and observed numerous vehicles speeding through this area. A speed watch is to be undertaken and Police will take further action.

There are numerous “Grott Spots” in the village with regards to litter and dog waste. Two areas identified are St. Cuthbert’s Drive and Coniston Drive.

It has been identified that young people in and around the Brookside / Parkside area and congregating at the Womble area are illegally drinking causing nuisance noise. This appears to be a new area for young people to meet up, the Wardens are aware and will monitor the situation.

185. HUMAN & FINANCIAL RESOURCES PANEL.

The LITE project had been discussed and the outstanding invoice had been paid. Register of Interest paperwork for numerous Councillors are to be re-submitted to DCC.

186. QUALITY STATUS WORKING GROUP.

No further work done on the Parish web-site, this remains ongoing.

187. OTHER REPORTS.

A letter of congratulations is to be sent to Catherine Jones who is now the 2018 Ladies European eight ball pool singles champion on her achievement.

ACTION. *Temporary Clerk to send letter on behalf of the Parish Council.*

The Chair raised concerns with regards to the lack of attendance at Parish Council meetings by some Councillors. The meeting was made aware that the Council have the right to remove Councillors if they are failing to carry out their statutory roles.

ACTION. *Temporary Clerk to send letters to Councillors reminding them of their responsibilities.*

188. ACCOUNTS AND GRANT APPLICATIONS.

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

Npower - £49:61 (Energy Charges)

189. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

There were no planning applications received.

Signed: _____ (Chairman)