

SACRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Fulforth Centre on Wednesday 3 January 2018.

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

139. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were submitted by Councillor L. Claghan

140. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2017

RESOLVED. That the minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 6 December 2017, be confirmed as a correct record.

The Chairman proceeded to sign the minutes.

Due to the absence of the Clerk and her failure to respond to numerous requests from the Chairman giving reasons for her absence the Council felt it necessary to appoint a Temporary Clerk. The Council agreed that Councillor H. Dixon take up the role of Temporary Clerk until the Clerks' position could be clarified.

In relation to minute 122 re. the Christmas Extravaganza / Lighting, it was noted that the invoice payment to LITE was still outstanding.

ACTION: *Councillor Liddle to post cheque to LITE for payment of invoice.*

In relation to minute 133, it was reported that cars were still parking on the grass verges at Findon Hill, Fyndounne and Dunelm areas of the village. It was agreed that further contact needed to be made with the Wardens.

ACTION. *Temporary Clerk to contact Wardens to seek clarity on this position.*

It was agreed that the invoice dated 30/09/2016 from Hazledene Fencing for £288:00 had been paid within other work invoiced and paid previously therefore, invoice and cheque to be cancelled and placed in file.

ACTION. *Temporary Clerk to hold invoice and cheque in file.*

With regards to Daisy Hill Old Club and adjoining land, it was agreed there was a permitted “Public Right of Way” over this land. Council to monitor this under future developments.

141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Simon Wilson declared interest in any planning applications.

Councillor Liddle gave an update / feedback with reference to the Sacriston Youth Project and possible request for a grant within the project. It was agreed that further information was required and this application should be discussed fully at the next Council meeting on the 3 February 2018.

142. ISSUES / QUESTIONS – GENERAL PUBLIC

A member of the public raised concerns with regards to overhead power lines within the village and queried why they could not be buried as he believed they were a general hazard in relation to falling lines and radiation issues.

His point was noted however, this area falls under the remit / responsibility of the company who own the power lines. It was agreed further information would be sought.

ACTION. *County Councillors to seek further clarification on this point and to report back at the next Council meeting on the 3 February 2018.*

143. POLICE MATTERS

There were no Police matters raised.

144. GROWING SACRISTON TOGETHER

Councillor Liddle informed the meeting that she was involved in setting up a working group with volunteers and invited the Parish Council to send a representative. She emphasised that more volunteers were needed to assist in this project.

Feedback from the Judges were being addressed, these being:-

- (i) Car Parks being cleaned weekly;
- (ii) Land between Herons' and Cricket Club has been tidied up;
- (iii) Tesco in process of improving shrubbery area;

The Car Wash area was discussed and remains an ongoing issue, looking at Planning Enforcement to become involved.

Judges were very critical this year however, maintaining a "Silver Gilt" award is still a massive achievement.

145. PRECEPT

Councillor Simon Wilson informed the meeting of advice he had received from Mr. Steve Ragg, this had also been discussed at the Human Resource / Finance meeting of the Council.

This panel had recommended an increase of 2% in our precept to take on / provide additional services / improvements within the village.

It was noted however we were doing a lot more in the village and the public should be made aware of these improvements via our local newsletter.

Under Council law, it is the Clerk who raises the precept at County Council level and guidance had been sought from Steve Ragg where this responsibility lay with regards to our Temporary Clerk.

It had been agreed by Steve Ragg that this could be done by the Temporary Clerk as the nominated person.

Councillor Simon Wilson proposed we increase our precept by 2%, this was seconded by Councillor Morrell and supported by full committee.

ACTION. *Temporary Clerk to contact Councillor Simon Wilson to seek advice / guidance on next step for proposing precept at County Council level.*

146. CORRESPONDENCE.

Councillor McLoughlin raised an e-mail he had received from Mr. Lee Vest (Website manager for the Council) which had been addressed to the Parish Clerk but had not be answered as the Clerk was failing to respond to any Parish business.

As the Clerk was not responding to any correspondence / issues received from the public he believed it was necessary to have a second co-respondent identified to have access to all e-mails from the general public. After discussion it was agreed Councillor McLoughlin would take on this responsibility.

Councillor McLoughlin raised 2 x e-mails received from members of the public with regards to the devastation caused to Sacriston Woods and all walkways appertaining to the woods due to a deforestation project.

Councillor Liddle stated this was ongoing work and represented a 20 year felling project. She was aware of heavy plant machinery causing damage to walkways however, it is intended to repair / renew all pathways on completion of the work.

The area is also designated as a bridleway and she is aware that horses are also destroying / damaging the land.

She was unsure who actually owned the Sacriston Wood area i.e. Council / N.C.B. / Parish however the Council have agreed all walkways will be repaired on completion of forestry work.

ACTION. *Councillor Liddle to respond to the complainants.*

147. DEVELOPMENT GROUP.

There was no report received

148. FULFORTH CENTRE

There was no report received

149. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION.

There was no reports received

150. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

There had been a speed watch exercise carried out over the Christmas period by volunteers including the mini Police.

It had been agreed that Fyndounne Community College would lose the "Academy" status however, this would only happen if it became "one school". A meeting had taken place with

the Head of Education who emphasised the school will consist of two sites, one site delivering the core curriculum subjects, and the other site delivering vocational qualifications. They were also looking to introduce some community evening classes.

There is still a concern with regards to poverty in Sacriston, it was noted some families could not afford food / gifts at Christmas.

Councillor Liddle asked if the Parish could support the volunteers in enabling the families struggling with monetary problems to address their concerns. It was identified that volunteers may not have the expertise / knowledge / skills to carry out this supportive role however, we would ensure the Fulforth Centre remained open to provide necessary support.

Councillor Waldock asked that some input within our local newsletter would be advantageous to highlight this problem and to guide people with problems to areas where they can receive support.

151. HUMAN & FINANCIAL RESOURCES PANEL / QUALITY STATUS WORKING GROUP.

It was identified that numerous attempts via correspondence and phone calls had been made to the Clerk concerning her welfare and, the inability to receive information from her. Due to this failing the panel felt it was necessary to review both our Financial Regulations and current Standing Orders to ensure compliance with national / local policies. The panel were satisfied with both policies and advised Council as such. Further advice with regards to the Clerk's failings is being sought from Steve Ragg.

152. QUALITY STATUS.

The web-site was discussed and a meeting to be arranged with Lee Vest with regards to updates and improvement of our Parish web-site.

ACTION. *Councillor McLoughlin to contact Lee Vest and arrange a suitable meeting with the H.R. & Financial resources / Quality status working Panel.*

Christmas Extravaganza questionnaire analysis was discussed (See below).

125 x people had contributed to the questionnaire and, there was a 100% positive response that the people of Sacriston believed the Parish Councils objective to provide opportunities for recreation, leisure and community engagement had been achieved via the Christmas Extravaganza.

Comments were noted and will be addressed via an action plan developed for 2018 / 2019.

Christmas Extravaganza

Analysis of Question:

‘Do you think this year’s extravaganza achieves the Council’s objective to provide opportunities for recreation, leisure and community engagement?’

Population sample: 125

GENDER		AGE				YES	NO
M	F	<18	18-30	31-60	>60		
47	78	30	14	47	34	125	0

Comments:

Comment	No. Responses
Heaters outside and on stage	3
Bigger space indoors	3
Limit numbers inside Fulforth Centre	1
Layout could be improved	1,
Nothing to improve, gets better every year	23
Well organised	2
Bring back the outdoor traditional Christmas stalls	1
More carols	1
Improve access to Fulforth Centre	1
Rides for youths.	2

Need to consider comments at Action Plan development for 2018/19.

Peter McLoughlin December 2017

153. ACCOUNTS / GRANT APPLICATIONS.

2 X Cheques authorised for:-

- (i) Durham National Union of Mineworkers - £100 : 00
- (ii) Mrs. G. Holmes (Postage) - £2 : 31

154. PLANNING

There were no planning applications received.

Signed: _____ Chairman