

Minutes of Neasham Parish Council meeting held on 4th September 2017 at 6.30pm in Neasham Reading Room.

Present: Cllrs G Crute, D Dodwell, P Dunn, C Murray, K Sandick, J Weighell (Chair),
Ward Cllr J Kelley, Ward Cllr L.Tostevin, J Walker (Clerk)

Apologies: E.Miller

17/65 JWe welcomed Councillors to the meeting

17/66 **Declarations of interest**

None

17/67 **Introduction of Janette Rumney and signing of the "Declaration of Acceptance of Office" form**

Unfortunately Janette was unable to attend due to a prior commitment and after clarification of the position by GC it was agreed that the process would be deferred until the October meeting.

17/68 **Minutes of the last meetings**

It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2017 were a correct record.

17/69 **Progress Reports**

- **1688** TM reported that applications for funding for speed signs and defibrillator to the Banks Community Fund and Durham Community Foundation were not accepted and therefore had applied to the National Lottery for a £10k grant. LT felt that grants for a defibrillator may be available from the Community Foundation and would enquire about this on Wednesday and report back. JK agreed to clarify the position of the posts which DBC had agreed to supply.
- **1734** GC stated that it was important that a register was compiled listing volunteers and the tasks they were performing on behalf of NPC. This was required so that NPC was aware of what is going on and that those volunteers were capable to carry out the task safely. JWe agreed to prepare the list. The Clerk agreed to check that volunteers were insured whilst working for NPC. (Post Meeting Note – It was confirmed that volunteers would be covered by the Employers Liability Insurance)
- **1755** It was agreed NPC would review whether further signs were needed after the EA had finished .

17/70 **PACT Report**

Although there was no meeting last month, the Chair stated it was re-assuring that the police continued to be vigilant as they had stopped to investigate an alarm going off late one evening .

17/71 **Roads and footpaths**

- Defects Report 17/003 DBC had carried out a minor repair to worn patch in lay-bye near 77 Teesway
- JWe reported that many of the speed signs around the village were not visible due to overgrown hedges, but now we are into September it is hoped the farmers will voluntarily cut them back.
- JWe reported that the surface to Sockburn Lane was worn with deep ruts and potholes, particularly the first section up to the Hall entrance. LT agreed to refer the matter to DBC
- JWe reported that DBC had said that the probation service would be in the village the on 21/08/17 to carry out path edging. He queried this when nobody arrived and was told it could be any Sunday soon

17/72 **Report on Environment Agency Works**

- JWe and JWa had a meeting with T Campbell on 18th August on site to discuss the proposed EA works. EA were ready to start but were awaiting a stopping order on Teasdale Rd this takes about 6 weeks and as they had applied 4 weeks ago, it should soon be issued. JWe urged the EV to commence these works as a matter urgency prior to bad weather. A drawing of the new steps showed the rise height as 170mm. It had been agreed that they could use part of the pub car park for the storage of material , also NPC agreed that an area of the green near the millennium garden was available. The EA also subsequently agreed that it was in order to fix one of the bye-law signs to the sluice entrance wall
- JWe and DD will be meeting Anna Caygill of the EA later this week to discuss flood resilience.
- GC stated that once the EA have completed their works, NPC should carry out their own risk assessment. The clerk was instructed to place this item on the agenda for the November meeting.

17/73 Village Green.

- JWe reported that he had a quotation of £117.59 for the supply of 3No signs of vinyl graphic on aluminium backing. JWe also had a quotation of £80 for two wooden signs from M Blundell (Kent Beck sign fixed direct to brickwork). Approval was given to both quotations.
- JWe also reported that he had a quotation from Evergreen of £200 for pollarding one tree needing attention which was approved. GC reported that he had a full list of trees that needed pruning JWe to obtain a quote from the same company for this additional work, with a budget of £300.
- The clerk was instructed to make an allowance for tree maintenance works in the budget for 2018/9

17/74 Planning

- No planning applications had been submitted to DBC since the last meeting.
- Because of holidays the suggested meeting with Nigel Swinbank to discuss S106 implications had not taken place. The council felt that it may mutually beneficial to have a joint approach to the matter. It was also felt that a smaller informal approach to him would be more productive. It was agreed that KS and TM would arrange to meet Nigel and discuss the position.

17/75 Risk Management

- GC and JWa agreed to meet later in the week to discuss risk management documentation
- The responsibility for the vegetable box on the green which was supplied by "Highgro Darlo" was questioned as NPC have very little knowledge as to the ownership of the box and no point of contact. JWe agreed to investigate ownership, contacts etc

17/76 Finance

- The clerk reported that the external auditor (BDO) had threatened to qualify their audit due to CTS grant not having been separately identified. The clerk has replied rejecting their argument
- HMRC payroll now set up. The first payment to them was due to be collected by direct debit. As the monies had not gone out the stated date the amount was paid separately by the clerk. The direct debit took the money out the next day, leaving NPC in credit which will be balanced at the end of September
- Mandate change finally effected by Barclays JWe, TM and JWa empowered to sign.
- Insurance. Two quotations had been received for council insurance, property damage and pump house. AON quoted £225.62 + £170 + £112 **Total £507.62**. The second quotation was from Came and Co who quoted £280 + £57.18 **Total £337.18** As the Came quote was considerably the cheaper and also AON are withdrawing from this market it was agreed to accept the Came offer. It was also agreed to take up the 3 year agreement which gives a 5% reduction and a fixed annual fee.
- It was confirmed that the clerk had been reimbursed £42.20 paid to HMRC PAYE

17/77 Ward Councillor Matters

- JK and LT felt they had little to report except for comments on road closures and Xmas tree scheme

17/78 Correspondence

Letters from Barclays, AON and NALC were discussed in the relevant paragraphs in above sections.

17/79 Other village matters

- GC reported that all trees (approximately 50) had now been tagged and the tree register with photos would be complete next week. The records to be held by the clerk and not posted on the website.
- JWe reported on an accident on the riverbank that occurred on the 17th July. NPC have heard indirectly that an elderly gentleman from Hurworth had been riding along the embankment on his mobility scooter when he suffered a heart attack or stroke and ended up in the river, He was rescued by the emergency services and was taken to hospital. We hope that he soon recovers from his ordeal. The clerk attempted to learn more about the matter and his notes are attached to these minutes
- The request from Paul Turton to provide a memorial seat or tree was considered, but it was felt that there sufficient already. JWe agreed to speak to Paul suggesting that a contribution towards the purchase of a village defibrillator with a plaque incorporated nearby ,would be more acceptable
- JWe agreed to forward all of the correspondence regarding a problematic gate on the bridleway from the Tiplady Farm through to Sockburn Lane to S Petch (Footpaths Officer at DBC)

17/80 Date of next meeting

Monday 2 October 2017 at 6:30pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.10pm.



Confirmed as a Correct Record and Approved by Council

Signed (Chair)

Date.....2nd October 2017.....

ACCIDENT ON NEASHAM VILLAGE GREEN 17th JULY 2017

An incident occurred on the village green on the 17th July 2017. NPC have no formal knowledge of what occurred, but are given to understand that an elderly man from Hurworth was riding along the flood embankment on his mobility scooter when he suffered a heart attack or stroke and ended up in the river. After some period of time the alarm was raised and he was rescued by the emergency services and taken to hospital.

As NPC have no knowledge of the incident, the clerk was instructed to contact the emergency services to see if we could find out any further information regarding the accident, the outcome was as follows:-

North East Ambulance Service

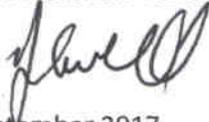
I was put through to Clinical Records Officer (0191-4302193) and was informed that the service had attended an incident on that date, but they would not reveal any information about the person involved without their written consent.

Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

I was put through to the manager of White Watch (Richard Cowling) (01325-469128). He opened the notes on the incident and confirmed that two appliances had attended (one from Darlington the other from Durham). He also confirmed that had there been any fault that contributed to or caused the incident, then it would have been noted and the appropriate authority would be informed. As there was no such recommendation in the notes, then the assumption was that it was an accident with no fault attributable to Neasham PC.

It is unfortunate that although the accident occurred on Neasham PC village green, we are unable to contact the gentleman concerned in order to wish him well and hope that he has a speedy recovery.

John Walker
Clerk to Neasham Parish Council



5th September 2017