

Minutes of Neasham Parish Council meeting held 6th November 2017 at 6.30pm in Neasham Reading Room.

Present: Cllrs G Crute, D Dodwell, P Dunn, E.Miller, J Rumney, J Weighell Chair),
Ward Cllr J Kelley, Ward Cllr L.Tostevin, J Walker (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs C Murray, K Sandick

17/96 JWe welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

17/97 Declarations of interest

Cllr G Crute had previously declared an interest in Minute 17/85 – Item 1688

17/98 Minutes of the last meetings

It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2017 were a correct record.

17/99 Progress Reports

- **1688** Installation of speed signs currently on hold due to lack of funding. It was agreed to remove item from minutes and enter it onto the 2018 Parish Assembly meeting agenda to see if parishioners would agree to an increase in the precept to fund this. Defibrillator - GC declared an interest in the grant application as he was on the boards of trustees to whom the application was made.
- **1734** Register of volunteers – confirmation given by insurers that individuals do not have to be named, however there is an obligation upon NPC to ensure volunteers are competent and properly equipped.
- **1755** NPC still to review the safety signs around Kent Beck once EA finished their work

17/100 PACT Report

The Chair reported that there was very little to report from the last meeting except two crimes, where premises broken into and equipment stolen from EA site compound in F&H car park and Newbus Grange workshop. Also a stolen van was found abandoned by a tracker at the top of Neasham Hill.

17/101 Roads and footpaths

- Visibility of speed signs in Dibdale Road - hawthorn bush needs sawing off.
- JK raised the state of repair of road outside 20 Teesway with DBC and the hole was filled (rather than patched). AC (DBC) agreed to fill the hole in the edging in the Teesway lay-bye at a later date.

17/102 Report on Environment Agency Works

- The Chair reported that all works to the steps had been completed, surplus materials and compound removed, damaged grassed areas had been re-seeded. Handrails to the private steps were currently being replaced. JWe stated that he had carried out an inspection of the works and noticed several paving slabs that needed levelling and had written to the EA on the matter who had agreed to carry out the work. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the EA complimenting them on a good job.
- The Chair had not received a reply from Anna Caygill why their scheduled meeting had not happened.

17/103 Village Green.

- The 3No aluminium bye-law signs and 2No timber backboards had been provided and all fitted.
- Additional pollarding had been carried out by Evergreen Service at the quoted sum.
- Additional tree pruning had been carried out by Councillors and arrangements had been made with a local farmer to collect the cuttings, unfortunately because of other commitments this had not happened. Agreed that alternative arrangements would be implemented if not collected by 10th Nov.
- The fire brigade had requested assistance for access for their inflatable craft to carry out some water rescue training at Neasham. JWe agreed provide them with a key to the barriers
- Noted that moles are back on the village green, NPC to monitor if approaching the embankment.

17/104 Planning

- Applications received in October and agreed to return to DBC as follow:-
17/00933/FUL 2A Dibdale Road - Convert Part of Garage NO COMMENT
17/01012/FUL Opp 4 Dibdale Road - Erection of 4 Bed dwelling NO COMMENT

17/105 Risk Management

- Trial run of Risk Management Reporting, it was agreed that minor defects recorded and actioned during inspections, would not require a separate defects notice. The clerk to amend reports to suit.

- PD raised several issues regarding the planters:- it was agreed that the planters should not be physically numbered, PD reported that two old timber planters had been replaced with plastic. PD also reported that she agreed to be responsible for co-ordinating the inspections for the Millenium Gardens and Boundary Stones in conjunction with the volunteers. PD presented alternative documents for these inspections which were accepted by GC.
- Veg box. GC queried the insurance position of this box, approach to Hi Grow to be made at a later date
- Village green risk assessment was presented to the members and approved. This risk assessment demonstrated that NPC had taken a reasonable view with regard to the risk and was also evidence in respect of duty of care. GC was thanked for his efforts in producing the Risk Management Policies and Procedures which had ensured that NPC had a more professional approach to the subject of risk. It was queried whether a barrier could be provided at the steeper sections of the embankment, however it was felt that this would simply create other problems. It was also queried whether life buoys should be provided on the embankment, but it was felt they become a target for vandalism and would not last long. Because people had been climbing a horse chestnut tree on the green for "conkers", it was agreed to carry out crown lifting on the tree next spring to deter this.

17/106 Finance

- The clerk stated that DBC required our precept amount by January 2018, as there was no meeting in January, the budget would have to be approved at the December. The Clerk had produced a preliminary Draft Budget document for discussion. It was agreed that this be circulated to the members asking for comments in order that the Budget could be finalised and agreed at the December meeting. It was agreed to allow within the budget for tree maintenance work next year.
- Previously Approved Payments made last month :- Evergreen Services £400, Clerk's quarterly salary £169.13 M Blundell £80.00, HMRC £42.20 (against credit), Signs Express £117.59, Came & Co £320.32
- Approval granted to pay:- Land Registry £30.00, CDALC £48.00 (GDPR course x 2 delegates), DBC £10

17/107 Ward Councillor Matters

- JK reported that additional funding had become available to extend the Neasham bus service from March 2018 until January 2019, but still insufficient funds to provide service on additional days. JK also reported that Tees Valley money had come through and the broadband proposals had been approved, this included Neasham, but it would be May 2019 before being installed in the village.

17/108 Correspondence

- Email from CDALC regarding GDPR course on 1st Nov which was attended by DD and JWa. The course was not as informative as expected. It was confirmed that NPC would have to appoint an external Data Protection Officer (DPO) which would have cost implications. Consensus at the course was that PC's should await more guidance from NALC including the possibility of a shared service agreement.
- Just before the NPC meeting, on 6th Nov, Legal Briefings L07-17 and L05-17 together with an extract from the briefing by the CEO had been received from NALC and had been circulated to the members

17/109 Other village matters

- Additional treeworks had been carried out by volunteers and a generic description of councillors should be added to the volunteers register. JWa to return the volunteers register to JWe for updating.
- It was noted that the cherry tree outside No 5 Teesway had recovered and now looked healthy.
- GC reported that he could now apply to the Land Registry regarding the pump house registration (some dates needed entry). GC further stated that he would require formal authorisation for him to act on behalf of the council in negotiations with the Land Registry which was passed unanimously. The Clerk to provide written authority confirming this.
- A complaint by David Russell regarding a mysterious droning noise that could be heard in the village between evening and early morning. No explanation but further investigation would be carried out.

17/110 Date of next meeting

Monday 4 December 2017 at 6:30pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm.

Confirmed as a Correct Record and Approved by Council

Signed.....(Chair) Date....4th December 2017.....