

Minutes of Neasham Parish Council meeting held 2nd March 2020 at 6.30pm in Neasham Reading Room.

Present: Cllrs G Conlin, G Crute, D Dodwell, P.Dunn, J Grainger, E Miller, K Sandick, J Weighell (Chair), Ward Cllr C.Chou J Walker (Clerk).

Apologies: Apologies from L Tostevin, (working) were accepted.

19/137 JWe welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

19/138 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19/139 Minutes of the last meetings

It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd February are a correct record.

19/140 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports

19/006 No 12 Bus and TeesFlex. The TeesFlex bus on demand bus service had been launched and appears to be a success so far, however it was felt necessary to pursue with the meeting with Nathan Stanislawski (Arriva's GM for Darlington) as there were safety issues along the route, in particular Neasham Road from the stadium southwards, but it was agreed to defer the meeting for 3 months to allow investigation of the safety issues and continued monitoring of the new Tees Flex service. Clerk to inform GH (DBC) of the decision.

19/141 PACT Report

Nothing to report, no crimes in Neasham and only 4 in MSG.

19/142 Roads and footpaths

- It was reported that although many potholes had been repaired recently there remained one near the Abbey corner that needed attention. LT to be asked to refer to DBC Highways.
- There is a broken fixing band to the "Give Way" sign at Abbey Corner. Clerk to ask DBC to repair.

19/143 Environment Agency Matters

- The Chair reported that the last two weekends had produced very high river levels but the flood bank on the Durham side had not been breached, although the Yorks side is slightly lower and large areas of agricultural land had been flooded. The defences at Newbus had also been breached with 6 caravans damaged. It was also noted that large areas of the proposed access to Abbey Farm Cottages were under standing water and it was questioned as to whether this issue had been accounted for in the planning application.
- A letter had been sent to the new EA Asset Manager requesting continuation of the previous twice annual meeting on site. The letter also queried the impact that the works by the EA in the vicinity of the Kent Beck footpath and whether it improved safety and also requested a copy of the EA separate risk assessment for that area and subsequent assessments for both areas. No response received to date. Two representatives from the EA had recently visited site to assess the work required to protect the foundation of the flood bank and may need to carry out the cutting back of vegetation, deferred from last year because the bird nesting season

19/144 Village Green.

- The Chair reported that the flagpole had been delivered to site and was stored in his garden and that he had arranged for S Grey to excavate the hole for the base, S Charlton had agreed to provide and pour the concrete and would only charge £50 to cover the material cost. It was agreed that a plaque would be provided to signify that it was erected to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE day.
- The Union flag for the pole which had been donated by the Chair had also been delivered.
- The goal posts had been damaged by the recent flooding and it was agreed that they be removed and stored behind the pumphouse and an item included on the Village Assembly to establish if there was a desire amongst the village to continue to provide this facility. It was agreed for the Chair to employ M Harrison to carry out this removal and the remedial work to the seat near the F&H (Defect 19/006).

19/145 Planning

- Applications received since last meeting:-
19/01156/CU Abbey Farm Cottage - Alteration to existing access (OBJECTION sent to DBC 05/02/20)

JW

20/00069/FUL 48 Teesway – Dems and 2 storey extension (EPC Approved 14/02/20)

- Decisions received since last meeting:-
19/01189/FUL - Low Maidendale Farm – Dems & new ext'n etc - GRANTED (Subject to Conditions)

19/146 Risk Management

- There were no scheduled inspections for February, however visual inspection of the speed signs were added to the January schedule and were retrospectively inspected in February.
- 1No defect notice outstanding (remedial work to seat) would be rectified when weather permits.
- There was no development in respect of the PSRA (approved at February meeting), GCr awaiting EA to agree to a meeting to discuss the mitigation measures in respect of public safety set out in the RA.
- The revised Annual All Risks which will be completed for the April meeting. Members were reminded of the need to review their Register of Members Interest and update if necessary

19/147 Finance

- Approved payment made in February was £310.80 inc VAT (Flagpole). Anticipated payments in March are £35.00 (ICO), £413.32 (Clerk's salary) £103.40 (PAYE), £15.00 Stationary, Erection costs for flagpole as para 19/144. It was also agreed that GCo could proceed with the purchase of replacement defibrillator pads as required, at a cost of £30.95 (Exc VAT) per set, Cllr Chou expressed his doubts as to the benefit of defibrillator. It was agreed to accept a quotation of £58.95 (Exc VAT) from Harrisons for the supply of a designer flag displaying the Neasham logo.
- The Clerk reported that he had cancelled the automatic renewal of the antivirus with McAfee as the renewal cost had risen sharply and he would purchase an alternative package in April. It was suggested to contact Noel Pringle who is aware of free antivirus packages.
- Website Accessibility Regs. GCr outlined various options for creating a new website, however because of the time constraint it was agreed to renew the current website package which would allow additional time to finalise an alternative before mandatory compliance in August.
- The Clerk had emailed P Allen asking if he would carry out the internal audit. DD agreed to follow up.

19/148 Ward Councillor Matters

- LT had emailed the Chair reporting she had contacted Paul Howell over the roll out of broadband, who in turn was contacting Ben Houchen and would report back when she had a reply. Cllr Chou reported that the meeting on 5th February at the Mustard Tree on the subject was very un-productive and lacked uptodate information. It was noted that there was a box at Newbus Grange enabled for HS b/band and the service at the Hilton House complex was excellent, but Neasham compared badly.

19/149 Correspondence

- An email was received from Tees Valley Nature Partnership inviting grants for nature based work. It was agreed the clerk should apply for a grant for improvements to provide safe access by the public.
- An email was received from DBC (via DD) inviting nominations for the "Best of Darlington" awards. DD proposed that a gentleman called Sam Walters should be nominated for his outstanding work in litter picking the local roads. Although in previous NPC meeting it was indicated he would shun any recognition it was agreed to follow this up and as he resides in Hurworth DD would approach HPC with regards a joint nomination.
- Other correspondence listed was for information only.

19/150 Other Village Matters

- DD had attended the CLCA meeting on 19th February, but nothing to report.
- The Parish Assembly meeting was confirmed as Thurs 14th May (subject to availability)
- The Chair thanked GCo and JG for their efforts in delivering the leaflets for the TeesFlex bus.
- PD confirmed that she should have a price for the flowers for the tubs by the next meeting.
- Clerk instructed to write to the farmer in respect of grain lorries passing through Neasham on Sundays.
- GCr requested that creative thinking in respect of Climate Change be included in agenda for the April.

19/151 Date of next meeting

Monday 6th April 2020 at 6.30pm. The meeting concluded at 8.05pm

Confirmed as a Correct Record and Approved by Council

Signed(Chair)

Date.....4th May 2020.....