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Minutes of **Neasham Parish Council meeting** held 4th November 2019 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), L Tostevin (Ward), J Walker (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Cllr C.Chou – not in attendance.

**19/092** JWe welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

**19/093 Declarations of interest**

Cllr G Conlin declared an interest in item 8 of the Agenda – planning application 19/00834/OUT.

**19/094 Minutes of the last meetings**

It was confirmed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 are a correct record.

**19/095 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting / Progress Reports**

- **19/006 Re- Routing of No 12 Bus.** It was reported that the No 12 will now travel past the airport departure entrance six times a day. The Chair volunteered to travel on the bus tomorrow to confirm the route. The report and analysis of answers of the parish survey had been updated by Cllr Crute, issued to interested parties and posted on the website.
- Cllr Paul Howell (DBC) met with NPC representatives on site to discuss local transport matters. Cllr Howell appreciated the opportunity to see first hand the issues and agreed to review the position and assist in promoting any realistic proposals. It was reported that MSG had requested a copy of the NPC original proposals (now superceded) and this was now in hand through DAPC.
- In response to the email from the TVCA Head of Transport, Tom Bryant, the Clerk was instructed to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

**19/096 PACT Report**

The acting Crime Commissioner had attended the meeting, but little to report. No crimes were recorded in Neasham last month.

**19/097 Roads and footpaths**

- The cutting of the hedge to the footpath between Hurworth and Neasham had been carried out by DBC. The Chair had written to DBC complimenting them on their work, in particular the use of a blower which reduced the debris on the path and road.
- An accident had occurred on Neasham Hill on the 21<sup>st</sup> October when a tractor and trailer (one of several delivering beetroot from Low Dinsdale to East Rockcliffe Farm) met an articulated lorry coming in the opposite direction and lost control, then skidded down the hill causing major damage to the tractor and serious damage to a house wall. The police were informed but did not attend as there were no persons injured. The Chair informed Streetscene of the debris on the road and oil spill making passage dangerous. Streetscene attended site at 4.20pm and cleared and made safe the road.

**19/098 Environment Agency Matters**

Little to report except that the EA had cut back the growth to the dry side of the Kent Beck embankment. The Chair reported that there had been an influx of moles into the embankment, EA had been informed and the mole catcher was scheduled to carry out their removal.

**19/099 Village Green.**

- Miss Tree had carried out the tree works on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, which included cutting back the Leylandii hedge around the pump house to a manageable height. The Chair stated that both he and GCr were very satisfied with the work carried out.
- GCr reported that two trees (No 29 and the "G Washington") were struggling or not growing which was probably being caused by poor soil condition (rubble), lack of water and in the case of No 29 lack sunshine. GCr recommended installation of protection wire/screening together with irrigation tubing and good feeds of manure or mulch. A budget of £40 was agreed for the purchase of the materials.
- It was agreed that GCr should proceed with contract documents for a 3 year contract for tree maintenance works which would be conditional upon a satisfactory review of tenders received.
- KS reported that he was on target for switching on the Xmas lights on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**19/100 Planning**

- Applications received since last meeting:-  
 19/00875/FUL 71 Teesway – Erection of 2 storey extension – **APPROVED**  
 19/00834/OUT Land to NW of New Lane – Erection of 5No Dwellings – **OBJECTION** (on the grounds that the development was outside the DBC local plan and the access road was unsuitable for additional traffic).
- Decisions received since last meeting:-  
 19/00733/FUL Cold Comfort Farm – Single storey extension **APPROVED**

**19/101 Risk Management**

- There were no scheduled inspection outstanding at the end October.
- It was noted that one of the privately owned flower tubs, that was previously reported as being in danger of imminent of collapse, had now been removed.
- It was also noted that of the two laurel bushes in tubs at the Kent Bridge, one appeared to be suffering, possibly of wind burn. It was agreed to monitor.
- GCr reported that he and JWe had met on site to carry out a new Village Green Risk Assessment and this was work in progress which should be complete by the December meeting.

**19/102 Finance**

- The following payments had been made since the last meeting:- MissTrees £520 (Tree maintenance), H Crute £145.57 (Survey Costs). Currently there are no other invoices outstanding.
- The draft budget had been issued for agreement by the members. Following an amendment tabled by GCr, it was resolved to include provision for Website Accessibility Updating requirements (£1000) and replacement of flood warning signs (£500). The proposed precept for 2020/21 was amended to include these and was agreed at £8134. Clerk to table the amended budget at the December meeting.
- The Clerk and GCr agreed to meet in the next two weeks to finalise the draft edition of the updated Financial Regs for presentation at the December meeting.

**19/103 Ward Councillor Matters**

- LT reported that DBC had agreed that there would be no charge for parking in Darlington in an attempt to boost trade. It was anticipated that this would last though to the next spring, at least, and may be a permanent decision.
- LT also reported that there was a cabinet meeting the next day in which a PSPO would be introduced forbidding walking of more than 4 dogs at once and other restrictions involving dogs in public places.
- Broadband Rural Roll-out. LT stated that a meeting would be held shortly which would show the updated plans for the roll-out

**19/104 Correspondence**

- TVCA Small Sparks Fund. Closing date for applications is 15/11/19 and as no proposals were forthcoming, the matter was closed.
- All other correspondence listed was for information only.

**19/105 Other Village Matters**

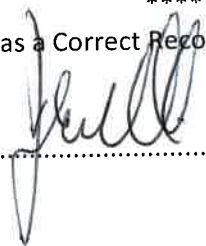
- The Chair reported that he had been informed that there was a dead deer on the side of Dibdale Road and that he had informed DBC about this. The deer was removed the same day.
- DD reported that DD, GC and GCr had attended the planning presentation by D Coates (Head of Planning) on 31/10/19. As part of the presentation DC stated that although DBC followed the 106 agreements process in respect of planning applications, he did understand the merits of the CIL system that could benefit small parish councils and suggested that each council prepare their own "wish list" of items they would like to seek funding, which DBC could consider when considering applications.

**19/106 Date of next meeting**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 at 6.30pm. The meeting concluded at 7.45pm

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Confirmed as a Correct Record and Approved by Council

Signed  (Chair)

Date.....2<sup>nd</sup> December2019.....