Minutes of the meeting of Dinnington Parish Council held on Wednesday 19 February 2020 at 7.00 pm in Dinnington Memorial Institute


One member of the public was present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minute No.</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Action required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>152.</td>
<td>Apologies for Absence</td>
<td>Cllrs Hitchens and Newcastle City Councillors King and Lower.</td>
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<td>153.</td>
<td>Declarations of Interest</td>
<td>Members were reminded of the need to declare interests at relevant items.</td>
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<td>154.</td>
<td>Police Report</td>
<td>There were no police present at the meeting.</td>
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<td>155.</td>
<td>Open Forum</td>
<td>A member of the public asked about the old school building as there were no signs of any action. It was reported that planning permission had been granted some time ago and it was now up to the owner to progress the development. There were three years to do this before permission lapsed. Members agreed it was an eyesore but had no jurisdiction to do anything.</td>
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<tr>
<td>156.</td>
<td>Minutes of previous meeting</td>
<td>RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 January 2020 be agreed as a true record.</td>
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| 157.       | Matters Arising | • Minute No.134 Cllr Wood advised that he had been able to find the plans to show what was adoptable and what had to be maintained by Bellway's maintenance contractor. The grass between the estate fence and the back of the footpath was included in the work to be maintained by Bellway. He had forwarded the plans, so the resident could resolve the grass cutting issue with Bellway.  
• Minute No.140 – the order for the Board had now been placed.  
• Minute 142.1 – Cllr Avaei asked for a contact number at the post office to arrange installation of the defibrillator.  
• Minute142.2 – the empty vodka bottles had been reported to the Police. |
| 158.       | Trees in the Village | Peter Boulton from Newcastle City Council was present for this item. Further to the discussion at the last meeting, he had identified that there were potentially 17 spaces on Castle Way where trees could be planted, and spaces for about 5-7 down to Mitford Way. There were also around five spaces on the road south to Kingston Park on the right hand side |
The cost would be £391 per tree for planting and one year’s maintenance, by which time the trees should be established. A minimum order of ten trees would need to be made to make it worthwhile for the City Council to do it. These could be ordered for planting either in April or November. He made some suggestions as regards appropriate species, which included red oak, Chinese birch, yellow birch and liquid amber.

Members agreed that ten trees should be ordered, five for Main Road and five for the Green for planting in April, with a view to purchasing more in the future when further S106 monies had been released by the City Council.

Mr Boulton agreed to confirm to the Clerk the payment method and to provide a map regarding the proposed locations.

Regarding pruning of existing trees, he reported that around ¾ of the trees had now been surveyed and some pruning would be done, starting with those on the main roads first. Any trees requiring emergency works would be done in the next twelve months.

Regarding the trees at the Havannah Nature Reserve, these were the responsibility of the Parks Trust and he had been advised that they would not do any pruning as horses should not be being ridden on the highway verge. He had asked them to respond to the PC regarding pedestrians.

### 159. Christmas Tree 2020

Cllr Phelps had circulated further details from PHS regarding potential costs, however, it was not clear what the cost would be for having the lights in place for around six weeks at Christmas. The City Council had advised that it would cost £704 to install a new leader box for the electricity supply, and he planned to check with Ponteland PC regarding their Christmas lights arrangements. Members asked that the Clerk check standing orders for the rules regarding seeking quotes.

It was agreed that Cllr Phelps seek the further information detailed above, and the Clerk check standing orders and report back to members.  

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### 160. Village Exhibition

- Pictures from Dinnington in Bloom and a donation box would be in place in the Village hall when the event was held.
- Cllr Phelps would do A4 and A3 posters and purchase a new banner to advertise the event – “Dinnington Through the Years Exhibition”
- Miles would be attending with his book.
- Good opportunity to raise the profile of the PC with residents, particularly those new to the village.

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### 161. Past Chairs' Board

Dealt with under Matters Arising.

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### 162. UPDATES

1. **(1) Annual Rent for the Pond**

The Clerk reported that the commons search results had come back which confirmed that the land in question was registered as common land.
Councillor Wood suggested that efforts be made to enter into an arrangement with the new owner once the property was sold, and no further action be taken at the current time. This could be done direct, or through an appropriate land agent. Members supported this approach and agreed that the Clerk ask Sanderson Young to advise the PC when the property was in the process of being sold.

(2) 3 Carrgate Cottages
An email had been received from the loss adjustors appointed by Zurich Municipal asking whether the PC would be open to discussing mitigation measures without litigation. However, there had been no communication from ZM direct and no sight of the loss adjustor’s report as requested by the Clerk. Members would be kept updated when anything further was received.

163. Youth Shelter
Details of the youth shelter had been circulated to members. There were a number of comments made about this:
- The cost was prohibitive at around £9,000.
- It would attract more youth disorder, rather than dispel it.
- Wherever it was placed it would be unpopular with someone.
- Times had changed and such facilities were not as popular as they once were.
- It would be used for a while and then forgotten about.
- There were better things to spend money on.
- Young people had not been asked what facility they would like.

Members agreed therefore that it was not appropriate and that the views on young people should be sought if youth facilities were a consideration in future.

164. Members’ Items of Concern

164.1 Cllr Hood:
- There had been some work done on the paths and they had been left in a very poor state with loose tarmac lying around. Ash Avenue was the worst area.
- There was rubbish in the hedge from Cochrane Terrace up to the Brunswick Road end.
- There were potholes in the Horton Grange Road. The Chair commented that Cllr Hitchens had emailed regarding potholes on Front Street. Members were concerned that pothole repairs were not being done properly any more.
- The signs on the roadside were green with algae and needed to be cleaned.

164.2 Cllr Dellow:
- the roads were covered in mud from the Persimmon site and there were a number of potholes. The road had been flooded the previous weekend at the Prestwick Carr road but these problems were everywhere.
- The yellow sign for the new housing development at the entrance to Dinnington Green needed to be removed as the development was finished.
| 164.3  | Cllr Thompson had reported a blocked manhole cover on the Hazlerigg corner over a year ago and it was still blocked. | Cllr Avaei |
| 165.   | **Correspondence**  
There were no matters to report. | |
| 166.   | **Planning Applications**  
**Planning Appeal – Moorey Spot Farm, Prestwick Road**  
Cllr Wood reported that he had spoken to NCC Planning, who had advised that all the PC’s previous comments would be forwarded. They had advised that the appeal process was free. It was a long process and it was unlikely that there would be any decision until at least late April.  
Members noted the position and did not have anything further to add to the comments already submitted. | |
| 167.   | **Neighbourhood Plan**  
Cllr Wood reported that the consultant was continuing to progress the draft chapters of the NP and was currently liaising with NCC over further information he required. The completed assessment forms for "Valued Village Amenities" had been returned to him. He had forwarded a draft chapter 'The Valued Rural Setting of Dinnington Village' for PC review. | |
| 168.   | **Updates**  
168.1 **Keepmoat Homes** – Cllr Wood reported that all of the houses had now been sold.  
The SUDS area in the south east corner currently occupied as a site compound by their groundworks contractor still needed to be tidied up and there was a small area on the open space/roundabout which still needed to be re-instated. Works to both of these areas was in hand.  
The final tarmac top course was still required to some of the estate roads and some of the pavements (mainly Hutchinson Court). This work was scheduled to be completed towards the end of March.  
Cllr King reported that the tenants living in Rochester Drive were having problems with their foul drains. This issue had been taken up with Keepmoat, who were aware of the problems and had jetted the pipes to clear them. However, the problems were of the tenants own making as the drains were full of wet wipes, cleaning clothes and grease / fat. The tenants had been advised not to flush these down the drains in future. | |
| 168.2  | **Persimmon Homes** – Cllr Wood reported there were currently 55 occupations, 6 plots were reserved and 26 had been released for sale. | |
| 168.3  | **Village Hall** – Cllr Porter reported that work on the bargeboards would begin in March. A group of professional actors called The November Club would be in the MI rehearsing for 2 full weeks in March, and a booking had been made for another election in May. | |
| 168.4  | **Newsletter** – nothing to report at the moment. The next edition would be due out in May. It was suggested that the current vacancies be included as an item. | Cllr Wood |
| 168.5 | **Library** – This was going okay. The Volunteers had had another successful visit to the school on Wed 5 February. |
| 168.6 | **Northumbria in Bloom/Adopt a Planter**  
A meeting had been held with the volunteers on Monday night to discuss the plans for this year. It had been quite well attended including a new volunteer who offered his time to help out as needed. Most volunteers provided email addresses to improve communication with the group, but there were a number of topics the PC could assist with.  
It was felt that the PC should communicate with the School to ask for their assistance with the effort, as they had done previously and, likewise, the businesses in the village. It was felt that the Allotments should also be asked if they wanted to enter again this year.  
The PC was asked to consider “Gateway Signs” at the entrances to the village and a coffee morning would be held to promote the NiB and raise funds. It was suggested that the village Facebook page should be used to publicise the event and to encourage greater participation in the village. Cllr Wood reported that community involvement and sustainability were just as important as the planting to the overall judging.  
It was agreed that a letter be sent to the local businesses asking if they would assist in the preparation for the competition, and Cllr Oliver advised he could raise this with the new headteacher at the school. Members also agreed that gateway planter signs at the entrances to the village would look good for the competition. Cllr Wood was to speak to NCC about permissions and get a price for three for discussion at the next meeting. | Clerk/Cllr Oliver |
| 168.7 | **Allotments**  
Nothing to report at the present time. |
| 168.8 | **Website**  
Nothing to report. |
| 168.9 | **Dinnington Surgery** – nothing to report. |
| 169. | **Reports**  
The Chair reported that he had been appointed a member of NCC’s Standards Committee.  
Cllr Oliver advised that he would ask the headteacher about the school governor position when he saw her about NiB. | Cllr Oliver |
| 170. | **Financial Matters** |
| 170.1 | Members approved and authorised the signing of cheques in payment of invoices received and presented at the meeting:-  
K. Hadfield £214.85 200093  
Ward Hadaway £634.20 200094 | Clerk |
| 171. | **Items for Next Agenda**  
- Additional grass cuts  
- Gateway planter signs | Clerk |
| 172. | Date of Next Meeting  
Wednesday 18 March 2020 at 7.00 pm. |
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| 173. | Conclusion of Meeting  
The meeting closed at 9.10 pm. |

CHAIR………………………………………

DATE………………………………………