

Lartington Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on January 10th 2016

Present

Mr Whetstone, Mr. Campion, Mrs Stephenson, Mr Crawford, Mrs Cross. Mr Jerred (Clerk).

01. Recording of the meeting

The Vice Chair opened the meeting by enquiring whether anyone present intended to make a recording of the meeting. No one had such an intention.

02. Apologies

The clerk reported that Mrs Hinchliffe had submitted an apology due to an important professional commitment and that Mrs. Parsons Munn was unable to attend through illness. It was unanimously resolved that these be accepted and approved.

Mrs F. Thompson (The Old Station) had also offered her apologies.

03. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

04. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on November 8th were read and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

05. Matters Arising

- a. The aqueduct - the clerk reported that he had expressed our concerns about this structure this to the DCC Heritage Officer.

06. Items of Urgent Business

- a. Theft from the Old Station

Mrs Parsons Munn had written voicing her concerns over recent thefts from this property and suggesting that we distribute a note around the village highlighting the need for vigilance. Members agreed that this was a serious matter but concern was expressed that this might be an isolated incident and that undue alarm could be caused to elderly residents. It was agreed that the clerk contact Durham Police to establish whether there had been other incidents. He also agreed to check whether there were other items of information which could usefully go alongside this in a newsletter.

07. Principal Correspondence

- a. Various emails routinely circulated
- b. Heart of Teesdale - newsletters
- c. HMRC - HMRC had written to ask that we submit future payments electronically rather than by cheque. It was agreed to respond explaining that our policy did not permit this.

08. Statement of Accounts

The clerk reported that there was £1080.90 in the current account and £368.53 in the Deposit Account. He reported that most payments for the present financial year had now been made - only the payments for Hall Hire being outstanding.

09. Accounts to be paid

Hall Hire	£15
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10. Precept

The clerk presented a financial paper outlining the issues that he believed needed to be considered in setting the precept for the forthcoming year together with a statement of accounts for the current year. Expenditure had been very much in line with income and the overall picture was satisfactory.

He asked that members take account the possible costs associated with the forthcoming local election and the need to ensure that the clerk's salary was appropriate and commensurate with both the minimum living wage and recommended NALC pay scales. He also explained his concerns that the cost of membership of CDALC could rise quite dramatically following DCC's withdrawal of seconded administrative support - a source of important advice for small councils such as hours. Finally, he pointed out that the government had again decided not to place a cap on any increase which could be made to the precept - but that this could change in future years. After careful discussion it was agreed that the precept be raised to £1380, resulting in a Council Tax Band D charge of £22 - an increase of slightly less than £5.

11. PACT and Speedwatch

Mr Crawford agreed to undertake a Speedwatch exercise in the near future. Mrs Parsons Munn had offered to assist.

12. Highway Issues

Flooding on Green Lane - The clerk reported that he had been in touch with Cllr. Bell and that he had raised the matter with DCC Officials on our behalf. Cllr. Bell had reported that he understood that DCC had some proposals to put to us and that he had asked them to respond directly to us. The clerk reported that he had followed this up and understood that a meeting was to be arranged between ourselves, Brian Featherstone (Local Highways Officer) and the DCC Coastal and Drainage Officer.

Lartington Lane - Mrs Parsons Munn had written expressing concerns about the road surface on the approach to Deepdale Bridge. The clerk agreed to refer this to DCC.

13 Footpath Issues

Footpath 43 - the clerk reported that he had not had further correspondence regarding this although the footpath alterations remained unfinished. Mr Crawford reported that he had understood that the existing fence was to be taken down to allow it to be widened as required in the terms of Diversion Order.

It was agreed that our concerns about the width and surface dressing of the footpath again be referred to Mike Murden, DCC Footpaths Officer.

14. Planning Matters

There were none.

15. Date of Future Meetings

March 8th May 9th (APM) July 11th