

Lartington Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on January 9th 2017

Present

Mr. Campion, Mrs Parsons Munn, Mrs Cross, Mrs Stephenson and Mr Crawford. Mr Jerred (Clerk).

01. Recording of the meeting

The 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 apologies due to an important professional commitment. It was unanimously resolved that these be accepted and approved.

03. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

04. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Nov. 14th were read and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

05. Matters Arising

- a. Flooding on Green Lane - the Clerk reported that he understood this work had been completed but members were not sure that it had been. The clerk agreed to check.
- b. Prescription delivery services - the Clerk reported that he had been unable to contact David Kinch in regard to this matter but that a review into access to pharmaceutical services in the county was currently being completed. He intended to write expressing our concerns and would forward contact details to members should they wish to respond individually.
- c. Signage at Lartington Hall - Mrs Stephenson reported that this was still missing and the Clerk agreed to report it once more.
- d. Drainage - the Clerk stated that he had reported this matter to DCC Highways. Members noted that they remained blocked and the Clerk agreed to report the issue once more.
- e. Aqueduct/Lartington Hall boundary - the Chair reported that he had had a note from Bryan Harris confirming that the hedging adjacent to the PROW was in accordance with the application and permissions. He initial enquiries regarding the aqueduct remained unresolved and he had promised to report again in the New Year. The clerk confirmed that he had acknowledged the report and stressed the importance of repair to the aqueduct.
- f. Data Protection - the Clerk reported on various correspondence received in regard to this. He understood that NALC were going to issue guidelines on the protocols and policies which would need to be put in place whilst discussions were ongoing both locally and nationally regarding the provision of a co-ordinated response to the appointment of a Data protection Officer - at an unknown cost. It was agreed that the clerk and chair should meet with Mrs Hinchliffe to discuss our response to the matter.

06. Items of Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

07. Principal Correspondence

- a. Various emails routinely circulated
- b. CDALC - Annual audit and governance statements, GDPR

08. Statement of Accounts

The clerk reported that there was £1169 in the current account and £368.65 in the Deposit Account.

The Clerk again reported that the arrangements for Audit were changing and that he was to attend a meeting on March 28th to find out about the new procedures. He understood that very similar forms were to be completed to previous years but that we could declare ourselves exempt from the need for an external audit.

09. Accounts to be paid

Hall Hire	£15
I Jerred (Stamps)	£16.34

10. Precept for 2018/19

The Clerk had previously distributed a copy of the projected financial situation for the year ending March 31st 2018 together with his observations regarding issues for consideration. It was agreed that the overall picture was reasonably healthy with a potential carry forward of £1491.31 - a slight increase on the previous year.

The clerk raised concerns regarding the possible costs associated with the introduction of GDPR and also of the need to increase the clerk's salary to reflect the forthcoming NALC pay review and the implementation of the National Living Wage. The Clerk stated that he did not personally seek an increase in salary and would waive entitlement to the increased salary should it be agreed. He was concerned, however, that the Council would find itself in a difficult position should the need to appoint a new clerk arise - it was difficult to see how the post could be fulfilled with a contract of less than 100 hours pa and that the minimum salary for a clerk was likely to be £9.20 ph from April 2018.

Members agreed that since the costs associated with implementing GDPR really were unknown that they should be met from our reserves for the forthcoming year. The clerk's recommendation that some provision be made to prepare for a significant increase in the clerk's salary was accepted.

It was agreed therefore to raise the precept requested to £1500. Since the Council Tax Base for the Parish had risen from £62.9 to £64.8, this would result in a Council Tax Charge of £23.15 - an increase of £1.18 for each Band D household.

11. PACT and Speedwatch

The clerk reported on correspondence with Councillor Bell whilst the chair reported on discussions between herself and Mr Crawford in regard to undertaking Speedwatch exercises. It was agreed that these should be conducted at least twice a month, which was the agreement between ourselves and Durham Police.

It was agreed that speed remained a serious issue and disappointment was again expressed that DCC continued to refuse to widen the programme of mobile speed warning signage.

It was agreed that it might be useful to discuss this with other local councils and it was agreed that we invite Cllr. Bell to a future meeting and to extend an invitation to other councils to send representatives should they consider this beneficial.

12. Footpath and Highway Issues

No issues raised other than those dealt with under matters arising.

13. Planning Matters

There were no planning applications.

14. Date of Future Meetings

March 13th 2018 May 8th 2018 July 10th 2018