

Lartington Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on July 9th 2019

Present

Mr. Campion, Mrs. Parsons Munn, Mrs. Cross, Mr. Crawford, Mrs. Stephenson. 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 an apology. It was unanimously resolved that this be accepted and approved.

03. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

04. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on May 14th 2019 were read. Mrs Cross asked that for reasons of clarity, the reference to Mrs V Dent should read Mrs Vivienne Dent, which was agreed. The Chairman then signed them as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

05. Matters Arising

a. The Aqueduct. Mrs Parsons Munn reported that this was not currently leaking and that she believed it must have been repaired.

b. NWL Drainage Proposals – the clerk reported on a conversation between himself and Maurice Dunn. Mr Dunn had agreed that he and an Environment Agency representative should attend our next meeting. The clerk had arranged that residents of properties affected, or their representatives, should meet with Mr Dunn at 7.00pm in order to give them an opportunity to acquaint themselves with likely proposals and to raise their questions or concerns. This meeting would NOT be a Parish Council meeting nor would it be led by the Parish Council.

The Council would then meet with Mr Dunn and the EA representative at 7.30pm. The Clerk pointed out that there were members of the Council who might be considered to have a direct interest in this matter and others who have an indirect interest and that it would be necessary for these to be formally declared – although the Council was likely to have to grant a dispensation allowing them to take part in any discussion or vote as it might not otherwise be quorate.

c. Parking at Deepdale Bridge – the Clerk reported that he had had a number of exchanges with DCC and that better signage was being considered for the area. Members re-iterated their strong concerns over this matter and the clerk agreed to continue to pursue the matter.

06. Items of Urgent Business

There were no matters raised.

07. Principal Correspondence

a. Various emails routinely circulated

b. HGV Group – the Clerk reported that he had received an update from Ros Evans regarding the work of the group pushing this. Efforts appear to be concentrated on ensuring that careful consideration is given to the routing of HGV vehicles during any future upgrade work to the A66 and it was agreed that we would endorse proposals to minimize any disruption caused by diversions.

c. CPRE Newsletter

08. Statement of Accounts

The clerk reported that there was £2329.46 in the current account and £369.36 in the Deposit Account.

The Clerk reported that the Accounts had now been audited by Mrs Botterill and that this had not raised any issues. The appropriate papers were now available on the website.

He also explained that the printer was not working properly and he wished to delete it from the register of assets. He had purchased an HP Printer at a cost of £38, which included the cost of ink cartridges for a year. This was approved.

09. Accounts to be paid

Hall Hire	£15
HMRC	£50
Clerks Salary	£200
Stamps	£4.20
Ptinter	£38

10. Co-option of Councillor

It was again agreed to defer this to the next meeting as no-one had yet expressed an interest in joining the Council.

11. Lartington Hall Gates

The Clerk and Chair reported on the latest exchange with DCC over this. They continued to have concerns over the transparency and correctness of the original proposals, particularly in relations to consideration of the rights of unhindered access which private residents living within the area should be able to enjoy. There was also a very real concern that Planning Officers appeared to consider the original Conditions 12 and 13 relating to vehicle access to be worded in a way that was legally difficult to enforce. Both Clerk and Chair believed that the wording of these conditions was unambiguous and, therefore, questioned this - and if the conditions really were unenforceable then they were incompetently drafted.. It was agreed that the situation remained unsatisfactory and the Chair agreed to draft a letter to the Chief Executive of DCC regarding the matter.

12. PACT and Speedwatch

Mr Crawford and Mrs Parsons Munn agreed that they would mount further "speedwatch" exercise in coming weeks. The continued absence of the "Speedvisor" was again questioned and the Clerk agreed to chase this up once again.

The Chair suggested that the issue of speeding should again dominate the next newsletter and that research be undertaken in to incidents of accidents on rural roads. The clerk agreed to contact Simon Rogers of Durham Police about this.

13. Footpath and Highway Issues

Mrs Parsons Munn raised concerns about Footpath 29 in the area of the old Signal Box at Cat Castle – the entrance to which was very overgrown. It was agreed that this be referred to DCC Footpath Officers.

14. Planning Matters

Wesley House – Erection of a Summer House

The Clerk reported that there was an application to build a Summer House in the garden of Wesley House. Proposals were studied and it was agreed that this would not be seen on the road and was unlikely to have any impact on the built or natural environment of the Conservation Area. It was agreed that the Council has no objections to the proposal.

15. Date of Future Meetings

September 17th November 12th January 14th 2020