

Lartington Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on March 14th 2017

Present

Mrs Parsons Munn, Mrs Hinchliffe, Mr Whetstone, Mr. Campion, Mrs Stephenson, Mr Crawford, Mrs Cross. 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

There were no apologies.

03. Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

04. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on January 10th were read and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

05. Matters Arising

- a. The Old Railway Line - the Chair reported that she believed that the notices which had been recently erected were intended to re-state Lartington Estates position in this matter and that walkers and riders appeared able to continue to use the paths at their own risk. It was agreed that no further action was needed.
- b. Railings in the area of the railway bridge - the clerk reported that DCC had established that planning permission was needed in regard to the replacement of these and that work had therefore ceased. It was agreed that the railings continued to be in a dangerous condition and the clerk was asked to check with Susan Porter, Planning Enforcement Officer, whether a timescale had been agreed for the application to be made.

06. Items of Urgent Business

- a. Dog Fouling. Mrs Parsons Munn reported that there continued to be a number of incidences of "poo bags" being hung off trees and branches. The clerk reported that details of the new DCC Public Spaces Protection Order had been received which made it an offence not to clean up dog mess but that this was difficult to enforce. It was agreed that we support any DCC publicity efforts and mention it in the next newsletter.

07. Principal Correspondence

- a. Various emails routinely circulated
- b. Heart of Teesdale - newsletters
- c. Election - May 4th
- d. Adult Learning Courses
- e. Auto-enrolment of Pensions
- f. DCC Dog Fouling - new Order in place June 1st

08. Statement of Accounts

The clerk reported that there was £1502.91 in the current account and £368.53 in the Deposit Account. He reported that a grant of £437 had been received from the Transparency Code Fund in order to purchase new website software and to pay for the clerk's time in developing and maintaining the website. He also reported that the defibrillator pad were nearing their use by date and that he had been received a quotation from WelMed for £77.82 which appeared expensive but was cheaper than other suppliers. It was agreed, therefore, to go ahead with this purchase. The clerk distributed a spreadsheet showing the likely statement of accounts for the year ending March 31st 2017, which showed a carry forward of £965.26. It was agreed that this was a satisfactory situation.

09. Accounts to be paid

Hall Hire	£15	I Jerred (Amazon software)	£57.83
I Jerred (Transparency Code)	£288	HMRC	£72
CDALC	£27	WelMed	£77.82

10. Election - May 4th

The clerk gave details of the arrangements for the forthcoming parish council election highlighting key dates, outlining the forms to be completed and emphasising the care which needed to be taken in relation to expenses and to the period of Purdah. He emphasised that the Returning Officer would prefer Candidate Forms to be hand delivered to County Hall since they would be immediately checked to ensure that they had been filled in accurately but that if this was impractical then they should be posted in good time to allow any issues to be resolved before April 4th.

11. Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk explained that the new Council takes office on May 8th and that the first meeting of the Council coincides with the Annual Parish meeting.

It was agreed, however, that arrangements for the APM should follow that adopted in recent years. The clerk would prepare a Newsletter containing the Annual Report and Financial Statement, together with other items of interest, and that these would be formally presented at the meeting. Mr Crawford suggested that a "refresher" course in the use of the defibrillator would be very useful and it was agreed that we try to arrange this - possibly in conjunction with Cotherstone PC and in September.

PACT and Speedwatch

Mr Crawford reported that he and Mrs Parsons Munn were to undertake a Speedwatch exercise in the morning.

It was noted that the Speed Monitoring exercise promised by DCC had not yet taken place and the clerk was instructed to pursue this matter.

12. Highway Issues

Flooding on Green Lane - Mrs Parsons Munn reported that DCC had come up with a scheme to alleviate this problem and which would be completed in the next financial year. The clerk reported that he had circulated affected residents with information about this.

Lartington Lane - the clerk reported that DCC had agreed that there was an issue with the road surface towards BC and that they would redress this in due course.

Trees on the "Village Green" - Mrs Parsons Munn expressed continued concern regarding the condition of trees in this area, although it was recognised that some work had been done. The clerk agreed to try to establish whether the DCC Tree Officer could advise on the matter.

13 Footpath Issues

Footpath 43 - the clerk reported there were still concerns about the width and surface dressing of the footpath which he had referred to Mike Murden, DC Footpaths Officer. He was particularly concerned that there was anecdotal evidence of walkers being directed to the new route whilst it clearly remained unfinished. Mr Murden had replied sharing our concerns and reporting that he intended to meet with the owners later this week.

14. Planning Matters

The Old Station - Extension to Rear

It was agreed to minute that the Council had held a site meeting to consider this on February 12th and was happy to support the application.

The Old Station - New Entrance Gates

The clerk reported that an application had been submitted for the replacement of the existing "farm" gate with a new gate and piers which reflected the railway origins of the property. It was agreed to support this application

Lartington Hall

The clerk reported that he had received a number of comments expressing concern about the erection of substantial gateposts adjacent to Stable Lodge. He reported that he believed the scale of these was such that planning permission would be required and that he had emailed a photograph of the posts to the DCC Conservation officer and the Planning Enforcement Officer asking for their advice in the matter. He agreed to keep members informed of their response.

15. Date of Future Meetings

May 9th (APM) July 11th Sept. 12th