

# **Lartington Parish Council**

## **Minutes of General Meeting held on March 12th 2019**

### **Present**

Mr. Campion, Mrs Parsons Munn, Mrs Cross, Mr Crawford, Mrs Hinchliffe, 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 there were no apologies

### **03. Disclosures of Interest**

There were none.

### **04. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on January 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 and the Chair had met with Bryan Harris and a representative of Lartington Estates. He reported that some work had been done by the owners of Field House to line the approach to the aqueduct and that this had had some impact on the amount of water leaking down the side of the structure but that problems remained. It was felt that further lining may be needed whilst questions remained as to whether the structure itself was leaking. Mr Harris subsequently met on site with a specialist bridge engineer who confirmed that there were failures in both the bitumen lining and the joints of the structure. Mr Harris proposed, therefore, to refer this to Lartington Estates once more.
- b. Mounting Block at North Gill – it was reported that this had now been removed.
- c. Footpath through Deepdale – the clerk reported that he had raised this with Mike Murden, DCC Footpaths Officer, who had replied to confirm that he would look at the path when he was next in the area. He believed that this was under new ownership and it was reported by members that it was owned by John Durkin who had a very positive attitude to footpath users.

### **06. Items of Urgent Business**

Lartington Hall Gates – the clerk reported on the meeting held with John Byers and circulated the letter which he had just received from him. This was considered carefully and members were disappointed to note the absence of reference to the issues of noise and inconvenience to local residents. The points regarding the use of the drives as a “Grand Entrance” were not accepted whilst we remain dissatisfied over the explanation regarding the choice of colour. Of greatest concern, both raised in the meeting and obliquely referred to in the letter was the suggestion that it was difficult to enforce the use of the Western entrance for guests attending Weddings and Conferences, as determined by the conditions imposed in the original planning application. Concern was also raised regarding the transparency of pre-application planning advice.

The Clerk was instructed, therefore, to reply to the letter outlining these points and re-iterating our particular concerns regarding vehicle access and making it quite clear that the Council would forcefully oppose any attempt to revise the condition regarding the use of the Western entrance.

## **07. Principal Correspondence**

- a. HGV Ban in Barnard castle – the email from Ros Evans had been circulated and was considered. It was felt that further information was required before the Council could form a view on the subject and the clerk was instructed to write inviting a representative of the group to attend our next meeting.
- b. Wheels to Work – it was agreed that this was a very interesting scheme which may be of benefit to young people in the area. The notice was to be placed in the noticeboard and the Clerk agreed to mention it in a forthcoming newsletter.

## **08. Statement of Accounts**

The clerk reported that there was £1381.18 in the current account and £368.97 in the Deposit Account.

## **09. Accounts to be paid**

Hall Hire        £15

## **10. Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting**

It was agreed that this should take its usual form. The clerk would prepare the report and financial statement together with a brief newsletter as he had done in previous years. It was agreed that an advocate of the proposed HGV Ban in Barnard Castle be invited to the meeting.

## **11. Co-option of Councillor**

It was again agreed to defer this to the next meeting. Members reported that they had approached two persons who it was felt might be interested but that they had been unwilling to put their names forward.

## **12. Adoption of Standing Orders**

The Model Standing Orders had been circulated to members previously. Whilst it was agreed that they be largely accepted, it was noted that the Council was never likely to have a Committee or Sub-Committee structure so paragraphs regarding the creation and operation of these could be deleted. Other paragraphs regarding the legal and financial conduct of the Council were also considered and amended to reflect the nature and extent of the Council's financial circumstances.

## **13. Footpath and Highway Issues**

Mr Crawford reported that two Speedwatch exercises had been conducted. It was disappointing that over 50% of vehicles passing through the village were still doing so at speeds in excess of 35mph. It was also noted that DCC had yet to conduct a Speedvisor exercise in the village and the clerk agreed to chase this up.

## **14. Planning Matters**

North Gill – the clerk reported on latest application for a barn conversion to create a single house. This application had caused some confusion owing to an error on the original form and that the barn in question had now fallen down! It was agreed that Council had no reasons to object to this.

## **15. Date of Future Meetings**

May 14<sup>th</sup>        July 9<sup>th</sup>        Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> (Date Changed)