

# **Lartington Parish Council**

## **Minutes of Meeting held on November 26th 2019**

### **Present**

Mr. Campion, Mrs. Parsons Munn, Mrs Hinchliffe, 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 Cynthia Symon had accepted her co-option to the Council but had offered her apologies for this meeting due to prior commitments. It was unanimously resolved that this be accepted and approved.

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

The Clerk explained that it could be argued that, although the Council would not be directly involved in an initial Section 101a application for the installation of a public sewer, he felt that all members could be seen to have either a direct or indirect interest in the matter and would need to apply to himself, as Monitoring Officer, for a dispensation to take part in future discussions of the subject. This would be granted as the Council would not otherwise be quorate. Members accepted this and signed the appropriate form.

### **04. Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on July 9<sup>th</sup> and September 17<sup>th</sup> were read and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting..

### **05. Matters Arising**

- a. The Clerk apologized that he had not followed up recent concerns regarding both the aqueduct and Footpath 29 but would do so after this meeting. Concerns regarding the worsening of conditions beneath the aqueduct were expressed and Mrs. Parsons Munn agreed to speak to Mrs. Hardie Hammond who has specialist knowledge of heritage matters.
- b. Dispute with DCC Planning – the Clerk reported that a detailed letter had now been received from Stuart Timmiss, Head of Planning. Whilst it was clear that our letter had had some impact and that some points had been followed up, some points would now be laid to rest whilst our concerns regarding vehicular access to events at Lartington Hall remained to be clarified
- c. Parking at Deepdale – the Clerk reiterated the DCC Highways position that the historic rights of access and national signage policy meant that they were unable to take any action in this matter.

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

There were no matters raised.

### **07. Principal Correspondence**

- a. Various emails routinely circulated
- b. Cotherstone Parish Council – the Clerk reported on further correspondence regarding the possible purchase of the Village Shop and that a meeting was to be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November, to which residents were invited.
- c. Cotherstone Methodist Church – the Clerk reported that he had been informed that the Church and Hall were to be disposed of and that we would need to seek a new meeting place. He had asked that we be allowed use of the room for our next meeting and that the matter be discussed then.
- d. CPRE and War Memorial Trust Newsletters

### **08. Statement of Accounts and Precept for 2020/2021**

The clerk reported that there was £1717.26 in the current account and £369.78 in the Deposit Account.

He reported that information had been received from Durham County Council regarding next year's precept. The tax base had risen from 65.6 to 67.6, a net gain of £47.28 on a standstill Band D charge of £23.14. He explained that although we normally determine our precept requirements at the January Meeting, the date for the return of the Official Precept Request to DCC was due shortly after our scheduled meeting and it was sensible to attend to this at this meeting.

A projected statement of accounts for the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 was then distributed and discussed. The clerk noted that our income and expenditure was broadly in balance, that our reserves remained at an appropriate level and that he did not foresee any unusual expenditure in the forthcoming year. He suggested that the rise in the tax base was such that no increase in the Band D Charge was required for a second year. This was unanimously agreed and the Chair signed the appropriate form.

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

Hall Hire	£15
HMRC	£50
Clerks Salary	£200
Stamps/Stationery	£42.91

#### **10. Newsletter**

The Clerk reported that he hoped to prepare a newsletter for distribution in the near future. It had previously been agreed that road safety would be the principal theme of this. Mrs. Parsons Munn asked that "Tins not Tinsel", a Foodbank initiative, be included and the Clerk asked that if members thought of anything else they let him know.

#### **11. PACT and Speedwatch**

Mr. Crawford reported that he had conducted another exercise in which 10% of 120 vehicles monitored had been travelling in excess of the speed limit.

Members raised concerns over the parking of vehicles at a recent wedding Fayre at Lartington Hall. Many vehicles were parked across the pavement whilst the number parked along the road forced vehicles travelling from Cotherstone on to the wrong side of the road as they approached the blind corner. Vehicles were also using the village entrance to Lartington Hall rather than the parkway route. Whilst it was accepted that the issue of vehicles parking on the highway was not a Council matter, the Clerk was instructed to write to the proprietors of Lartington Hall expressing the concerns raised by residents and asking that the event be better marshalled next year.

#### **12. Highway and Footpath Issues**

Mrs. Parsons Munn raised a concern regarding the condition of steps on the footpath through Deepdale. This had been raised previously with the Footpath Officer but she felt that there had been further deterioration and queried whether a direct approach should be made to the landowners. The clerk agreed to refer this to Mike Murden, DCC Footpaths Officer, and to ask him whether this would be appropriate.

Mrs. Cross mentioned that drains in the village were blocked and the Clerk agreed to refer this to DCC.

#### **12. Planning Matters**

##### **Parkgate House – Internal alterations and new external bathroom window**

The Clerk reported that this had now been approved.

There had been no further applications.

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

January 14<sup>th</sup> 2020

March 10<sup>th</sup>

May 12<sup>th</sup>