

Lartington Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on March 11th 2014

Present

Mr. Campion, Mrs Cross, Mrs Parsons Munn, Mrs Stephenson, Mr Whetstone and Mr Jerred (Clerk).
Apologies had been received from Mr Wilkes and Mr Hammond

01. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on January 11th were read and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

02. Matters Arising

- a. Litter bin at the bus stop adjacent to the noticeboard – this was still in need of attention. The clerk was instructed to raise the matter again with DCC.
- b. Footpath at Cat Castle – the clerk reported that the quote received from Craig Gibson was very reasonable and that he had submitted an application for PP3 funding to Elaine Crowe. A decision was expected in the new financial year.
- c. FOI and Fata Protection Training – the clerk reported that he had applied to attend this course in March.

03. Items of Urgent Business

- a. Litter between Lartington Lane Caravan Site and Barnard Castle – it was agreed that the clerk would raise this matter with DCC.

04. Principal Correspondence

- d. Precept – correspondence with DCC regarding increase. DCC accepted that our increase was justified.
- e. Electoral Register – the clerk reported that residents at Grey Close featured on this. It was agreed that this did not need pursuing.
- f. Audit arrangements – the clerk reported that these were to change but that our present arrangements for financial management should continue to satisfy auditing requirements.
- g. DCC Customer First Strategy Consultation – focus group meetings were being held. Mrs Cross expressed an interest in attending and the clerk agreed to provide her with further details.

05. Accounts and Precept

The clerk reported that there was £535.68 in the current account and £1367.31 in the deposit account. These were likely to be the end of year figures.

06. Accounts to be paid

None.

07. Venue for future meetings

The clerk reported on information regarding new reporting arrangements. It was agreed that these rendered current meeting arrangements untenable and that alternative accommodation be sought. He reported that Cotherstone Village Hall was likely to cost £27 per session but that Tuesday evenings did not appear convenient for this. He also reported that Mr Wilkes was prepared to make Lartington Hall available for a similar price, although it was accepted that there were potential conflicts of interest should this be used. Mrs Cross suggested that Cotherstone Methodist Hall was used by the Record Society and that she believed the cost to be about £15. It was agreed that this Hall appeared to have the facilities that we need and that Mrs Cross would enquire as to its availability for the Annual Meeting to be held on May 13th 2014.

08. Village Green/Heart of Teesdale Grant

Mr Campion reported on an email received from Mr Hammond outlining the current position in regard to the grant. He also referred members to the email received some weeks ago from Mr White, acting for Lartington Estate Trustees, in which refusal for permission to do any work on the green was clearly stated. Whilst recognizing that the estate's position meant that no physical work could be undertaken, Mr Hammond hoped that it would be possible to pursue grant funding for research and other tasks.

Members agreed that the estate's response was very disappointing but felt that it would be very difficult to undertake the tasks outlined by Mr Hammond without physical access to the area and without a legal confrontation with the estate. It was agreed, therefore, that a note be sent to Mr Hammond outlining our concerns and that a final decision on the matter would be deferred until the next meeting, when it was hoped that Mr Hammond would be able to attend.

09. Possible adoption of BT Kiosk and defibrillator purchase

The clerk reported that he had made an application to BT for the purchase of the kiosk but was awaiting a reply.

Mr Whetstone reported that he had approached Glaxo on this matter but also awaited a reply. More positively, however, he reported that Cllr Bell had agreed to make a grant of £200 from his local budget. This was welcomed and it was agreed that further fund raising measures be discussed at the next meeting.

The clerk reported on a suggestion that he had received from Mr Hammond regarding the replacement of the modern kiosk with a traditional K6 unit. This was likely to cost between £2500 and £3000 but Mr Hammond had put together a

draft application for grant funding from Heart of Teesdale. Members suggested that there might be issues with BT in regard to this, for example with a continued electrical supply, that an old unit may be more difficult to maintain and also that doors on K6 units were often stiff. It was again agreed that this be deferred to the next meeting when Mr Hammond would have an opportunity to speak to it.

10. Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that this would be held on May 13th at 7.00pm and that arrangements would be as in previous years.

It was also agreed that the clerk would prepare the Annual Report and that Mrs Cross would distribute it with the Parish magazine.

11. Planning Applications

There were none.

Mr Campion reported on difficulties faced by Mrs Rose in getting permission for replacement windows on outbuildings at The Grove. The clerk reported that we had not originally commented on this application because it had seemed a very straightforward matter.