

**Lartington Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Present**

Mr. Campion, Mrs Parsons Munn, Mrs Cross, Mrs Stephenson, Mr Whetstone. Mr Jerred (Clerk).

Apologies had been received from Mr Hammond.

**Election of Officers**

Chair : Mrs Parsons Munn elected unanimously

Vice-Chair : Mr Whetstone was elected unanimously.

Auditor : Mr Crawford

Bank Mandate : It was agreed that Mr Campion, Mrs Cross and Mrs Parsons Munn should continue to be signatories to the bank account.

Acceptance of office forms were then signed.

**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 Mr. Hammond had submitted his apologies and stated that, regrettably, he wished to resign from the council.

**03. Disclosures of Interest**

There were none.

**04. Minutes**

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

**05. Matters Arising**

a. The clerk reported that he had attended a meeting of the Teesdale CDALC Forum and also the CDALC Regional Event on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The latter presented further information on the new Local Council Award Scheme which he would agenda for a future meeting.

b. Footpath in Deepdale – the clerk reported that a P3 grant had been received for improvement to the stepped area on this path. He had been unable to contact the landowner but had been advised by Elaine Crow that permission was not needed and that the contractor should now be instructed to proceed.

c. Footpath in the Pecknall area – the clerk reported that Elaine Crow had been in touch with the landowner regarding this, who had reported problems with the substructure of the path which made repairs difficult. Elaine suggested that the situation be monitored.

d. DCC referrals – the clerk reported that he had requested the drains be cleared and the bin adjacent to the bus stop replaced. It was noted that the drains had been cleared but that debris had simply been left, probably leading to an early recurrence.

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

- a. Vacancy for Councillor – Mr. Hammond’s wish to resign as a councilor was noted with regret. It was agreed that he had brought an expertise, particularly in regard to planning issues, which had always been valued and members were pleased to note that he was prepared to continue to help when necessary. The clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Hammond thanking him for his service and to contact DCC in regard to the declaration of a vacancy.
- b. Tree felling in Deepdale Woods – it was reported that substantial felling appeared to be taking place in this area. It was agreed that this be referred to Rodger Lowe, DCC Tree Officer, to ensure that everything was in order.

## **07. Principal Correspondence**

- a. Various emails - routinely circulated
- b. CDALC – Delivering Differently
- c. Fly Tipping
- d. CPRE 2015 Manifesto

## **08. Statement of Accounts/Precept**

The clerk reported that there was £2070.12 in the current account and £366.05 in the Deposit Account.

## **09. Statement of Assurance/Annual Return**

The council considered the statement of assurance required by the Annual Return and was able to agree all points. No matters requiring attention had been raised in the previous audit.

The preparation of a Fixed Asset Register was discussed and it was agreed that the defibrillator, kiosk and noticeboard be included. It was felt important that these should be insured at their replacement value with the clerk being instructed to contact the insurers for an appropriate quotation. He reported that the present quotation was for £212 and that the premium was due on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The payment of a revised premium in due course was authorized.

## **10. Accounts to be paid**

Hall Hire	£15	Clerks Salary	£160
HMRC	£40	CDALC	£34.32
Stationery/Stamps	£18.70	Zurich Municipal	

## **11. PACT and Speedwatch**

Mrs Parsons Munn reported on the outcome of a PACT meeting that she had attended with Mr Whetstone. The police officer present had offered to arrange a couple of speed monitoring exercises with appropriate publicity but these were still awaited. It was agreed that efforts be made to ensure a representative of the council attended all future PACT meetings.

## **12. Highway Issues**

- a. Continuing problems with drainage, particularly in the area of Park House, and it was agreed these again be reported to DCC
- b. Mr Whetstone raised a query in regard to the condition of the road in the area of Tower House. He believed that the surface had become distorted and that there had been problems with water in the past, possibly associated with the large water mains in the immediate are. It was agreed that this be referred to DCC with a request that an engineer inspect it.

### **13. Planning Matters**

The clerk reported that Northumbrian Water had applied for Listed Building Consent to undertake works on the Deepdale Pipe Bridge. It was agreed that no objection could be raised to this.

### **14. Website Update**

The Clerk reported that he had now updated the website, although some work remained outstanding on the Local Information and History sections.

The law now required that minutes, agendas, annual reports and financial information be presented on the website and that the council's website does meet these requirements.

### **15. Review of Standing Orders and Recording of Meetings**

The clerk reported that he had done little on this since the last meeting but that he felt it would be beneficial if each member had a hard copy of the Draft Standing Orders which they could read carefully before approving them at the next meeting. He explained that the draft copies issued deliberately contained no annotations and asked that members raise any areas of concern when he next requested items for the agenda.

### **11. Date of Future Meetings**

July 14<sup>th</sup>

Sept 8<sup>th</sup>

November 10th