

Lartington Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held on November 11th 2014

Present

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

Apologies were received from Mr Campion.

01. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on September 2nd were read and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting. It was noted, however, that Mr Campion had attended the meeting.

02. Matters Arising

The clerk reported that there were no matters arising that were not already on the agenda.

03. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business

04. Principal Correspondence

- a. DCC – Winter Salting Routes and arrangements for Garden Waste Collection
- b. North Pennines AONB – Newsletter.
- c. Various emails – circulated routinely

05. Statement of Accounts/Precept

The clerk reported presented a detailed statement of the current financial situation. He reported that there was £798.74 in the Current Account and £367.55 in the Deposit Account. He detailed outstanding expenses from the Defibrillator Project and other expenses likely to be occurred in the current financial, suggesting that if £211 was returned to the Deposit Account (the balance of £1000 transferred earlier), then the Carry Forward was likely to be in the order of £500. He also reported that DCC were indicating that the Tax Base used in calculating Council Tax had increased. It was agreed that it appeared unnecessary to increase the precept for the next financial year.

The clerk also described difficulties in reclaiming VAT, stating that he had referred this matter to CDALC and the National Association of Local Councils. Finally, he reported that he had received the invoice from Craig Gibson for work at Cat Castle. This was fully covered by a PP3 grant from DCC and HMRC and it was agreed that a cheque be signed but not released until the grant had been received.

06. Accounts to be paid

Hall Hire	£15	Clerk's Salary	£160
HMRC	£40	Stamps	£26.06
Defib install	£50.81	Mercury advert	£38.40
Cotherstone Hall	£16	Craig Gibson	£532.80
Cat Castle	£532.80	(inc. £88.80 vat) with caveat!	

07. Co-option of Councillor

The clerk reported that DCC had confirmed that there was no call for election and reported that Kate Hinchliffe remained keen to join the Council. Mrs Cross proposed that she be co-opted to the Council and this was agreed unanimously.

08. Defibrillator Project

The clerk reported that this was now complete and that the training session had been well attended and considered to be well worthwhile. It was agreed that the Council's thanks to those who had given generously, to NEAS, to Cotherstone Village Hall and to the ladies who had arranged refreshments be recorded in the minutes.

09. Heart of Teesdale

The clerk opened discussions by reporting on discussions with the Heart Of Teesdale Co-ordinator. The Chair raised concerns about copyright, the use of the council website and the venue for the concluding talk. Mr Hammond (a director of Archeoenvironment, the contractor) confirmed that there were no real problems over copyright and that a PDF file could easily be loaded to the council website. He argued, however, that the concluding talk should take place at Lartington Hall, a matter of concern for other councilors. The Chair proposed that this discussion be deferred until the end of the meeting, when Mr Hammond could declare an interest and leave. This was agreed.

10. Speed Issues

The Clerk reported that he had written to DCC requesting that Horse Warning signs be placed at strategic points but that this had been rejected. This was noted with disappointment.

He also reported that he had received a letter from a resident complaining about parking in the village. Whilst recognizing that this sometimes causes inconvenience, members felt that parked cars inhibited speeding vehicles and noted that there were no enforceable parking restrictions in the village.

It was felt, however, that another Speedwatch initiative was needed and that these needed to be carried out on a more regular basis. The clerk was instructed to write to Elizabeth Finn, PCSO, in regard to this.

11. Footpath Issues

The clerk reported that the work at Cat Castle had been completed and that he had had repeated correspondence with DCC Highways in regard to the path between the Caravan Site and Barnard Castle.

A brief discussion took place regarding that section of the railway line which was owned by Lartington Estate but which had been offered to DCC. Mr Hammond reported that he understood that this offer had been refused because DCC had insufficient funds to support the project.

The condition of paths in Deepdale and Pecknall were discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should approach Elaine Crow to discuss possible PP3 funding to improve them.

12. Planning Matters

There were no planning applications.

13. Heart Of Teesdale/A Green Heart for Lartington

Mr Hammond declared an interest and left the meeting.

The Chair re-iterated her awareness of the concerns that some residents would have about the use of Lartington Hall as a venue for the concluding talk of this project. The clerk then apologized to members for not copying them into correspondence on this matter but explained that he had clearly articulated concerns about the use of this venue in his commissioning letter to the contractors. Both the Chair and the clerk emphasized that they had no personal problems in regard to the Hall and recognized its central role in the history of the village but that they believed that a significant number of residents would be uncomfortable with its use and thus be inhibited from taking part in the project.

Mr Hammond's concern that the Hall was the logical place to hold the meeting because of its central role in the history of the village and the management of its green were noted and discussed at length. Other members shared the concerns expressed by Chair and clerk and it was unanimously agreed that, regrettably, an alternative venue had to be found. It was suggested that The Witham held numerous artifacts relating to the Witham family and that this may be appropriate.

It was also agreed that the Hall certainly did house artifacts of interest and it was hoped that it might be possible to incorporate a brief visit to the Hall for interested residents within the walk that went alongside the concluding talk.

The clerk was instructed to write to Archeoenvironment, the contractor, stating our concerns and insisting that an alternative venue be found but recognizing the importance of the Hall to the history of the village and its green.

Finally, the members considered the advice from Archeoenvironment, that such a decision might cause them difficulty and could result in their withdrawing from the contract. It was agreed that should this be the outcome, the Council would regrettably have no alternative but to cancel the project.

The clerk then reminded members that money could be available to develop the visual and interpretative aspects of the project, possibly producing a leaflet describing the walk. It was agreed that, subject to the project continuing, a bid be put to Heart of Teesdale for this.

12. Date and Venue of Future Meetings

January 13th 2015

March 10th 2015

Cotherstone Methodist Hall