

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 February 2021

Present: Sandra McDonagh (Chair), John Johnson (Vice- Chair), Barbara Jamieson, Chris Lee, Dorothy Parry, Jane Cain, Councillor Jude Considine, Councillor Ossie Johnson, Paul McAdam (Clerk)

Apologies: None

16/21 Declarations of Interest

None.

17/21 Public Participation

None.

18/21 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 January 2021 be **AGREED** as a correct record.

Chair added at this point that we would try to proceed to the item on the flower bed as quickly as possible to allow sufficient time for discussion.

19/21 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated – there had been one planning application within the Parish for the installation of pods but there were no objections or comments to make.

Chris Lee brought some matters regarding roadworks to the attention of the meeting.

1. White boundary fences at the 30 mph limit signs to the North of Maiden Law crossroads are in a state of collapse and require repair.
2. The footpath along Tower Road between Maiden Law Farm and the Towers entry road is in a very poor state with long sections of rubble and broken tarmac. Also at least two of the drains beneath the footpath between the road and the field have collapsed leaving holes large enough for a pedestrian foot to enter. Part of the footpath near to the caravan site has been depressed and broken by lorries parking with one wheel on the footpath and this also causes puddles
3. On the road outside Fairfield Lodge a repair made by Northumbrian Water after water repair has broken up and is rapidly disintegrating as the lorries bang over it removing more loose stone. Repair required.

Councillors Considine and Johnson updated that Durham County Council were currently looking at replacing the white fencing but It was **AGREED** that Clerk would report these matters to Durham County Council as requiring attention.

20/21 Budget

2020/21 budget position circulated prior to meeting and Clerk provided a verbal summary which was that it was anticipated, with one month remaining in financial year, that the budget would be on target.

Balance of account at last statement (25/1/21) was £7,401.41 with un-presented cheques totalling £978.00.

VAT for 2019/20 had been successfully reclaimed and claim had now been submitted for 2020/21 VAT payments (£340.59).

21/21 Clerk Update

Response had been provided to owners of Three Horseshoes advising that Greencroft Parish Council did not have a use for the public house/premises.

Feedback received from DCC was that the overall precept increase from parish councils in County Durham was a prudent 0.77%. Greencroft Parish Council request was an increase of 0.5%.

Hours worked for January were 11 and February hours were anticipated to be 11 also.

Clerk attending course on 2nd March regarding use of social media by Parish Councils.

22/21 Update on Maintenance of Flower Beds

Clerk updated the meeting that he had not yet been able to speak to a "small/local" trader regarding maintenance but had spoken to Durham County Council.

DCC advised that they may be able to provide a service and a site meeting had been arranged for 25th February 2021 to discuss this further.

Chair suggested that the Parish Council make a robust effort to improve the only flowerbed that we have in the village and there was a discussion that, for over 20 years, time and resources have been spent on planting in the flower bed, but ongoing maintenance has always been an issue and, as a result, quality has suffered.

It was **AGREED** that as there are now extra funds available efforts should be made to plant and subsequently maintain the flowerbed properly.

23/21 Parish Council Elections

Clerk updated the meeting that elections were scheduled for 6th May 2021 and that he had requested electronic copies of nomination forms which would be circulated when received (anticipated to be end of February) and the deadline for return of these was 8th April 2021. Any further information or instructions received will be also forwarded.

The new council after election will take up roles on 10th May and the first meeting of the council **MUST** take place between 10th and 24th May meaning that the usual Greencroft Parish Council arrangement of meeting on the last Tuesday of the month will need to be varied in May 2021.

24/21 Accounts for Payment

CDALC - £10 for Election Training for Clerk

Further training session on Social Media booked for 2nd March which will be a further £10.

Payment of £20 to CDALC **AGREED**.

25/21 Seat and Fence Inspections

Chris Lee updated the group with the following.

1. The plastic seats have some Verdigris on them and the southern seat beneath the trees needs cleaning which he will do at the end of March when the weather has improved.
2. At the top of the north west corner of the Park there was a circular depression about 6 feet in diameter that was filled in couple of years ago. This depression is now reappearing and could do with levelling up and grass seeding.

Nearby, below the fence on the main road, the top of the slope has been washed away by the recent Northumbrian Water leak and could usefully be repaired at the same time.

26/21 Questions from Members

None received.

27/21 Chair Announcements

A request had just been received on the day of the meeting from Maiden Law Hospice for some support in their campaign to have their facility added to the Durham County Council gritting route in times of adverse weather.

It was **AGREED** that clerk would forward a letter of support from Greencroft Parish Council.

28/21 Next Meeting

Tuesday 30 March 2021 at 6.00pm via Zoom.