

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 September 2021

Present: Sandra McDonagh, John Johnson, Jane Cain, Barbara Jamieson, Vivien Self, Dorothy Parry, Councillor Michael McGaun, Councillor Douglas Oliver, Paul McAdam (Clerk)

Apologies: None

107/21 Declarations of Interest

None.

108/21 Public Participation

None.

109/21 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 July 2021 be **AGREED** as a correct record.

110/21 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated – no matters raised.

111/21 Budget

2021/22 budget position circulated prior to meeting and Clerk provided a verbal summary.

112/21 Clerk Update

Durham in Bloom – A submission had been made to be awarded up to 2,000 bulbs to be planted through Durham in Bloom and voting was currently underway via Mid Durham AAP Facebook page to identify a winning location from 5 submissions.

It was felt that undertaking voting via Facebook was restrictive and that Greencroft Parish was disadvantaged in a vote because of the small size of the village.

It was **AGREED** that clerk would feed back these concerns to the Durham in Bloom organisers within Durham County Council.

Maintenance of Seats – The handyman from Lanchester Parish Council had responded that he was not interested in carrying out repair work on the seats.

Hours Worked – 13 for September making 35 hours for the quarter and it was AGREED for payment to be made

Response from DCC that they could not enforce anything regarding the parking outside the property other than request new road markings – such as yellow lines or no parking.

113/21 Accounts for Payment

Durham County Council – Grass Cutting £434.64 + £86.93 VAT = £521.57

It was **AGREED** for payment to be made

114/21 Online Banking

Clerk informed the meeting that Barclays operated 2 levels of internet banking:-

- View Only where it was only possible to view transactions, statements and balance
- Dual Authorisation where payments can be made by 2 of the signatories – 1 who would set up the payments and a second who would authorise it.
- All signatories would be able to view the account and transactions
- To set up online bank each signatory needs to separately ring and request to be set up with access.

There was a discussion in which John Johnson asked if other Parish Councils used online banking and Councillor McGaun confirmed that he was aware of some who did and confirmed that the security aspects appeared in line with other Parish Councils.

It was **AGREED** that Greencroft Parish Council would look to set up Dual Authorisation to be in a position to make online payments in a similar way to other parish councils.

115/21 Traffic Issues

Discussion around the continued problems with parking/traffic in the village with up to 21 cars being parked on the road at the Pip Stop causing difficulties for drivers and also making the pathway inaccessible to wheelchair users or adults with prams/pushchairs.

Metrics discussed and Councillor McGaun stressed the importance of reporting concerns to Durham County Council so that the Council is aware of the number of concerns.

It was **AGREED** that the clerk would submit a concern on behalf of Greencroft Parish and that Parish Councillors should submit individual concerns and encourage other members of the public to also do so.

116/21 Change to Bus Service

There had been a concern that the village would be left without a bus service to neighbouring areas but there was now a 730 service from Lanchester – Maiden Law – Burnhope – Stanley which stopped once per hour.

117/21 MP Surgery Posters

The office of Richard Holden MP had sent some posters with details of surgeries and asked for these to be displayed. It was **AGREED** to display one of these on the noticeboard.

118/21 Seat and Fence Inspections

Jane Cain had carried out the monthly check. Maintenance work was still required but there had been no further deterioration noted.

Peter Cain has offered to help with the maintenance work but may need some equipment to assist. It was **AGREED** that the hire of equipment would be funded by the Council if needed.

119/21 Questions from Members

None received.

120/21 Chair Announcements

None.

121/21 Next Meeting

Tuesday 26th October 6.00pm.

Most councillors are now willing to attend a meeting in person and Barbara Jamieson suggested the meeting could be arranged to allow both physical and on line attendance.

Clerk to make enquiries regarding room booking at Lynwood House and Castle Court as well as information regarding wi-fi access.