

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 February 2022

Present: John Johnson (Acting as Chair), Jane Cain, Vivien Self, Barbara Jamieson, Councillor Mike McGaun, Paul McAdam (Clerk)

Apologies: Sandra McDonagh, Dorothy Parry, Councillor Doug Oliver – All noted and accepted.

14/22 Declarations of Interest

None.

15/22 Public Participation

None.

16/22 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 January 2022 be **AGREED** as a correct record.

17/22 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated – no matters raised.

18/22 Budget

2021/22 budget position circulated prior to meeting and Clerk provided a verbal summary which was that the budget was currently projected to underspend slightly.

After allowing for Clerk Salary, room hire and the transfer of the election expenses budget to reserves there would be approximately £1,000 remaining available for the leaflet printing and potential costs to repair damages which could rise to approximately £1,200 if the disputed Flower Bed Maintenance is not charged by Durham County Council.

19/22 County Councillor Update

Councillor Mike McGaun provided an update.

Storm Damage – 3 storms had caused a lot of damage in the area – particularly falling trees and loss of power. A high number of Tree Protection Orders (TPO) in the area, but many of these are in reach of homes and properties and the recent storms have shown the damage they could cause.

In particular, Blanket TPOs which cover wide areas are a major concern.

Boundary Changes – proposed changes to some parliamentary boundaries and details will be circulated for public consultation blanket areas but still some ongoing discussion around communication between authorities, Powergrid and householders when services were disrupted.

Issue of Double taxation raised by John Johnson and Councillor McGaun will make enquiries.

Clerk will also circulate previous correspondence regarding this matter.

20/22 Clerk Update

Flower Bed – Clerk had discussed this with DCC who agreed that service had not been as good as they would have hoped and that the bill for 2021/22 may be reduced or waived – awaiting decision by management.

Discussed that information may not have been correctly handed over during staff changes and this may have been a contributory factor to quality of work.

DCC requested clerk to forward any correspondence regarding the work and the cost of it to help with decision which it was **AGREED** the clerk will do.

White Fence Repair – Telephone call had been received from DCC suggesting that the fence was the responsibility of the Parish Council and that a formal response would follow but nothing further had been received.

Discussion that this had been said previously but that DCC had agreed to repair the fence. It was **AGREED** that clerk will check back previous minutes to establish if DCC accepted responsibility for the fences or agreed as a goodwill gesture to repair.

Hours Worked – Hours for February anticipated to be 12 -13 whilst January hours were 17 in total.

21/22 Accounts for Payment

Lanchester Community Centre – Room Hire 22nd February - £15.50

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

22/22 Information Leaflet

Second draft had been prepared and circulated by Barbara Jamieson for comments and was well received.

Discussion around the personal contact details of councillors and it was agreed that home addresses would not be included – only a contact number for each person. It was **AGREED** that all councillors would send the clerk the number they wished to be publicised.

This was the only change suggested and it was **AGREED** that the clerk will obtain some quotes for printing.

It was **AGREED** that the leaflet will be printed as soon as possible but that distribution will be delayed slightly until the website is also updated.

Chair thanked Barbara for her work in this matter.

23/22 Storm Damage

A tree has been blown down in the park area and also damaged the fence when it has fallen.

Additionally the tree has fallen across another tree planted many years ago as a memorial.

Local resident Dixon Thomas has approached Vivien Self offering to clear the tree free of charge. It was **AGREED** that this could go ahead and for Vivien to liaise with Mr Thomas to ensure that the fence is also repaired to ensure the safety of the horses in the field. It was also **AGREED** that Vivien would liaise with Mrs Welsh regarding her memorial tree.

24/22 Seat and Fence Inspections

Jane Cain had carried out the monthly check and identified that the only change is in respect of the fence damage mentioned in Item 23/22.

25/22 Questions from Members

None received.

26/22 Chair Announcements

None.

27/22 Next Meeting

Tuesday 29th March at 6.00pm.

Clerk to make enquiries as to availability of Lynwood House.