

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 January 2022

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

Apologies: Councillor Michael McGaun – Noted and accepted.

1/22 Declarations of Interest

None.

2/22 Public Participation

None.

3/22 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 30 November 2021 be **AGREED** as a correct record.

4/22 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated – no matters raised.

5/22 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.

IT equipment identified for purchase (see item 8/22) and the proposed information leaflet to be purchased from 2021/22 budget.

Underspends on insurance, audit, training, grass cutting and flower beds which should cover the printing costs.

Draft budget for 2022/23 had previously been circulated based on a standstill budget with no increase in Council Tax contribution – if any Council Tax increase was agreed the extra revenue would be used for General Repairs and Maintenance.

Discussion around an increase in Council Tax and it was **AGREED** that Greencroft Parish Council would not request an increase and clerk to submit request to Durham County Council accordingly.

6/22 County Councillor Update

Councillor Douglas Oliver provided an update.

Storm Arwen – still some ongoing discussion around communication between authorities, Powergrid and householders when services were disrupted.

COVID19 – The infection rate in County Durham was currently high but was just below the national average at last update.

Consett Swimming Pool – as discussed last time re-opening Easter time following repairs.

Winter – preparations being made by Durham County Council in respect of dealing with wintry conditions – salt spreading, snow clearing etc.

7/22 Clerk Update

Online Banking – is now up and running with recent transactions made online using the dual authorisation facility.

Clerk and Chair have the necessary equipment to access and this is now available for Vice-Chair also.

Flower Bed – Some further work had been carried out on the flower bed by DCC but still not to a level felt to be satisfactory. No further response from DCC regarding any reasons for the lesser service than discussed prior to commencement – but also no invoice for service received yet.

Clerk to follow up

White Fence Repair – Reported to DCC but no response yet. Clerk to follow up.

Hours Worked – Hours anticipated to be higher in January due to extra work sourcing IT equipment, preparing draft budget and potentially setting up new IT equipment if authorised. Estimate of hours for January to be approximately 16-17.

8/22 Accounts for Payment

Lanchester Community Centre – Room Hire 18th January - £15.50

Currys – Purchase of identified laptop, printer, anti-virus security and Microsoft Office - £499.14 plus £99.83 VAT = £598.97

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

9/22 Information Leaflet

First draft had been prepared and circulated by Barbara Jamieson for comments. Discussion held which indicated the general layout was OK but some changes would need to be made such as the description of the parish which did not include the new estate. Also the 2 vacancies for councillors.

Some of the content in the first draft had come directly from the website which highlighted that the website also needs updating.

It was **AGREED** that comments would be made to Barbara by 25th January to enable the leaflet to be updated and agreed at the next meeting to try and ensure printing could be arranged in this financial year.

10/22 Seat and Fence Inspections

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

It was hoped some sanding could be carried out when weather was better but there were also plans to allow for seat costs in the budget for 22/23. The seats are generally OK but the 2 originals would be the first to require replacement when funds allow.

11/22 Questions from Members

None received.

12/22 Chair Announcements

None.

13/22 Next Meeting

Tuesday 22nd February 2022 at 6.00pm at Lanchester Community Centre.