

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 October 2022 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,
Lanchester

Present: Sandra McDonagh, Jane Cain, Vivien Self, Barbara Jamieson, Gavin Jarvis,
Dorothy Parry, Paul McAdam (Clerk)

Apologies: County Councillor Mike McGaun - noted and accepted

123/22 Declarations of Interest

None.

124/22 Public Participation

None.

125/22 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meetings held on 28 September 2022 be
AGREED as a correct record.

126/22 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated – no matters raised.

127/22 County Councillor Update

Not available for this meeting

128/22 Clerk Update

White Fence Repair – No further update. It was **AGREED** that the clerk would continue to request updates.

Website – Agendas and Minutes – The website had been checked and all agendas and minutes since April 2019 were showing on the website.

January – March 2019 were showing incorrect minutes (wrong year). There were some minutes and agendas saved but not all and some paper copies had written notes on so unsuitable to scan and upload.

Prior to 2019 were not on website - some were saved but not fully checked and there was not 10 sets per year.

It was **AGREED** that the clerk would update the website with the remaining 2019 documents and then carry out further checks regarding how much work would be involved in updating before this and if there was too much work to add a note to website to “see clerk for details”

Taking the Pledge – clerk had signed up as agreed. It was **AGREED** that the certificate should be uploaded to the website.

Tree Conditions – Clerk had contacted DCC who had said that the trees through village are on DCC Highway Tree Inspection Programme and will be inspected again soon – any defects will be picked up in surveys.

Ash trees have succumbed to Ash Die Back (ADB) and will also be included in surveys as this could also be an issue – DCC adhere to national guidance and treat accordingly.

Discussion on this issue and it was noted that a number of Whitebeam trees have fungus growing on the ground at their base as well as 1 Rowan tree.

It was **AGREED** that clerk would contact DCC again, providing details of the trees, especially those with the fungus and request that the inspection could be brought forward if possible due to these further concerns about their condition.

Christmas Lights – Clerk had spoken to Lanchester Parish Council who informed they have 8 trees with lights, with 400 lights in each tree.

These were purchased several years ago so unsure on costs and they were installed by DCC but stay in the tree all year around so there are no ongoing installation/removal costs. The lights are checked and repaired as necessary each year and are powered by a meter source on the village green.

Discussion held and it was **AGREED** that Greencroft Parish Council would not proceed further with plans for lights due to potential costs and problems with sourcing power on the green.

It was **AGREED** though that the clerk would contact The Three Horse Shoes pub about potentially partnering to display a Christmas tree and lights.

Hours Worked – An estimated 14 hours for October and it was **AGREED** for these to be paid at the end of the quarter.

129/22 Accounts for Payment

Donation to Willowburn Hospice – £100.

A Purves – Grasscutting - £522.50 + £104.50 VAT = £627.00

It was **AGREED** that both payments should be made.

130/22 Budget

2022/23 budget position circulated prior to meeting and noted for information.

131/22 Speeding traffic in Village

Discussion around information/responses from the Police and from Community Speed Watch.

It was noted that the Police questioned the actual credibility of the 30mph speed limit and also referred to the Gateway Project and that these fences have been renewed – although in Greencroft Parish only part of one has been replaced, one has been damaged and totally removed and one is hidden by weeds.

There was discussion about whether safe road crossing was an issue rather than speeding traffic and if a road crossing facility would improve this situation.

It was **AGREED** that before the next meeting councillors would inspect the signage currently in place in case this could be improved and it was also **AGREED** that the clerk would contact the Police, as well as Mid Durham AAP, following the referral to the gate being renewed as a speed calming measure.

132/22 Trees / Plaques Commemorating HM Queen Elizabeth II

Clerk had circulated examples of plaques available which were available within 1 week of ordering and had a number of options regarding wording, font style and font size.

It was **AGREED** that a small group with Sandra, Jane and Paul would meet to arrange and order the plaques and make further arrangements around the purchase of a tree for the recreation area.

133/22 Seat and Fence Inspections

Jane Cain had undertaken an inspection and also sorted the sanding identified as being required at the last meeting. There were no other issues noted.

134/22 Questions from Members

None received.

135/22 Chair Announcements

None.

136/22 Any Other Business

None.

137/22 Next Meeting

Tuesday 29th November at 6.00pm at Lynwood House and also via Zoom