

Greencroft Parish Council

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29 November 2022 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,
Lanchester**

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

**Apologies: John Johnson, Barbara Jamieson, Vivien Self, County Councillor Douglas Oliver,
County Councillor Mike McGaun - noted and accepted**

138/22 Declarations of Interest

None.

139/22 Public Participation

None.

140/22 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meetings held on 25 October 2022 be **AGREED** as a correct record.

141/22 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated – no matters raised.

142/22 County Councillor Update

Not available for this meeting

143/22 Clerk Update

White Fence Repair – No further update. Mid Durham AAP still pushing Durham County Council for response but slow progress due to loss of capacity at DCC. It was **AGREED** that the clerk would continue to request updates.

Website – Agendas and Minutes – Website now updated with all agendas and minutes back to the start of 2019.

The Chair suggested that she may be able to upload previous details with possession of the old Parish Council laptop and it was **AGREED** that the clerk would arrange this and talk through the process for updating the website.

Tree Conditions – Clerk had tried to contact DCC since last meeting asking if the inspection of trees in the village could be prioritised and expedited but had not received any response.

Christmas Lights – Clerk had tried unsuccessfully to contact The Three Horse Shoes by telephone to discuss but had called in to the pub. Manager not available but spoke to a member of staff and left a letter for manager suggesting Christmas tree and lights outside the pub to which the Parish Council would contribute after discussion. Contact details in letter but no response received.

Hours Worked – An estimated 13 hours for November and it was **AGREED** for these to be paid at the end of the quarter.

144/22 Accounts for Payment

Discussion around renewal of McAfee anti-virus software but it was **AGREED** that Windows Security should be sufficient.

145/22 Budget

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

Clerk ran through the budget position – which was that an underspend was projected for 22/23 but it was **AGREED** that with a small budget it would be good to build balance a little in case of future requirement for expenses on large items such as fencing.

2023/24 budget discussed briefly following receipt of Tax base information from Durham County Council. It was **AGREED** that the clerk would draw up a draft budget for circulation by mid December for discussions to take place prior to agreeing budget before the deadline for submission of 20th January.

146/22 Speeding traffic in Village

Response received from Traffic Management Officer at Durham Police suggesting a multi agency meeting involving Greencroft Parish Council, Durham Police, Durham County Councils Traffic Assets Team Leader and also County Councillors.

It was **AGREED** that this would be a good idea and that the clerk would contact Durham Police to confirm this and try and book a room at Lanchester Community Centre.

147/22 Trees / Plaques Commemorating HM Queen Elizabeth II

The plaque at the flower bed was now in place.

The Chair had met on site with Durham County Council about tree options for a commemorative tree and although DCC had appeared enthusiastic there had been no response with costs, despite reminders.

The Chair had also spoken with Olivers, who have carried out previous work in the Parish who could supply and plant small trees for approximately £300.

Discussion about how to progress matter and it was **AGREED** that Olivers would be contacted to arrange for the planting.

A plaque would be added in the future once the tree was established.

148/22 Seat and Fence Inspections

Jane Cain had undertaken an inspection and, on closer inspection, had identified that there was rust on the underside of the picnic tables. It was **AGREED** that Jane would check The Village Voice for local handymen who Greencroft Parish may be able to approach regarding small jobs required.

149/22 Questions from Members

None received.

150/22 Chair Announcements

None.

151/22 Any Other Business

None.

152/22 Next Meeting

Tuesday 17th January 2023 at Lynwood House, Lanchester - earlier than usual to allow for agreement and submission of Budget documents to Durham County Council by 20th January 2023.