

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th January 2023 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,
Lanchester

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

Apologies: County Councillor Douglas Oliver - noted and accepted

1/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

2/23 Public Participation

None.

3/23 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meetings held on 29 November 2022 be **AGREED** as a correct record.

4/23 Resignation of John Johnson

John has submitted his resignation as a Parish Councillor after over 30 years of involvement in various roles including Parish Clerk, Vice Chairman and Chairman.

The Chair felt that he would be a big miss with his wealth of experience and knowledge and felt that the Parish Council should write to John to show appreciation. It was **AGREED** that this should be arranged.

5/23 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated – no matters raised.

6/23 County Councillor Update

On a whole county level, Cabinet meeting to discuss the Medium Term Financial Plan which may not be as bad as anticipated but there are still increasing problems being caused by increasing energy costs. Plan will then progress to Full Council the next week.

On a local level, final plans regarding the proposed solar farm are now on the website – a number of changes made in response to comments received.

Discussion held including that the development of such schemes is inevitable but that the proposed size is more than double the size of Burnhope, the nearest village and that such schemes should include a financial benefit to residents nearby eg cheaper energy.

County Councillors continuing to discuss this area of financial incentives to local communities.

7/23 Clerk Update

White Fence Repair – 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.

Linking in with other traffic issues, the fences were part of the discussion with DCC and Durham Police so this may help.

Website – Agendas and Minutes – No update since November. 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.

Commemorative Tree – This has now been purchased and planted although there is still no plaque in place. It was **AGREED** that this will be delayed until the tree has had a chance to become established.

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

8/23 Accounts for Payment

None

9/23 Budget

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

Clerk ran through the budget position – which was still that an underspend was projected for 22/23 but it was **AGREED** that this would be useful to help with any spending needed to deal with traffic issues.

2023/24 budget discussed following circulation by the Clerk of a draft budget if no Council Tax increase was requested, along with scenarios with different increases.

It was **AGREED** that Greencroft Parish Council would not request an increase in Council tax contributions from the public.

10/23 Traffic Issues in Village

Meeting had taken place between Greencroft Parish Council, Durham Police, Durham County Councils Traffic Assets Team Leader and County Councillors, who could not make the meeting, had been included in correspondence.

A Speed Visor had been suggested as an option and there had also been some correspondence from Mid Durham AAP about funding being available.

It was **AGREED** to have a dedicated Finance meeting on 31st January to discuss this further, including how to budget over forthcoming years to continue whatever measure may be implemented now.

Councillor Mike McGaun confirmed his support of such an initiative and suggested that he and Councillor Doug Oliver may be able to contribute £2,500 each from their funding allocations towards this.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would contact Mid Durham AAP to discuss options and also chase up further information from Durham County Council.

Councillor Mike McGaun also indicated that he would speak to DCC Highways regarding an evaluation of the signage in place regarding speeds.

11/23 Seat and Fence Inspections

Jane Cain had undertaken an inspection and there was nothing further to report, and that there was still a need to find a handyperson. It was **AGREED** that this would be prioritised in the spring.

12/23 Questions from Members

None received.

13/23 Chair Announcements

None.

14/23 Any Other Business

None.

15/23 Next Meetings

Tuesday 31st January 2023 at Lynwood House, Lanchester – specific meeting in respect of finances regarding traffic initiatives and funding.

Tuesday 28th February 2023 at Lynwood House – monthly Parish Council meeting.