

## Greencroft Parish Council

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,  
Lanchester**

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

**Apologies: Barbara Jamieson - noted and accepted**

### **16/23 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **17/23 Public Participation**

None.

### **18/23 Minutes of the last Meeting**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meetings held on 17 January 2023 be **AGREED** as a correct record.

### **19/23 Planning and Road works**

DCC reports had been circulated – no matters raised.

### **20/23 County Councillor Update**

#### Chair of Durham County Council

Mike McGaun shared the news of the sad death yesterday of Beaty Bainbridge who had been popular and well respected across the political parties.

#### Proposed Solar Farm, East of Edge Lane

The planning application for a solar farm on land to east of Edge Lane, Maiden Law is going to County Plan Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

County Councillors will be in attendance, there are speakers from Burnhope Parish Council and there is opportunity for speakers on behalf of Greencroft Parish Council.

#### Finance

County level financial plans have been agreed and there will be a council tax increase which is below the level of inflation. Some reserves are being used and most services have been protected from cuts.

DLI - recent press release as building work has commenced

Replacement for Shotley Bridge Hospital – building work to start in Consett by the end of 2023.

Buses – There has been a meeting between Richard Holden MP (who is also National Buses Minister) and Go North East about services.

Go North East will now be meeting County Councillors to discuss in more detail. Any comments to contribute to meeting to be sent to Clerk or direct to Dug or Mike.

2<sup>nd</sup> Solar Farm – there are now proposals for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Solar Farm in the area (to be discussed later in the meeting)

### **21/23 Feedback from CDALC Smaller Councils Forum**

Sandra and Jane had attended and updated that there had been an impressive presentation around Northumbria in Bloom and also debate about the power of veto by any 2 councillors who may feel that they are being overruled by others.

Full minutes to follow when available.

### **22/23 Clerk Update**

#### Letter to John Johnson

As agreed at January meeting a letter of appreciation had been sent to John for his long service.

Website – Agendas and Minutes – No progress since last meeting but it was **AGREED** that the clerk would still arrange to meet with Chair and talk through the process for updating the website.

Hours Worked – for February will be 10 hours and it was **AGREED** for these to be paid at the end of the quarter.

### **23/23 Accounts for Payment**

None

### **24/23 2023 Quote for Gardening Services**

Tender had been received from AD Purves, which would amount to an increase of 8.5% if the same number of cuts as 2022 were carried out. It was **AGREED** to accept this submission.

### **25/23 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 Precept request has been submitted but discussion around changes to the budget headings to take account of traffic calming costs and provision for future spends in this area.

### **26/23 Traffic Issues in Village**

Further correspondence with Durham County Council and Mid Durham AAP regarding the provision of speed visors in the village.

It was **AGREED** that the clerk will continue to chase this up and offer assistance where required.

Concerns were noted about dangerous parking in the area around the Pit Stop with over 20 cars being parked on the roadside today while on business there.

Cars parked on the roadside are blocking views at the crossroads and for residents trying to leave drives and additionally are blocking pavements by parking on them.

There has been previous discussion and correspondence on this matter and it was **AGREED** that the clerk will forward this information to County Councillors who will take this up further with police.

### **27/23 Solar Farm**

Public meeting around 1<sup>st</sup> application on 2<sup>nd</sup> March while planning committee is discussing this application on 7<sup>th</sup> March when County Councillors will be in attendance.

An application for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Solar Farm has been submitted and a member of the public has reported that another farmer has been approached regarding using his land for a 3<sup>rd</sup> development.

It was noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> applications would be almost adjacent and the combined size of these would be larger than the current largest solar farm in the country.

A lot of concern about so many of these developments, and their impact on the wildlife in the area as well as the impact on surrounding areas.

It was accepted that the source of energy is needed but felt that local people should benefit in some way from these developments, such as by receiving energy from them at a discounted rate.

### **28/23 Seat and Fence Inspections**

Jane Cain had undertaken an inspection and there was nothing further to report, other than a couple of the fence posts seemed to be looser than previously.

### **29/23 Questions from Members**

None received.

### **30/23 Chair Announcements**

None.

### **31/23 Any Other Business**

None.

### **32/23 Next Meetings**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 6.00pm at Lynwood House.