

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th April 2023 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,
Lanchester

Present: Sandra McDonagh, Dorothy Parry, Ann Bell, County Councillor Mike McGaun,
Paul McAdam (Clerk)

Apologies: Gavin Jarvis, Jane Cain, Barbara Jamieson, Vivien Self, County Councillor Doug
Oliver - noted and accepted

48/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

49/23 Public Participation

None.

50/23 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meetings held on 28 March 2023 be **AGREED** as
a correct record.

51/23 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated – no matters raised.

52/23 County Councillor Update

County Councillors Mike McGaun provided an update.

Planning application by Solarig for a solar farm (the 2nd in close proximity to Greencroft
Parish) was in progress.

There had been in the region of 500-600 letters in opposition to the solar farm at Burnhope
but it appeared that this was not repeating itself with this farm in Lanchester Parish.

Discussion followed in which it was pointed out that the granting of planning permission for
the first farm could be a basis for opposing a second farm.

It was also acknowledged that the government was committed to making it easier to
develop solar farms but that brown field sites would surely be better and roofs could also be
used more.

Concern also raised that a factor for each farm seems to be the proximity to the sub-station
but would new solar farms also lead to an increased size sub-station being required.

Councillor Oliver had met with Villa Nueva who are the training provider using the Pip Stop
and spoken about the parking concerns at the Pip Stop and asked them to take steps to
improve the situation.

The current position is that Durham County Council, Highways and Durham Police are in
discussion about who is responsible for traffic concerns at the crossroads.

On a County level, the DLI was currently moving to new premises and there was some controversy about moving soil containing ashes of fallen soldiers which had been spread there.

The 2 year term of joint leadership arrangements for the County Council was coming to an end so there may be leadership changes within the Council.

Mike and Doug are hoping to organise a meeting for the whole of their ward regarding parking and speeding issues and would like the involvement of Parish Councils when this takes place.

53/23 Clerk Update

Website – Agendas and Minutes – Summary had been circulated.

There were still gaps with 2018 agendas and minutes on the website but all after this date had been uploaded.

All of 2017 documents had been located and uploaded with approximately 3 hours work undertaken to sort 2018 and 2017.

It was estimated by the clerk that it would take approximately 1 hour per year to organise and upload previous meeting records. It was **AGREED** that Paul will continue to work through this task and update councillors of progress.

Annual Accounts – Work to commence on 2022/23 accounts and Paul to report to May meeting.

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

54/23 Accounts for Payment

Total Results Ltd - £105.00 renewal of website domain and web hosting fees – Payment **AGREED**.

Data Protection Fee - £40.00 but it was **AGREED** to set up a direct debit which would reduce the charge to £35.00

55/23 Budget

2023/24 budget position circulated prior to meeting and noted for information.

Clerk ran through the budget position – annual precept had been received and only 1 small transaction for fertiliser for flower bed.

56/23 Traffic Issues in Village

No further update – still awaiting Durham County Council to start the process to utilise the funding made available from Mid Durham AAP and also from County Councillor allocations.

Parking in the area around the Pip Stop continues to be an issue at times.

57/23 Seat and Fence Inspections

Jane Cain had undertaken an inspection and there was nothing further to report apart from the fact paint was required for the legs of the picnic bench – there was no need for any sanding work to be carried out.

Jane would purchase the paint if agreed and it was **AGREED** that she could do this.

58/23 Questions from Members

None received.

59/23 Chair Announcements

None.

60/23 Any Other Business

None.

61/23 Next Meeting

Tuesday 30th May 2023, 6.00pm at Lynwood House.