

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Lynwood House, Lanchester on
Tuesday 20 January 2015 at 7.00p.m.

Present Mr J Johnson – Chair
Mr C Lee, Mr D Quayle, Mrs V Self and Mrs D Parry

There were no apologies

1/15 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors D Quayle and J Johnson declared an interest in agenda item 6 (i)

2/15 **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present at the meeting

3/15 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Resolved - that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 4 December 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair

4/15 **Correspondence**

(i) **Safer Homes Awareness Training**

Members were informed about a new project from the Fire Service with Durham Constabulary to make homes safer in County Durham.

The Clerk reported that the Safer Homes Co-ordinator would be attending a meeting of Lanchester Parish Council on 10th February and that members would be welcome to attend

Resolved - that the information be noted

(ii) **Durham County Council – Fly-Tipping Campaign**

Members were informed about the campaign and the opportunity to purchase a CCTV camera to site within the Parish. Members felt that they could not commit the necessary £1600

Resolved - that the information be received

(iii) **Parish Councils Committee**

Resolved - that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November be received

- (iv) **Police & Crime Commissioner Consultation Event**
Members were informed of details of the consultation event
Resolved - that information on the event be received
- (v) **Buckingham Palace Garden Party – 12 May 2015**
Members were offered the opportunity to be put into the draw to attend the Garden Party.
Resolved - that the information be received
- (vi) **Durham County Open Space Needs Assessment**
Members were informed that the County Council is currently undertaking an exercise to map all open spaces in the County including those owned or managed by Parish Councils.
Resolved - that a letter is sent to the County Council informing them that the Parish Council own and manage the recreation area at Maiden Law.
- (vii) **Lanchester Miner's Banner Group**
Members received an information pack from the banner group
Resolved - that the information provided be received
- (viii) **Clerk & Councils Direct – January 2015**
Resolved - that the publication be received
- (ix) **Neighbourhood Warden Reports**
Resolved - that the reports for October and November 2014 be received

5/15

Planning Matters

- (i) **Advert consent for the display of 1no. sign above shop front with 3no. fixed external static lights at 58 Lanchester Road DM/14/03885/AD**

Members considered the application

Resolved - that no objection is made to the application

It was noted that the fence between the recreation area and the above property has been damaged during the work period.

Resolved - that a letter is sent asking for assurance that the fence will be re-instated on completion of the works

- (ii) **Erection of 1.5 storey 4 bedroom dwellinghouse at stables to the west of Langley Close, Burnhope Road, Maiden Law DM/14/03791/FPA**

Members considered the application

Resolved - that no comment is made on the application.

6/15

Northumbrian Water – Water Pressure (min 156/14)

The Chair informed Members that following the last meeting, H&H Land and Property have been instructed to contact Northumbrian Water to seek compensation for the Parish Council for damage to the land and fence at the Recreation Area. H&H Land and Property will recover their costs directly from Northumbrian Water.

Resolved that:

- (i) this action is ratified
- (ii) progress on this issue is reported to future meetings of the council

Members were informed that following the last meeting a letter had been sent to Northumbrian Water informing them of recent problems with low water pressure in dwellings on Lanchester Road.

Members considered a response from Northumbrian Water which stated that the water pressure was normal and above their guaranteed standard.

Members expressed concern that at times the water pressure is too low for showers to operate and that shower temperatures fluctuate greatly from cold to very hot.

Resolved - that further correspondence is sent to Northumbrian Water giving information on the problems experienced by residents and asking that they undertake monitoring of the pressure and report their findings back to the Parish Council

7/15

Fence around Recreation Area (min 122/14)

Members were informed that the application to the County Council for S106 monies to replace the fence at the Recreation Area had been successful and £2304.00 had been secured to undertake the works.

Members were further informed that due to the timescale involved in applying for the grant the cost of the works had risen to £2894.00

Resolved that:

- (i) the cost of the work is confirmed with the contractor
- (ii) an updated formal quote is obtained
- (iii) a letter is sent to the County Council asking them to consider an increased grant allocation

8/15

**Grass Seeding – Recreation Area
Purchase of a Live Christmas Tree – Recreation Area**

Members discussed an area of the recreation area which is sunken and bare of grass at the top near the crossroads.

Resolved - that a price is sought to fill the hole and re-seed the area

Following the unsuccessful application for a grant to plant a live Christmas Tree on the recreation area, Members discussed the prices received to purchase a tree and considered the purchase of a tree.

Resolved that:

- (i) a 2¼ - 2½ metre Norway Spruce is purchased at a cost of approximately £150.00 to include delivery and planting
- (ii) a site visit is arranged to identify the location for the tree

9/15

Financial Information

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk

Resolved – that the report be received

10/15

Precept Setting Process 2015/16

The Clerk submitted a report dealing with the precept for 2015/16. The report included the actual expenditure for 2012/13 and 2013/14; the budget for 2014/15; the probable outturn for 2014/15 and the agreed budget for 2015/16.

The report included details of factors to consider and set out the effect of various options for increasing the precept

Resolved that:

- (i) the report be received
- (ii) the precept for the financial year 2015/16 be set at £3,140.05 representing a 1% increase in the precept and an increase in band D council tax of £0.29 or 0.76%

11/15

Clerk – Hours Worked

Resolved - that approval be given for payment for 9½ hours worked in January

12/15

Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that approval be granted for payments to be made as follows:

S Laverick	- Salary (Oct - Dec)	- £167.36
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HMRC	- Tax (Oct - Dec)	- £42.00
Lan. Comm. Assoc.	- Room Hire	- £11.30
P Snowdon	- Winter Flower Beds	- £225.00
Durham Community Action-	Photocopying	- £65.22

13/15 Chairperson's Announcements

There were no announcements

14/15 Questions from Members

There were no questions from members

15/15 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved - that the next Ordinary meeting of the Council be held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 24 February 2015 at 7.00pm

Meeting ended at 8.20pm