

Greencroft Parish Council

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31 October 2023 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,
Lanchester**

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

Apologies: Barbara Jamieson

135/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

136/23 Public Participation

None.

137/23 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 September 2023 be **AGREED** as a correct record

138/23 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated.

139/23 County Councillor Update

Solar Farm – A public enquiry is underway regarding the solar farm instigated by the Department of Transport – any questions for this can be forwarded to the County Councillors.

The plans now include closing off an unofficial footpath which was not included in original plans that were agreed. To overrule the plan to close it off it would need to be established that there was proof of use and it is a regular footpath.

Meeting arranged for a Tuesday morning which is not convenient for either Doug or Mike but Jane is hoping to attend.

Flooding – The flooding in Lanchester had caused a major impact on some businesses and there would be knock on effects such as ongoing issues with trade due to damage caused to equipment and materials.

Doug and Mike asked to be kept informed of any further problems so that they can try and help.

General – in the wider County Council duties there is a campaign with Childrens Services for more foster carers and a campaign in Adult Services on young people vaping.

The new bus station in Durham City is opening on 12th November meaning the removal of the temporary bus stops in North Road.

140/23 Clerk Update

Website – Feedback from website host was that the statistics for hits etc were encouraging and showed interest in the website.

It was **AGREED** that the clerk would monitor and check with website host in a few months.

Contract of Employment – Copy had been circulated by Clerk. Brief discussion about who the clerk is responsible to and it was clarified that this was the Chair.

It was **AGREED** that the contract could now be signed.

Hours Worked – 12 hours for October and it was **AGREED** for these to be paid at the end of the quarter.

141/23 Budget

2023/24 budget position circulated prior to meeting – no queries received.

In summary, currently forecasted to underspend but discussion to take place regarding a new noticeboard.

142/23 Accounts for Payment

Andy Purves – Grass Cutting – £612.00 plus £122.40 VAT

It was **AGREED** for this payment to be made.

143/23 Traffic Issues in Village

Discussion around the proposed speed calming visors in the village in light of the proposed locations from Durham Police and Durham County Council.

It was **AGREED** that at the Lanchester end of the village the proposed location where the temporary sign pole is currently located is unsuitable due to the planning permission that has been granted for 2 new houses directly opposite. This sign should therefore be further down the hill, past the bus stop.

It was also **AGREED** that the crossroads is the main accident risk and that the proposed location near the noticeboard would not really help with this risk as it is after drivers would have already passed the crossroads.

Ideally this should be at the other side of the crossroads to try and warn drivers that the crossroads is approaching crossroads.

It was **AGREED** that the clerk would draft a response to DCC with the points and circulate to councillors for comments before sending.

144/23 Parish Noticeboard Potential Replacement

Report had been circulated by the Clerk regarding a potential new noticeboard. It was **AGREED** that a replacement was required and that a budget of approximately £1,500 could

be made available for that purpose. It may also be possible to obtain some funding from the County Councillors towards this cost.

A discussion agreed that a board with a capacity to display 8 x A4 sheets of paper would be better and would allow more information to be displayed.

It was **AGREED** that a small workgroup – consisting of Ann, Gavin and Jane would meet to identify a noticeboard within budget and report back to the Council.

145/23 Parish Noticeboard

Discussion around current noticeboard and it was **AGREED** that it was old, does not lock, is difficult to use and should be replaced.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would research replacements and report back to a future meeting

146/23 CDALC President Nominations

No nominations were made.

147/23 Seat and Fence Inspections

Jane Cain had carried out the monthly check and identified that there were no further issues other than the seats becoming more mildewed.

Andy Purves had asked if a replacement seat could be identified for him to approach his insurers about to replace the one damaged in the summer.

A possibility had been identified by Viv so it was **AGREED** that the clerk would pass this on to Andy for him to progress although there were still several options on the style, colour etc.

It was **AGREED** that the same group working on the noticeboard would also specify the type of seat required.

148/23 Questions from Members

None received.

149/23 Chair Announcements

None.

150/23 Any Other Business

None.

151/23 Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th November at 6.00pm at Lynwood House and also via Zoom