

## Greencroft Parish Council

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 September 2023 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,  
Lanchester**

**Present: Sandra McDonagh, Vivien Self, Ann Bell, Gavin Jarvis, Jane Cain, Dorothy Parry,  
Barbara Jamieson, Paul McAdam (Clerk)**

**Apologies: County Councillor Doug Oliver, County Councillor Mike McGaun**

### **117/23 Declarations of Interest**

Ann Bell declared an interest in Item 4 on the agenda due to living in the Greencroft Park area.

However there is no voting to take place on this item.

### **118/23 Public Participation**

Chris Lee who is only attending for Item 4 – Afforestation Scheme.

### **119/23 Afforestation Scheme – Former Greencroft Park Area**

Chris Hamill from Pryor and Rickett Silviculture Woodland Management Company attended the meeting to speak about the proposed afforestation scheme on the former Greencroft Park area.

Plans for the scheme will be submitted to the Forestry Commission in early 2024 so Pryor and Rickett are looking to take on views of interested parties up until Christmas.

Data is being gathered and various surveys (eg birds, wildlife) have been undertaken but they are keen for any local information that may have been missed at time of survey.

Meetings on site are also taking place with other organisations eg Environment Agency.

Concerns raised regarding exit routes for timber; midges on site; loss of view; density of sitka spruce trees, carbon emissions.

All comments noted and will be considered as part of the process.

### **120/23 Minutes of the last Meeting**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 25 July 2023 be **AGREED** as a correct record

### **121/23 Planning and Road works**

DCC reports had been circulated.

1 application in Greencroft Parish had been included and there were no comments made on this application.

There had been notification received regarding an update to an application that comments had been made on previously – further comments were submitted to re-iterate concerns of Greencroft Parish.

### **122/23 County Councillor Update**

Not available at this meeting.

### **123/23 Clerk Update**

Website Updates – Statistics package now added to the website and some content had been circulated by Clerk.

It was **AGREED** due to time constraints that this would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Contract of Employment – Copy had been circulated by Clerk.

It was **AGREED** due to time constraints that this would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Hours Worked – 12 hours for July, 5 hours for August and an estimated 13 hours for September. It was **AGREED** for these to be paid at the end of September.

### **124/23 Budget**

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

### **125/23 Accounts for Payment**

Clerk Salary – £361.80

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

### **126/23 Traffic Issues in Village**

The clerk updated the meeting that the proposed speed visor application is currently with Street Lighting for their part of the design. They had confirmed that Parish Council views on locations could still be considered but that there were limited options.

It was **AGREED** that the clerk will enquire about how Greencroft Parish can liaise regarding these plans with Durham County Council.

### **127/23 Burnhope Solar Development**

Correspondence had been received from a group opposed to the development. Whilst Greencroft Parish also still held concerns it was **AGREED** that it was not appropriate to contribute to the associated fundraising.

### **128/23 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

### **129/23 CDALC AGM**

There were no councillors who were able to make this meeting.

### **130/23 Seat and Fence Inspections**

The damaged seat had been removed by Ann Bell and formal thanks were expressed regarding this action.

It was **AGREED** that the clerk would follow up with Andy Purves regarding claiming for the replacement cost from his insurance.

Jane Cain had carried out the monthly check and identified that there were no further issues.

### **131/23 Questions from Members**

None received.

### **132/23 Chair Announcements**

None.

### **133/23 Any Other Business**

None.

### **116/23 Next Meeting**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 6.00pm at Lynwood House and also via Zoom