

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 November at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,
Lanchester

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

Apologies: Barbara Jamieson, County Councillor Doug Oliver

152/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

153/23 Public Participation

None.

154/23 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 31 October 2023 be **AGREED** as a correct record

155/23 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated.

156/23 County Councillor Update

Boundary Commission Final Recommendations – Recommendations have just been published which now only need parliamentary approval.

These propose that Greencroft Parish Council now becomes part of Annfield Plain and Tanfield Division rather than the previously proposed Consett North Division.

Solar Farms - Public enquiry is still underway regarding the solar farm instigated by the Department of Transport – any questions for this can be forwarded to the County Councillors.

Meeting had taken place regarding changes to the plans regarding closing footpaths but no response since then.

Levelling Up Funding – Durham County Council has been informed that there is no funding from Government in the 3rd round of levelling up funding.

Funding had been received in Round 1 and then later revealed that this excluded Durham from funding in later rounds.

Lumiere – Event had recently taken place and had attracted many visitors to the area. Early indications are that the wider community benefitted more than previous events with the wider geographical spread of displays across the county.

157/23 Clerk Update

Traffic and noticeboard covered separately on agenda.

Hours Worked – 13 hours for November and it was **AGREED** for these to be paid at the end of the quarter.

158/23 Budget

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

2024/25 budget discussed following circulation by the Clerk of draft precept details from Durham County Council.

The effect of the increase in the tax base and the reduction in the LCTRS grant would be that the overall precept income would be almost unchanged if Greencroft Parish Council voted not to request any increase (or decrease) for Council Tax payers.

It was **AGREED** that Greencroft Parish Council would not request an increase in Council tax contributions from the public.

159/23 Accounts for Payment

None

160/23 Traffic Issues in Village

Response had been sent to Durham County Council since last meeting but no reply received.

It was **AGREED** that the clerk would remind DCC and ask for an update on progress.

Concern has also been raised about the volume of heavy traffic driving through the village, and it was understood that some time back when Lanchester Wines expanded a condition had been to direct traffic from there on an alternative route. It was **AGREED** that the clerk would check back to see if any records of this were available then contact DCC Highways accordingly.

161/23 Parish Noticeboard Potential Replacement

Report of working group had been circulated by the Clerk which had identified and proposed the purchase of a new noticeboard.

It was **AGREED** that this item – Stormguard Post Mounted External Noticeboard with Header Panel – should be purchased.

It was **AGREED** that the clerk would contact the supplier regarding this matter and also make enquiries regarding the suitability of the Parish logo and whether it was available in an appropriate format.

County Councillor McGaun agreed that Councillor Oliver and he could make a contribution towards this purchase and it was **AGREED** that he and the clerk would liaise with Mid Durham AAP regarding this.

The chair expressed her appreciation to Gavin, Jane and Ann for their work on this matter.

162/23 Solar Farm Update

Nothing other than covered in Item 156/23

163/23 Seat and Fence Inspections

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

Report of working group had been circulated by the Clerk which had identified and proposed a seat to replace the one damaged by contractor during maintenance work.

It was **AGREED** that this item – Lowther Seat from Glasdon should be presented to the contractor as the chosen item to be purchased via their insurance and that the clerk would contact Andy Purves regarding this.

The chair expressed her appreciation to Gavin, Jane and Ann for their work on this matter.

164/23 Risk Review Report and Asset Register

Risk Assessment and Asset Register were circulated prior to the meeting.

Two amendments to Risk Assessment were suggested – regarding including that reserves were available and that no cash transactions were made by the council and it was **AGREED** that the clerk would update accordingly.

It was felt that the Asset Register should be updated further to more accurately reflect replacement costs and the age of items and it was **AGREED** that this would be updated and reported back.

It was also **AGREED** that the clerk would dispose of the old printer and make enquiries with Durham County Council about the safe and secure disposal of the old laptop

165/23 Questions from Members

None received.

166/23 Chair Announcements

None.

167/23 Any Other Business

None.

168/23 Next Meeting

Tuesday 30th January at 6.00pm at Lynwood House, Lanchester.

