

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 March 2024 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,
Lanchester

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

Apologies: Sandra McDonagh, Ann Bell

38/24 Declarations of Interest

None.

39/24 Public Participation

None.

40/24 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 27 February 2024 be **AGREED** as a correct record

41/24 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated.

42/24 County Councillor Update

Elections

Polling cards are being issued for 2 elections on May 2nd – for the North East Mayor and also for the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner.

Leisure Facilities

A decision has been made by the Council not to proceed with new leisure facilities in Chester-le-Street and Seaham due to budgetary pressures.

DLI Museum

Construction work has started at the DLI Museum site but there are ongoing issues due to ashes of soldiers being scattered on the construction area.

New Family Hub

A Family Hub is opening in Stanley which is aimed at people 0-19 and councillors happy to take any questions regarding this

Solar Farm

No further update – it is up to the applicant if they want to modify plans and re-submit.

It had been found that plans were not accurate in terms of capacity and that Durham County Council had unlawfully granted planning permission.

There was further discussion about Solar Farm plans in the area and it was felt that it was important that separate applications should not be just considered as independent of each other as allowing 2 or 3 Solar Farms close to each other was effectively allowing 1 much larger farm to be developed.

There was also a discussion about the claimed effectiveness and output from such solar farms – is the data produced by manufacturers the average output from their machines, meaning that the claimed effectiveness of farms in Derwentside, with less sun than many places, may be overstated.

43/24 Clerk Update

Damaged Seat

Information on seat requested had not been provided to insurers as previously advised but this has now been provided.

Noticeboard

Confirmation of order has been made and payment forwarded to start the production process. Awaiting installation details.

Park Work

Nigel Hall from Chapmans Well is unable to help at this time.

Willowburn Hospice

Donation sent as agreed at last meeting

Solar Farm

Tried unsuccessfully to contact clerk at Burnhope Parish Council. Doug agreed to also try and contact Burnhope Parish Council.

Greencroft Park

Sandra to meet with Councillor David Smith from Lanchester Parish Council to discuss.

Hours Worked – 15 hours for March, making 39 for the quarter and it was **AGREED** for these to be paid at the end of the quarter.

44/24 Budget

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

2024/25 draft budget circulated following previous discussion agreeing Precept Request from Durham County Council.

It was **AGREED** to amend the draft budget slightly by transferring £300 from the Flower Beds budget to the Seats budget as there was also £600 carried over from a 2023/24 grant to be used on flowers.

45/24 Accounts for Payment

Clerk Salary and Tax – will be approximately £500 in total - **AGREED**

46/24 Traffic Issues in Village

Clerk had contacted County Councillors, Durham Police, Mid Durham AAP and Durham County Council since last meeting about the slow progress with speed visors.

Informed by County Councillors and AAP that funding awarded is protected and safe – no contact from Durham County Council.

Response from Durham Police about parking issues at Pip Stop also pointed out that there were similar parking misdemeanours apparently by local residents further down the street and over the road so any action would have to be consistent.

Discussion at meeting and informed that Doug and Mike are doing as much as possible to progress the matter but that there was a number of delays and slow progress with traffic issues across the county.

Matter has also been raised with the Cabinet Member responsible for traffic issues.

Parking issues discussed and it was **AGREED** that a letter could be drafted to send to owners of training company based at Pip Stop but not to be sent yet until further discussion about residents parking too.

47/24 Risk Assessment / Asset Register

Amendments since previous meeting discussed and updated documents **AGREED**.

48/24 Seat and Fence Inspections

Jane Cain had carried out the monthly check and identified that there was nothing further to report.

Repair work had been carried out by Nathan Waters and it was **AGREED** that Clerk would chase up with Ann about an invoice for work and to ask him again if he would consider maintenance work as and when required and provide a quote for his time.

49/24 Questions from Members

None received.

50/24 Chair Announcements

None.

51/24 Any Other Business

None

52/24 Next Meeting

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