

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 May 2024 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,
Lanchester

Present: Sandra McDonagh, Jane Cain, Ann Bell, Vivien Self, Gavin Jarvis, Paul McAdam
(Clerk),

Apologies : Dorothy Parry

74/24 Declarations of Interest

None.

75/24 Public Participation

None.

76/24 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 30 April 2024 be **AGREED** as a correct record.

77/24 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated.

78/24 Annual Governance and Accountability Return

RESOLVED – Members received and noted the Annual Internal Audit Report

It was **AGREED** that, as recommended, the Clerk would contact CDALC to request template Standing Orders to implement these and also update the Asset Register following delivery of the noticeboard to include purchase cost and replacement costs of items.

It was also **AGREED** that records of inspections would be recorded and retained.

RESOLVED – Members approved the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1)

RESOLVED – Members approved the Accounting Statements (Section 2)

RESOLVED – Members approved the Certificate of Exemption

RESOLVED – Members agreed that the Exercise of Public Rights should begin on 11th June 2024 until 22nd July 2024.

79/24 County Councillor Update

Not applicable as none present.

80/24 Clerk Update

Noticeboard – Nothing to report. Clerk had contacted for detail on expected installation but nothing received.

Damaged Seat

Still waiting for feedback from gardeners insurers – further request had been made

Work in Park

Nathan had confirmed that there was 1 hour labour involved with the work he had carried out and asked if it could be donated to charity.

However, it was **AGREED** that payment should be made to him for an audit trail and he could donate to a charity of his choice.

Paul to forward a template invoice to Ann to share with Nathan as an example.

Barbara Jamieson

There had still been no contact from Barabara regarding her continuing role as a councillor and it was **AGREED** that the Chair would contact her to clarify and it was also **AGREED** that Paul would contact CDALC to clarify the process to take if there continued to be no attendance or contact.

Hours Worked – 15 hours worked in May and it was **AGREED** for these to be paid at the end of the quarter.

81/24 Budget

2024/25 budget position circulated prior to meeting – not a lot of activity to date and no questions.

82/24 Accounts for Payment

Durham County Council – Grass Cutting - £589.39

Steve Ragg – Internal Audit Fee - £80.00

It was **AGREED** for both payments to be made.

83/24 Traffic Issues in Village

Growing frustration over the lack of progress with the speed visors for the village with it now being 18 months since initial discussions and over a year since all funding and grants were confirmed.

It was **AGREED** that further contact would be made with County Councillors to see if they could progress this matter at all and also that Paul would forward previous correspondence to the Chair.

84/24 Greencroft Park

Discussion following meeting in Lanchester on 16th May.

Presentation had been made by David Smith from Lanchester Parish Council but other professionals present suggested that objections would be worthless.

Issues in the presentation aligned with Forestry Commission Plan and Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan.

It was noted that some of the location was on mining land and therefore there were NCB recommendations about what could be built.

It was also noted that the project was no longer being marketed regarding carbon offset.

Queries raised by wind turbine owners about the effect of the trees on the turbines but advised there was no “right to wind” and that they should do their own work to calculate the effect.

Other concerns raised were around the potential increase in pollen count with extra trees and the effects on wildlife such as the culling of deer.

The quality of surveys was also questioned due to examples of things that had been missed – such as the presence of buzzards.

It was also noted that the reservoir field had been removed from plans due to the presence of crested newts.

It was **AGREED** that the key to successful opposition was the number of objections and that councillors should individually object if they thought appropriate – a template of an objection would be beneficial and Paul to contact Lanchester Parish Council to ask if one is available.

It was also **AGREED** that not all information was yet available and Greencroft Parish Council was not in a position to make a ‘council’ response at this time.

It was also noted that there was a short window of opportunity for objections and it was **AGREED** that Paul would ask Lanchester Parish Council if they could advise when this period was ‘live’.

85/24 Neighbourhood Plan

Deferred until June meeting

86/24 Seat and Fence Inspections

Jane Cain had carried out the monthly check and identified no further changes in conditions since last month.

87/24 Questions from Members

None received.

88/24 Chair Announcements

None.

89/24 Any Other Business

None

90/24 Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th June at 6.00pm at Lynwood House.