

Greencroft Parish Council

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29 October 2024 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,
Lanchester**

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

Apologies :, Gavin Jarvis, County Councillor Doug Oliver

143/24 Declarations of Interest

None

144/24 Public Participation

None.

145/24 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 24 September 2024 be **AGREED** as a correct record

146/24 Planning

DCC reports had been circulated.

An email has only just been issued regarding an amendment to the application regarding a solar farm and will be circulated by Paul.

The letter of objection to 140 lodges plus food and retail offerings on Greencroft Park had been discussed separately and submitted to Durham County Council.

The Chair expressed particular appreciation to Vivien for all her work in this matter.

147/24 County Councillor Update

Councillor Mike McGaun updated on a number of countywide issues.

Consultation was open in respect of a Toft Hill Bypass.

There was an ongoing initiative to try and highlight scams in operation across the county.

Fly tipping was an ongoing issue in respect of the cost of clearing it up and investment in cameras was taking place to help with this. There had been a recent success in this area with a prosecution and the seizing of a vehicle and assets.

Also regarding waste, battery disposal was an issue and 2 wagons had been damaged by batteries incorrectly disposed catching fire.

Confirmation had been made that Bishop Auckland Food Festival would take place again in 2025 which was a big attraction.

A review of Customer Access Points was underway as usage was quite low.

148/24 Clerk Update

Noticeboard – Councillor vacancy notice and a map of the Parish Council were now on display.

Pay Award – had been agreed, backdated to April 1st

Precept – Confirmation letters were expected in early November with a deadline for return requests of 17th January 2025.

Hours Worked – Anticipated to be 15 for October and it was **AGREED** for these to be paid.

149/24 Budget

2024/25 budget position circulated prior to meeting – no questions.

A breakdown of the main variances to the budget was also circulated and it was **AGREED** that there were no concerns and that plans were in place.

Discussion about the possibility of Christmas lights on the tree in the park and it was **AGREED** that Paul would contact Lanchester Parish Council regarding how they manage their lights and also contact DCC Street Lighting enquiring if there was access to power for any lights if they were sourced.

150/24 Accounts for Payment

A.D. Purves – Grass Cutting - £650 + £130 VAT = £780.00 – **AGREED**.

151/24 Standing Orders

Paul had circulated a final draft of the proposed standing orders and it was **AGREED** that these should be finalised and implemented.

152/24 Traffic Issues in Village

Greencroft Parish Council had been copied into a letter of complaint from a resident to Durham County Council regarding the increased volume of HGVs on the A6076 through Maiden Law which is causing her house to shake and is causing dipping in the road.

Discussion around this matter and it was agreed that it was an area of concern with a regular 4.00am heavy vehicle being mentioned as another issue which disturbs sleep.

It was **AGREED** that Paul would draft a letter from Greencroft Parish Council on the matter as it was felt that the more complaints that DCC received the more likely any action was.

The invoice for grass cutting generated a discussion about difficulties the gardener has had at times accessing the park due to parking on the path adjacent to the park and it was **AGREED** that Paul would contact DCC regarding this and whether any parking restriction was possible just for access to the park.

Still very little progress regarding the speed restriction signs and Councillor McGaun was meeting DCC Traffic and would raise this again and update.

153/24 Solar Farm Planning Application

An amendment to the application had only just been received this afternoon and Paul would circulate.

154/24 Neighbourhood Plan

Further brief discussion on the topic and it was **AGREED** that Vivien would lead the workgroup to explore the values of introducing a Neighbourhood Plan and Ann also volunteered to be part of the group.

It was also **AGREED** that, following the work on the objection to the holiday lodges, the further work on the neighbourhood plan would be paused until January.

155/24 Seat and Fence Inspections

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

The working group looking at the seats and tables would continue their work regarding replacement and repair plans.

156/24 Questions from Members

None received.

157/24 Chair Announcements

None.

158/24 Any Other Business

None

159/24 Next Meeting

Tuesday 26th November at 6.00pm at Lynwood House.