

**Minutes of the meeting of NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 5th
September 2016 at 7.00pm**

Present: J.W. Weighell (in the chair), P Dunn, C Murray, D Dodwell, K Sandick, J Alderson and G Crute.

Ward Councillors J Kelley and L Tostevin. R. Heward (Clerk).

Also present were three members of the public

16/33 APOLOGIES E Miller

16/34 Presentation by Officers from the Environment Agency

4 officers from the Environment Agency headed by Paul Constantine explained they had reviewed flood defences including footpaths, fences and steps. They had decided that, as most of these had been in place for more than 20 years, replacements were required. Steps up to the flood bank from private properties would be repaired or renewed in consultation with the owners of the properties. On completion, responsibility would be handed over to the owners. Footpaths would be renewed, probably to match those which had been provided as part of the more recent flood bank improvements.

Risk assessments may be forthcoming from the Environment Agency and warning notices are to be included.

Questions from members of the public and the Parish Council were then taken by the officers.

The officers were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

16/35 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2016 were confirmed as a true record and signed. It was noted that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2016 had been corrected and re-issued.

16/36 PACT REPORT

It was noted:

- a) 2 Labrador puppies have been stolen from The Ashes at Low Dinsdale
- b) An electric fence system has been stolen from Cracknell's Farm
- c) Number plates have been stolen from a car at a property on Sockburn Lane
- d) Ron Hogg had agreed that a speed van would be placed in the village at appropriate busy traffic times

16/37 ROADS and FOOTPATHS

It was noted that:

- a) The hedges on Sockburn Lane may be in line to be cut back
- b) There has been a hit and run incident near Skipbridge. Ward Councillor J Kelley agreed to report overgrown hedges to DBC

16/38 VILLAGE GREEN

Councillor G Crute circulated copies of a plan showing the extent of the village green since 1968, some land had been acquired from The Abbey in 2003. G Crute had made extensive enquiries to ascertain ownership and responsibility of the land which is the Village Green. There is a need to work with the Environment and DBC in order to establish ownership and responsibility. It was noted that there could be legal costs/fees in view of pursuing this matter further. It was agreed £500 should be set aside for this purpose.

16/39 PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning applications had been received for Abbey Farm Cottage and Neasham Hall. After discussion both were agreed

b) The planning consultation response which G Crute had prepared for DBC Planning Department prior to the 15th August 2016 deadline and which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting, was approved. Councillor Crute was thanked for his efforts in this matter.

16/40 FINANCE REPORT

a) Financial statements and annual audit return – suggested timetable:

April to June – report at September meeting

July to September – report at November meeting

Budget for the next financial year – report at November meeting

October to December – report at February meeting

January to March – report at May meeting

Annual audit return – report and approve at May meeting

This timetable was approved by Council.

b) Register of Assets

Councillors were informed that the Transparency Code requires that a register of assets is maintained and published. Furthermore, although the register was not complete, considerable work had been done. When complete the register will be put on the website.

16/41 OTHER MATTERS

Ward councillor J Kelley informed the meeting that efforts were being made to get broadband speed improved for Hurworth and Neasham

16/42 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE Nothing

16/43 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Monday 3rd October 2016.

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