

Minutes of **Neasham Parish Council meeting** held on 6 February 2017 at 7:00 pm in Neasham Reading Room.

Present: G Crute, D Dodwell, P Dunn, E Miller, C Murray (acting Clerk), K Sandick, J Weighell (Chair)

Apologies: Ward Councillors J Kelley and L Tostevin.

1683 Councillor vacancy

It was **noted** that Cllr J Alderson had resigned. The vacancy was advertised by DBC, on the website and 4 noticeboards on 6 February 2017. It was **resolved** that the Clerk write a letter of thanks to Cllr Alderson for his service.

It was **noted** that the Mayor has resurrected 25 year's service awards for Councillors.

1684 Declarations of interest

None

1685 Minutes of the last meeting

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2016 were a correct record.

1686 Matters arising from previous meeting

None.

1687 PACT Report

It was **noted** that the Parish has lost its beat officer, leaving 1 PCSO covering 3 villages with limited powers.

1688 Roads and footpaths

It was **resolved** to further research simple vehicle activated speeding signs. KS will source and price. JW will identify suitable locations.

1689 Village green

1. GC explained the history of the land on the village green behind 26, 26a and the pumping station. The boundaries have never been clarified and documented. It was **resolved** that the current boundaries be recognised and confirmed that NPC has no claim on the 3 areas identified. GC will circulate a plan for clarity.
2. GC and JW will meet with the Environment Agency to discuss the public footpath across the village green in relation to the flood bank.
3. GC explained that the bye-laws produced at the last meeting are no longer recorded with DBC and therefore would be difficult to enforce. He recommended the need to draw up fresh ones. He circulated a questionnaire for Councillors to consider and return to him for collation and further discussion.

1690 Planning

It was **resolved** that no comment be made in respect of the following applications:

- 16/01215/FUL - S Charlton - Creation of vehicular access in Dibdale Road
- 17/00023/TC - 15 m Monopole erection, Brass Castle
- 16/1020/OUT - New Lane Development
- 16/01138/LBC | 16/01163/LBC | 17/00055/LBC | 17/0042/FUL - Works at Sockburn Hall.

1691 Model publication scheme

TM advised that most policies required will be available in March.

1692 Recruitment of Parish Clerk

It was **noted** that no applications had yet been received despite extensive advertising. The vacancy is advertised in the annual newsletter which may yield results.

1693 Finance

1. It was **resolved** that a payment be made for SLCC annual membership - £43.
2. TM explained that the Council is entitled to reclaim Vat on eligible expenditure and has not made a claim for many years. A claim can only be made up to 3 years after the expense. TM has made a claim for £118 for the 3 years to May 2016. Subsequently a claim will be made at the end of each financial year.
3. The Q3 finance report was noted with £4750 in the bank. It was **resolved** that the following amounts be transferred to ring fenced funds: £375 to grass cutting fund; £450 to election expenses fund and £500 to pump house repair fund.
4. It was **resolved** to approve the budget for 2017-18: Receipts £4087, Expenses £3105, Bank £5530.
5. It was **resolved** to add TM as a signatory to the accounts at Barclays and NS&I.

1694 Annual Parish Meeting

It was **resolved** that the informal meeting be on Saturday 22 April 2017. Suggestion for content should be forwarded to TM.

1695 Correspondence

It was **noted** that EM had been nominated for selection to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party in May. He was successfully selected. Congratulations to EM.

1696 Other village matters

1. It was **noted** that the annual Parish newsletter had been delivered to every household. TM will write a letter of thanks to Mick Townend for producing it.
2. It was **resolved** that TM will contact BT to put a hold on the removal of the phone box on Teesway while the Council considers the BT adopt a box scheme for £1 to house a defibrillator.
3. It was **resolved** to develop a draft Parish Safety project encompassing speeding signs, dog fouling signs and a defibrillator that can be used to attract external funding. Residents will be consulted at the Annual Parish Meeting.
4. It was **resolved** that meetings will commence at 18:30 pm commencing March to avoid conflict with the whist club.
5. KS and JW will request a new dog bin for the New Lane area from Streetscene.

1697 Date of next meeting

1. Monday 6th March 2017 at 18:30pm.
2. Because of a Bank Holiday, the meeting on Monday 1 May has been rescheduled to precede the AGM on Tuesday 2 May at 18:30pm.

The meeting concluded at 20:45 pm.