



**Bishop Middleham
& Mainsforth**

Conserving our Past Building our Future

Minutes of a meeting of Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish Council held Wednesday 13th November 2019 in the Village Hall Bishop Middleham.

86.0/19 Present: - Cllr. H. Neve (Chairman), N. Dexter, M. MacCallam, V. Cooke, A. Shaw, J. Brownlee.

Parish Clerk J. Robinson

87.0/19 Apologies: - Councillor: - D. Hardy, G. Turner, P. Crathorne.

In attendance was PCSO Mary Hobson.

88.0/19 In attendance: - 2 members of the public were present to introduce themselves and learn about the Parish Council. They have lived in Croatia where she was a member of the Police Force. Members welcomed them to the Parish.

89.0/19. Notice of meeting: - It was moved by Cllr. H. Neve that the meeting be opened.

90.0/19 Declaration of Interest: - Nil

91.0/19 Members dispensations: - none required

92.0/19 Co-option

In the light of the General Election and the Council now in the Purdah period it was agreed to defer this matter to the December meeting.

93.0/19 Chairman's Report.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and as usual reminded members of the need to respect other people's views. He explained to members the importance of abiding by the Purdah rules and this will be particularly important when the Winter newsletter is produced.

94.0/19 Public Participation.

No members of the public were present.

95/19 PACT Report

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Hobson to the meeting. PCSO Hobson advised members, that via Farm watch had been advised of diesel being stolen. There had been 1 Neighbourhood dispute. She had in the month of October been involved in the issuing of Traffic Orders, 3 warnings for speeding. The Speeding Van jointly purchased by Ferryhill, and Spennymoor Town

Council had proved a success, but the cost had been in the region of £33,000. It was agreed for the Clerk to write to both Councils asking for more information on the van.

The Farm watch meeting had been a great success and most local farmers, with a total of 19 had attended the recent meeting held in Bishop Middleham, and all hoped it would be repeated. Members discussed the possibility of supporting future meetings and it was agreed to financially support for the hire of the Village hall for the quarterly meeting, and to underwrite any cost of the buffet if a charge of £2 could be levied at those attending. It was agreed to allocate any costs of the event from the Thompson Quarry funds.

96/19 County Councillor Report

Cllr. Crathorne was not present due to other Council business but had submitted her apologies.

97/19 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September and 9th October

Both sets of minutes were both agreed proposed Cllr. H. Neve and seconded Cllr. N. Dexter. It was Agreed to alter 72/c//19 to reflect the detailed discussion in regard to the resurfacing of front gardens and the potential effect on flooding.

98/19 Action log/Matters for Information.

Members considered the update issues from the Action Log and matters arising as follows: -

- a. Creation of a specific Communication Policy remains ongoing, and it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk present a report to the January 2020 meeting
- b. GDPR, agreed to present a report to January 2020 to include a destruction and retention policy
- c. Permeable paving, agreed the matter be added to both the Facebook and website and the issue be raised once again with the planners and consideration to it being referred to CDALC for future Smaller Council Forum meetings
- d. Footpath to Fishburn from Bishop Middleham, Cllr V. Cooke advised Thompson Quarry side is done. Clerk to raise the issue of opposite side with County Councillor Crathorne/DCC
- e. Speeding continues to be an issue across the Parish. The issue of speeding has been specifically raised with DCCC at the Highways Site Visit,
- f. Christmas lights into South View, issue to be raised with S.E. Landscapes
- g. Still awaiting reply from Kompan re Play area. Clerk to chase up if no reply by 1st December for a report to go to December Full Council. Council discussed and explored alternative options
- h. Bucket Swing, as detailed above. Chairman asked members to visit the play area next to Trimdon Village hall to see the exact same piece of equipment in us and to note any comparison or good practice.
- i. Members expressed concern at the delay in repairing/siting the display board in the nature park. Clerk to raise the issue with S.E. landscape and report back to December meeting
- j. Concern was expressed regarding the litter bin in the play area. Clerk to order a new one and S.E. landscape to site before December meeting
- k. Clerk to investigate purchase of a new disclaimer sign for the park area. Clerk to investigate good practice of what should be on the sign, and liaise with CDALC as necessary
- l. Cllr. N. Dexter advised that Bright Water have proposed a work schedule re Fishburn to New Bishops Fen. Coating Services have been appointed as the contractor for the bridge refurbishment. The aim is for this to be completed by Christmas following a site meeting with DCC that was held in mid-August which scoped the timeframe for the remainder of the work on the bridle way. Bright Waters aim is to support DCC to complete the whole project by the end of March 2020 with a target of December 2019.
- m. Tree rear of 31 The Park, matter to be chased up by Clerk with DCC regarding inspection
- n. Sunken Drain in Park, matter to be referred to DCC for their attention by Clerk

- o. Stop Tap at Pavilion, The Park. Clerk to ask for NWA to visit to identify exactly where it is sited
- p. Q. Parking Kiln Crescent remains an issue, awaiting response from DCC

99/19 Report from Play Equipment meeting.

The Chairman reported on a meeting he and the Acting Clerk had held with the representative from Kompan. Clerk is to chase up reply for December Full Council.

100/19 Ground Maintenance contract

The Chairman advised he will circulate it to all members. Members agreed to inform S.E. landscape that the Contract is due for renewal and that members will place relevant adverts and orders in the press to begin review process. Draft contract and timescales to be discussed at December meeting.

101/19 Royal Garden party

It was agreed to nominate both Cllr. V.Cooke and Cllr. M.McCallam.

102/19 Firework Event

The Chairman and several members gave a report on the success of the evening. The Chairman wished to place on record his and the Council thanks to those who had assisted in any way to the success. The following was agreed for the 2020 event: -

- 1.To re-book the showmen from this year
- 2.To book Rainbow Fireworks for Friday 6th November. It was agreed to have same quality/length event but to also add in music. The Clerk to ask for a 2-year pricing deal and to book Friday 5TH November 2021 at the same time
- 3.Catering to be A & A catering
- 4.To hire a lighting column to go in the car park area
- 5.Event to have same firing times but an earlier opening time to allow shows and catering for the public, it was suggested consideration to either 5.00pm or 5.30pm.
- 6.Same ticket selling structure to be adopted. Final price to be agreed in 2020
- 7.The £638 collected from ticket sales to be given to Bishop Middleham Village Hall under Section 137 authorization
- 8.St. Johns Ambulance to be booked again to cover the event
- 9.Cllr. N. Dexter to be named Co-ordinating member
- 10.Cllr. N. Dexter has thanked the volunteers on behalf of the parish Council

Members agreed this event and future firework events to be funded from the Thompson Quarry Community Fund.

103/19 Annual External Audit

The Clerk advised public Notification of Audit end has been published.

104/19 Correspondence

- a. Various emails circulated to members for information
- b. Smaller Council Forum, 21st November at Horden
- c. Letter from Mrs. N. Dexter nominating a resident for the Annual Volunteer Award, agreed to defer to January 2020 meeting
- d. Scope giving further details of the size of the collection containers they are asking to site. Cllr. J. Brownlee agreed to raise the issue with the Village Hall Committee
- e. National Tree Week, no site identified
- f. DCA autumn training brochure, received

105/19 Highways meeting

The Chairman advised the recent meeting with Highways Officers had been positive with wish list presented, help requested and a promised early reply. Clerk to follow up and report at December meeting.

106/19 Christmas Event

The Clerk reported on confirmed details for the event as follows: -

- a. S.E. Landscapes will erect lights week beginning 25 November 2019
- b. Event to take place Sunday 8th December 4pm
- c. Ferryhill band has been booked for the event
- d. Cllr. H. Neve will check the Carol Sheet and forward to Clerk for printing

It was agreed Cllr. Neve would check that the quote for refreshments was correct as it seemed out of line with previous years.

Members considered nominations for the person to switch on the lights. It was agreed to ask the former Clerk. Mr. Paul Gray to do the switch on this year. Clerk to provide a certificate for Mr. P. Gray for the event also.

Costs for the event to be taken from the Thompson Quarry Community Fund

107/19 Environmental issues

The following issues were raised by members and actions agreed: -

- a. Lime Tree on the Corner of The Green, Clerk to refer to DCC
- b. Dog Bins in The Park, Clerk to request new ones from DCC
- c. The big blue bin replacement is urgent, matter to be raised with S.E. Landscape and report back to December meeting
- d. Concern was expressed regarding the wildlife garden to the rear of the top part of The Park, matter to be raised with S.E. Landscapes
- e. Cllr. V.Cooke advised an under 11 boys football team maybe beginning in the Parish and this will have a knock-on effect to usage of football area
- f. Concern was expressed regarding drainage across the park, item to be considered at a future meeting
- g. Annual Legionnaire testing has been completed
- h. Concern was expressed by other users regarding state of pavilion following football matches. Cllr. V.Cooke agreed to raise the matter with relevant Club officials
- i. Cllr. N. Dexter gave an in-depth report on her work in attracting additional funding for the park. Agreed to place on December Agenda as an item. She is currently obtaining 3 like for like quotes for the work.
- j. A request to consider providing a second CCTV Camera was made by members. It was agreed to place on December agenda and Clerk to request activity report from DCC neighborhood Services
- k. Concern was expressed at the continued fly tipping along Garmondsway. Agreed to raise issue with DCC and Cllr. Crathorne as this is a longstanding issue. It was agreed to request S.E. Landscapes do additional grass seeding along the verges in front of Broadoaks
- l. Clerk to issue a Contract for the hire of the garage to Mr. A. Shaw, contract to begin 1st December 2019
- m. It was agreed to undertake further bulb planting in 2020. Cllr. N. Dexter agreed to look at additional sites and identify groups to assist at a future meeting
- n. Several members expressed concern at DCC Spraying of grass verges. It was agreed to ask Cllr. Crathorne to arrange a site visit between members and the relevant head of Service DCC to discuss same, prior to new season commencing.

o. members expressed concern at the dangerous state of road signs at the Fishburn/A177 junction. Clerk has reported same to DCC for their attention.

p. members agreed to allocate £500 towards the purchase of Bat Boxes/Bird Boxes etc. Cllr. N. Dexter and Clerk to chase up with Durham Wildlife Trust, whom the clerk has been liaising with for costings. Durham Bird Club and Ranger John Olley to also be consulted. Also, to liaise with Brightwater to explore options for both funding and widening of scope for improvements to the wildlife garden.

109/19 Christmas Newsletter

It was agreed to circulate a newsletter in late November in time to advertise for light Switch On event. It was agreed to delegate the task and content to Cllr. H. Neve who also agreed to ensure purdah rules are adhered to.

110/19 Former member of Staff.

Cllr. M. McCallam advised members a former member of Staff, Mr. Mark Turnbull had recently died. Members wished to express their condolences to his family and a card to be sent. Cllr. V. Cooke and N. Dexter agreed to attend the funeral. It was also agreed under Section 137 to send a donation of £50 to his requested Charity, Handcrafted, Unit 7 Skillion Business Centre Langley Moor.

111/19 Monthly Accounts

Cllr. H. Neve advised he had discussed issues with the Clerk, and it has been agreed to have 3 separate bank accounts for the Council, a. General Fund, b. Deposit Account c. Thompson Community Fund. It was agreed to transfer the accounts onto Rialtas Accounting System backdating to April 2019. A grant application was received from the Bowls Club for winter transport costs. It was agreed to fund the full costs. This was proposed Cllr. M. McCallam and seconded Cllr. V. Collinson.

Please see Appendix 1 for Accounts approved for payment at the meeting. J. Robinson was formally identified as the responsible Financial officer for Bishop Middleham Parish Council.

112/19 Planning

Members considered the current planning application to turn the Old Fleece into Residential property. The Chairman had received correspondence from local Branch of CAMRA expressing their concerns. Whilst expressing disappointment at the loss of another business from the Parish members agreed that the planning requests appear valid and agreed that an empty property on the high street would not be an asset to the village and could attract anti-social behaviour.

113/19 V.E. Weekend

To be placed on December Agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.48 pm