



## Bishop Middleham Parish Council

**Reply to,**  
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### Conserving our Past: Building Our Future

#### Chairman Cllr. Harvey Neve

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Minutes of a meeting of Bishop Middleham Parish Council held Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021, in Bishop Middleham Village Hall.

**Present:** - Cllrs. H. Neve (Chairman), G. Turner, J. Brownlee, V. Cooke, E. Peeke, A. Shaw.

Parish Clerk J. Robinson

**Apologies:** - Cllrs. M. MacCallam, D. Hardy

8 members of the public were present.

**56.0/21 Notice of meeting:** - It was moved by Cllr. H. Neve that the meeting be opened.

**57.0/21 Declarations of Interest** – none required.

**58.0/21 Member Dispensation** – none required.

**59.0/21 Public Participation:** -The following issues were raised: -

**a. Bishop Middleham Junior Football Team** require an Invoice from the Parish Council regarding the marking of pitches undertaken by S.E. Landscapes, to enable them to reclaim from their grant. Parish Clerk agreed to raise the matter with S.E. Landscape.

**b. Planning Application Palmer Terrace, DM/21/00862/FPA.** Several residents attended the meeting to raise issues regarding this planning application, comments recorded as raised by individual residents as they addressed the meeting.

They provided members with copies of the letters sent by them to DCC objecting to the application. 2 members of the public advised they had sent in objection letters, but they did not appear on the planning portal. The residents stressed they did not object to the proposed service, indeed it is worthwhile, but they firmly believe it is not the correct place for it to be in a residential area. They felt using the Village Hall or other public buildings would be the correct and appropriate venue.

Concerns were expressed by the public that clients to the service will be in close proximity to private housing, and any confidential or private comments being made by the clients will be heard by residents, visitors to the resident's home and children.

They expressed concern at the change of the size of the proposed window and location since the application had been submitted.

Members of the public could not understand comments made by Highways of there being no parking or highway issues when there are already issues and complaints which have been raised with DCC. Residents believe clients and staff of the service parking in the area will only exacerbate existing parking and highway issue.

The public were extremely concerned at the size of the window and effect on their privacy. An adjoining resident's bedroom windows look directly down onto the site. A concern was raised regarding safeguarding issues for children. The T junction close by will have an increased problem for access due to parking and concerns were raised regarding potential accidents. Residents stated that they are not only working during the day but also shift working and therefore are at home during the day, yet highways did not consider this. Increased traffic will give an increase safety concern for children and adults alike.

The residents summed up their comments by once again applauding the service being proposed but strongly felt it was not appropriate for a residential area with young families.

#### **60.0/21 Planning Application Palmer Terrace DM/21/00862/FPA**

Cllr. H. Neve advised members he had requested the Parish Clerk to place this item high on the agenda due to the nature, strength of feeling and number of residents who had advised they may be in attendance. Both he and County Councillor Peeke had various conversations and site with the applicant, and he had invited the applicant to the meeting to address members if they should so wish.

An in-depth and considered debate took place regarding the issues raised as well as the merits of the scheme. Members considered if there were a need for a special meeting to discuss the matter, but on balance felt that all the information they required was available.

It was proposed Cllr. V.Cooke and seconded by Cllr. G. Turner that the Parish Council write objecting to the application on the following grounds listed below, but to stress to DCC they fully endorse the value of and need for this type of service, but that the location was inappropriate

Reasons for objection (in no particular order) being as follows: -

- a. Parking, members felt the judgment and report from DCC Highways did not reflect the current or potential impact on this area if the application was approved.
- b. Concern regarding privacy for both residents and clients using the service. Confidentiality in a service of this kind is paramount.
- c. A residential setting is inappropriate for this type of business providing such sensitive/confidential services
- d. As an area of families, young children may hear and potentially be affected by comments being made by service users

The proposal was carried 5 for 1 abstention.

### **61.0/21 Playground project.**

Members of the working party gave an update of the work undertaken. A questionnaire has been circulated across the Parish and members are to hold a consultation event outside the school. The Post Office have kindly agreed to act as a collecting office for returned forms.

### **62.0/21 Minutes of monthly meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Resolved:** - It was proposed Cllr. G. Turner and seconded Cllr. V.Cooke and carried to adopt the minutes as a true record and endorse recommendations within.

### **63.0/21 Annual Audit**

Members discussed the recent report from Mazars, showing an un-qualified audit. Notice of completion to go into Council noticeboards and uploaded onto the Council website before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. No action plan is required.

### **64.0/21 Co-option to Council vacancy.**

The Clerk advised members that Mr. G. Jacobs who had attended several meetings as an observer and had expressed a wish to be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the current vacancy. The Clerk advised that Mr. G. Jacobs qualifies for Co-option as a resident of Bishop Middleham and there are no barring reasons for his appointment. Members noted that they had spoken to Mr. G. Jacobs at previous meetings and answered any queries he raised regarding the role.

**Resolved:** - It was proposed Cllr. H. Neve and seconded Cllr. G. Turner to Co-opt Mr. G. Jacobs onto Bishop Middleham Parish Council. This was carried unanimously.

Mr. G. Jacobs then signed the Acceptance of Office form and was welcomed onto the Council by the Chairman. Cllr. G. Jacobs then formally joined the meeting.

### **65.0/21 Michelmas Fayre.**

Members considered the report previously distributed by the Clerk. It was agreed to hold a raffle/tombola on the evening, members agreed to provide raffle prizes, and to auhoirse spending up to the value of £100 on the raffle/tombola if required.

### **66.0/21 Path to Sedgfield**

Cllr. H. Neve advised Cllr. M.McCallam and the Clerk had met with the owners of Knotty Hill Golf Club on site. The Golf Club have agreed to undertake the repair at their expense. It was agreed to monitor the situation. An issue had arisen regarding Pit Lane in regard to the owners having applied for Section 31 status which potentially would prevent any new rights of way being established. It was agreed to monitor this situation and if required to formally object.

### **67.0/21 Update on outstanding issues**

**a.** A thank you letter from the resident on Front Street regarding the pruning of the trees

**b.** Land to the side of the school annex has been cleaned up by S.E. Landscape. Cllr. H. Neve advised a query had been raised in regard to purchasing the land, but the Clerk had advised the sale of Village/Parish green is not possible without

Secretary of State approval and the sale of this land would not pass the test set out by the Minister of State.

c. A letter has been sent to DCC regarding the use of Pesticides and Climate Change Contract. They have replied to say they will attend a meeting in October to discuss.

d. Cllr. H. Neve advised he had contacted the Police and they are following up on reported damage to the Quarry Reserve entrance. He will report back to the next meeting.

e. Clerk advised that Wicksteed have advised because of global supply issues the swing ordered will not be installed until 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

f. Update on Electoral Register. The Clerk advised the Register is available for members only to use in their Council duties, and he has started writing to the new electors welcoming them to the Parish. Members agreed with this approach.

g. Legionella Testing has been undertaken on The Pavilion and found to be negative.

h. A request for a further meeting with DCC Highways has been made regarding Bus Stops across the Parish and especially Hawthorne Terrace.

i. S.E. landscape advised he would undertake repairs to the damaged Boardwalk mid-September.

### **68.0/21 Monthly Transactions**

Monthly reconciliation agreed. The Clerk advised the Annual ICO renewal had taken place.

### **69.0/21 Fireworks**

The Clerk advised that the Fireworks event has been confirmed for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Details of pricing etc. to be discussed at the October meeting. Clerk to approach the Post Office to see if they will sell tickets as normal. It was agreed to set the date for the light switching on at the October meeting. The tree is to be erected 25<sup>th</sup> November. Ferryhill Band have been booked provisionally for the following 2 Sundays and date to be confirmed after October meeting. Clerk will also ask if the Post Office will help with the Halloween Golden Ticket event and Christmas gifts for the youth of the Parish similar to 2020.

### **70.0/21 County Councillor report**

Cllr. E. Peeke advised her report would have been linked to items already on the agenda and also August is recess in DCC meetings.

### **71.0/21 Nomination to Sedgefield Charities**

**Resolved:** - Cllr. G. Turner be the representative for Bishop Middleham and on the Sedgefield Charities. Cllr. V. Cooke was thanked for his service in this role over the years. (Cllr. V. Cooke had requested to stand down from the role).

### **72.0/21 Annual Audit**

The Clerk advised the External Audit had been completed and the Council had an un-qualified audit with no recommendations for action. It was agreed to publish the Notice of Audit Conclusion on both website and Noticeboards before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Recognition was given to the Clerk for his work to achieve this.

### **73.0/21 Garage Allocation**

It was agreed to offer the tenancy to the next person on the waiting list as the lady who has been offered the tenancy has not replied. Fee to be £22.00 per month.

It was proposed by Cllr. H. Neve seconded by Cllr. V.Cooke that due to the nature of the business to be transacted that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting. This was carried.

#### **74.0/21 Website Contract**

**Resolved:** - On a proposal by Cllr. H. Neve seconded by Cllr. G. Turner to renew the contract with our current provider for the 2021/2022 Civic year. This was agreed.

#### **75.0/21 Tree Survey**

The Clerk advised DCC have advised they are unable to quote to undertake the tree assessment as requested and that they do not have a map or register of their trees. They said they accept responsibility for the trees on their land only.

**Resolved:** - On a proposal by Cllr. H. Neve seconded by Cllr. V.Cooke to accept the quote from Arbor Division to assess all trees for a cost of £609.60 (including VAT). This was carried.

Cllr. A. Shaw advised he has a map of the Parish highlighting DCC/Parish Land and he will supply a copy of this document to allow the Clerk to correctly identify Parish Trees with Arbor for assessment.

#### **76.0/21 Member Sharing**

a. DCC have still not undertaken gulley cleaning on High Road, and it is now causing flooding issues. Clerk to follow up

b. Concern over the increasing size of the Quarry 'mounds' on the outskirts of the Parish. Cllr. V.Cooke agreed to raise this matter with the Quarry management

c. Highways to be contacted regarding the possibility for the provision of chicanes along High Road

d. Cllr. E. Peeke reported she is looking into purchasing additional CCTV cameras via her DCC Neighbourhood Budget to address Fly Tipping

e. Cllr. H. Neve advised several issues had been raised with him in regard to Brightwater and he will take these up directly in his role as Board member.

f. Anti-Social behaviour across the Parish, in particular Hawthorne Terrace was discussed, and members have raised this directly with the Police themselves.

#### **77.0/21 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 7.00pm in Bishop Middleham Village Hall.

The meeting closed 9.20pm

Signed: -

Cllr. H. Neve, Chairman.  
13<sup>th</sup> October 2021