

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 25th November 2019 in the village hall

In attendance: - Councillors' Ian Jackson (Chair), Graeme Reavley, Julie Gibbs, Jayne Watson and Mike Simpson (Parish Clerk)

Residents: - 6

1. **Apologies for absence:** - Rob O'Rourke
2. **Declarations of Interest:** - Graeme Reavley in respect of item 12(a) AOB "Donation request from the village hall committee".
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 25th June 2019**
These were agreed without alteration.
4. **Matters Arising**
None
5. **Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of 7th August 2019 (Black Bull planning application)**
These were agreed without alteration.
6. **Matters Arising**
The clerk to write to NCC planners in respect of the consultation comments of NCC's Building Conservation team as Julie Gibbs has found references to the building from 1822 as against their earliest dating of 1860. This may add weight to the heritage argument in opposing the planning application.
7. **"Keeping Lowick and District Connected"**
Invited guest Jane Pannell explained this initiative which is aimed at good neighborliness to help counter loneliness and isolation by providing practical help and advice. There were expressions of interest from the council and audience and the clerk is to pass Jane's contact details to interested parties.
8. **The Park**
 - a) **Land Registration:** - The parish council has obtained possessory title to the land w.e.f. 2/9/19. Application can be made for title absolute in 2031.
 - b) **Tree Surgery:** - The parish council has obtained a special exception payment (£640) from NCC's Members Local Improvement Scheme which covers their costs to date. The parish council agreed to pay £150 for work on the Bird Cherry to complete the tree surgery. To contain costs, they will do their own debris removal. Going forward they agreed to a 2 yearly inspection regime by a tree surgeon to check the health and safety of the trees.
 - c) **Fencing:** - No work has been done to date and there has been no contact by the contractor. Graeme Reavley will follow this up with a view to scheduling the work to be completed by spring 2020.
 - d) **Risk Management:** - The clerk updated the council on the developing risk assessment and associated control sheets.
9. **Finance**
(For the period 26/6/19 to 25/11/19)
Payments - £640 (1/8/19) to N T Walsh for tree surgery in the park.
Receipts - £2727.28 from NCC Members Local Improvement Scheme (MLIS) for park fencing.
£ 640.00 from NCC MLIS Special Exception Request for tree surgery in the park
£ 650.00 from NCC Precept 2019/20 – second instalment
£ 90.00 from H M Land Registry in reimbursement of Ordinance Survey fee
Total Payments: - £640.00
Total Receipts: - £4107.28
Current Bank Balance: - £5101.39

Precept 2020-2021

The parish council agreed to leave the precept unchanged at £1300 for financial year 2020-2021.

10. Parish Council Vacancy

The council thanked Derek Snee for his long service and contribution. The chairman invited any interested parties to make it known to the clerk or councilors. The vacancy will be mentioned in The Bugle and decided at the next council meeting. The clerk was asked to prepare the usual section 87(2) Local Government Act 1972 notice and to advise NCC.

11. Correspondence to the parish council since meeting of 25th June 2019

These were read by the clerk and involved no action by the council.

In respect of the planning application (22/8/19) to remove the public telephone box the council were asked if this could be stopped as there was still an emergency need due to poor mobile signal coverage. Whilst unlikely given that it is one of many village removals in the county, the clerk would write to the planners/relevant agency.

12. Any Other Business

a) £500 Donation request from the Village Hall Committee

The clerk to obtain details of the village hall's reserve funds, if any. There is precedent for making an award and the matter to be decided informally (outside of meeting) as soon as possible.

b) Letter (19/11/19) from Mr. Briggs of Beechburn

A request to purchase approximately 5 square meters of The Park at its eastern tip.

It was established that Mr. Briggs owned the rear(southern) ranch style fence between his Beechburn property and The Park. The council stated that any agreement to sell must not involve the parish council in any outlay of money for any reason connected to such sale. The council resolved to look at the matter in more detail at their next meeting.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 17th February 2020 in Bowsden Village Hall.



17/2/2020