**Bowsden Parish Council**

*Minutes*

**Ordinary Meeting of Bowsden Parish Council on Thursday 27th January 2022 at 7pm in Bowsden Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillors Jayne Watson, Graeme Reaveley, Ian Jackson and Dominic Elsworth

Parish Clerk Sue Sim

Parishioners: 6

1. Apologies for Absence: Councillor Chris Betts
2. Declarations of Interest – None.
3. Minutes of Previous Meetings – Parish Council Meeting 11th October 2021

Approved and signed by the Chairperson.

1. Matters Arising – No matters arising.
2. Financial Position – As of 18th November 2021 £3,690.39
3. Planning Applications –

None at this time

1. Precept 2022/23

A general discussion took place about the precept for Bowsden Parish Council. The Councillors agreed the precept as set by Northumberland County Council.

The Chair completed and signed the requisite form to be forwarded to Northumberland County Council.

1. Platinum Jubilee

A general discussion took place about the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022.

The Parish Councils insurers Zurich had written stating that the current insurance covered the Parish Council for any events over the period that did not exceed 500 people.

There was a suggestion that was agreed by the Councillors that a joint committee be established with Bowsden Village Hall Committee to consider an event for the Parish.

Possible ideas included a firework display and/or a hog roast.

The Parish Council agreed in principle to consider funding for the event.

1. Storm Arwen

The Chair updated the meeting that the Local MP had submitted a document to Off Gen in respect to the issues that occurred during Storm Arwen.

She pointed out that there had been many communication issues in relation to the storm which were being addressed by the MP and the County Council.

A general discussion took place in respect of the matter where it was agreed that the Bowsden community had acted in an exemplary manner and supported each other throughout the event.

A parishioner had suggested that a generator could be obtained and kept at the Bowsden Village Hall the positive and negative issues in respect of this idea were discussed and it was agreed that the idea would not be taken forward due to fuel storage health and safety issues at this time.

The Chair did however say that the matter could be reconsidered should the need arise.

1. Glendale Live Request – Community Crises

The request from Glendale Live for documentation relating to new contingency planning was discussed. It was agreed that at this time the Parish Council would not contribute.

1. Any Other Business:

The next Risk Assessment for the park in the village is due. Councillor Elsworth agreed to undertake the process.

The Parish Clerk to forward all documents to Councillor Elsworth.

The below issues were raised by parishioners present at the meeting

* A community member raised the point that broadband had been available during Storm Arwen so long as external batteries were used.
* A general discussion took place in relation to the telecommunications issues when a storm occurs.
  1. It was pointed out that land lines are being phased out
  2. The Chair stated that the local MP had a desire to cover all black spots of communication. She is championing rural community connectivity
     1. The Chair agreed to write to the local MP regarding rural community connectivity in relation to mobile networks
* A parishioner asked whether a County Councillor should be present at all Parish Council meetings. Councillor Jackson stated that the normal procedure was to invite the local County Councillor to one of the meetings during the year.
* A parishioner raised the issue of the removal of the post box from the old Black Bull site. A general discussion took place about this matter, and it was agreed that parishioners would write individually to the Royal Mail if they wanted to raise the matter further.
* A parishioner raised what he considered to be a health and safety issue in respect to shooting on a neighbour’s land. The law in relation to the matter was provided for the member of the public with a suggestion that he should speak to his neighbour in respect of the matter.

There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting was concluded at 8.05pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 31st March 2022 – 7pm – Bowsden Village Hall.