



SACRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 6.30 pm
In The Fulforth Centre**

Present: Cllr H. Dixon (Chair), Cllr G Ludlow (Vice Chair), Cllr E Waldock, Cllr S Wilson, Cllr D Robson, Cllr F Morrell, Cllr J Barrett, Cllr A Page, Cllr K Wilson, Cllr R Sharp, Cllr D Forth, Cllr A-M Johnson and Miss C Wilson (Clerk)

Apologies: Apologies received from Cllr R Harrison and Cllr L Claughan

Item No:

1.	Introductions and Apologies for Absence	<p>The Chair opened the meeting at 6.30 pm and welcomed everyone.</p> <p>Apologies received and accepted from Cllr R Harrison and Cllr L Claughan.</p> <p>7.11 pm - Cllr Waldock apologised for being late to the meeting.</p>
2.	Disclosure of Interest from Members	<p>Cllr S Wilson declared an interest regarding any planning applications.</p>
3.	Questions from the public	<p>(Questions & Comments from the public in attendance – max 5 mins per item/individual)</p> <p>Two members of the public attended and discussed an ongoing issue with horses using the footpaths in Sacriston Woods. Cllr Sharp has voiced concern that trees are being chopped down and a photograph has been taken of someone carrying this out. The information was passed onto the DCC who have closed the case. Some children have started a fire in the woods and the fire brigade had to be called. Cllr Sharp suggested that some new signage is erected.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u></p> <p>Cllr S Wilson is to investigate further regarding rights of way and to speak to the wardens. He will attempt to find out who owns the land. Cllr Wilson asked the clerk to forward information from the two members present and asked Cllr Sharp for the information relating to the trees being chopped down.</p> <p>The two members of the public left the meeting.</p>
4.	Previous meeting minutes	<p>Previous minutes from 5th January 2023 were accepted and signed as a true record.</p>

5.	Police Matters	Nothing to report.
6.	Clerks Report	<p><u>Planning Application</u> Application No: DM/23/00172/FPA Proposal: Rear extension and loft conversion Address: 4 Findon Hill Sacriston Durham DH7 6LR</p> <p><u>Royal Garden Party</u> CDALC has been allocated 2 tickets (one councillor plus their guest) for Tues 9th May. The deadline for applications is Fri 10th Feb at 9 am.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u> Cllr D Forth would like to be put forward for nomination. All agreed.</p> <p><u>Steve Ragg</u> Steve is retiring on 31st March. Audrey is asking if anyone would like to contribute towards this. It is not a request to councils but to you as individuals.</p> <p><u>Salvation Army</u> Thank you for your kind support for our Christmas Appeal in 2022, together with all financial donations and toys gifted, Sacriston Salvation Army was able to ensure all families referred to us up to the end of December 2022 received a sack of new toys for each child/babies and or where needed food parcels of different size depending on the number in the household. Thank you once again for your generosity.</p> <p><u>Andy Hill</u> Email received from Andy Hill. Andy said he is still very committed to the process and remains confident Fyndoune can be secured for the people of Sacriston. Andy has not had any information from DCC and feels that he received little contact from local councillors, Sacriston Parish Council or DCC. Andy has reported that he has resigned from DUFC, and Durham Untied Sporting Club has been struck off at Companies House.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u> Concerns were raised about Andy Hill’s email. Andy Hill is to be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss its contents.</p> <p><u>Standards Committee</u> A vacancy has arisen for a parish and town council member on Durham County Council’s Standards Committee. The deadline is</p>

		<p>Tues 21 Feb at 5 pm and applications should be emailed to cdalc@durham.gov.uk.</p> <p><u>Deborah Page - Beavers</u> The Beavers would like to use the space at the top of the allotments (near the Parkside entrance). It would be around 18 Beavers with at least 4 adults, 6-7 pm on the 20th March.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u> All members agreed that the Beavers could use the space.</p> <p><u>Cllr R Harrison</u> Passes on his thanks for the kind thoughts and attendance at the crematorium and club afterwards. The support was greatly appreciated by him and his family.</p> <p><u>Insurance - Bus Shelter</u> The clerk has spoken and started the claim process for the damaged bus shelter at Plawsworth Road. The Insurance company have asked for some photographs and a quote for replacing the bus shelter.</p>
7.	Sacriston in Bloom	Nothing to report.
8.	Village Schools	<p>Fyndoune</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing discussion. • Discussed Andy Hill's email in the clerk's report. • County Councillors to raise the matter at full council and if the Parish Council is not satisfied with the response, to look at going to the press. • The Chairman has requested that Cllr Ludlow attend the next meeting with DCC on behalf of DUFC.
9.	Parish Assets	<p>Bus Shelters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findon Hill bus shelter is damaged. <p><u>RESOLVED</u> Clerk to find out who owns the shelter and will progress.</p> <p>Village Clock – Service to take place on the clock on Wednesday 1st February.</p> <p>Parish Building – Nothing to report.</p> <p>War Memorial – Cllr Ludlow has contacted someone who is to take a look at the memorial to see if they can carry out the work.</p> <p>Pit Wheel – Nothing to report.</p>

10.	County Councillor's Reports	<p>Reports received from Cllr S Wilson;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money for the Cross Road project has been set aside from the budget. • Rosewood Close – Vacant property which is in disrepair. • Legal department is to clean up the bottom pit site. • Litter – wardens are aware. • To see if Lavender Garden roads have been handed over to the highway dept as they are in a poor condition. • Fynway garages are being watched by police and wardens. <p>Cllr E Waldock;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV invitation has been forwarded. • Asked for a site meeting regarding the bus stop at Ennerdale Close. • Proposed newsletter meeting for 13th or 15th February in the Fulforth Centre. Discussed the newsletter being online and printing copies (500) to be left in areas around the village. • Litter pick took place at the rear of the doctors. 4x bags of rubbish were collected. <p>Question from Cllr Robson about the property being refurbished on the Front Street?</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u> Cllr S Wilson to see if he can find out any further information on what is happening.</p>
11.	Group Representative Reports	<p>Fulforth Centre Committee Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meeting has taken place. However, the Project Development worker has sent a report. PDW would like to know the following; • What is the Parish Councils' budget for Party in the Park 2023? • Would the Parish Council like the Fulforth centre to take control of planning the event? • Is the Parish Council planning to organise anything for the Coronation weekend? • Would the Parish Council consider restarting the Newsletter? • Is anyone from the PC attending the next Sacriston Partner meeting? • Do the Parish Council have an update regarding the PDW salary? <p><u>RESOLVED</u> The following was agreed;</p>

- The budget for Party in the Park will be £5,000.
- The Fulforth Centre can lead the planning for Party in the Park.
- The Parish Council will decide in due course if they are to progress any activities for the King's coronation. Cllr Waldock is planning a litter pick for Monday 8th May.
- The newsletter has previously been spoken about and a working group is to be formed.
- Cllr D Forth is attending the Sacriston Partners meeting on behalf of Live Well NE so will also attend in her capacity as Cllr.
- To discuss under HR and Finance report.

HR & Finance Group

- The PDW salary was discussed at the HR and Finance meeting which took place on 9th January. The HR and Finance committee advised the meeting that previously we had agreed to pay £8960 for the PDW salary for 2022 – 2023, so this does require payment. The HR And Finance Committee proposed to the meeting that the PDW be offered a pay increase of 2.5% for 2023 – 2024 (£8907.25) and not a 10% pay increase as requested. It was discussed that we are currently paying nearly a third of the precept to the Fulforth Centre and this is not feasible. The PDW will in the future need to be able to fund her salary. The PDW will be advised that the PC will fund the monies however, she must attempt to seek funding in the first instance.

Allotment Association Meeting

- There is rubbish on allotments Daisy Hill 9 and 12. The Allotment Association have a quote from Shine Cleaning to remove all rubbish on both allotments. The company will remove the rubbish and take it to the waste disposal site. As there is a lot of rubbish which includes rubble, concrete, wood, metal, and various garden waste. This could take up to three journeys. The price is £1200 ex VAT.

RESOLVED

All members agreed that the Parish Council would pay for this however, moving forward the Allotment Association should pay for this themselves. It was discussed that a new tenancy agreement is currently being reviewed and there is now a clause to state that rubbish removal is the tenant's responsibility, and they will be liable to pay for this at the end of their tenancy.

		<p>New Hill Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent was paid in 2022. • No AGM meeting. • Rubbish is still onsite. <p><u>RESOLVED</u> The clerk is to send a letter to Tony Coils and request that the rubbish is removed immediately.</p> <p>CDALC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report was given.
12.	Budget & Grant Applications	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u> As of 1st February 2023, the balance in the account was £67,161.07.</p> <p><u>Invoices paid</u> Clerks Wages - £739.67 HMRC - £122.40</p> <p><u>Invoices</u> HP Instant ink subscription - £9.49 Smarty mobile phone contract - £6.00</p> <p>RESOLVED – Agreed for invoices to be paid</p> <p>Pension Clerk has now set up the pension scheme and the first payment will be made next month.</p> <p><u>Financial Projection</u> A copy of the financial projection was emailed to all Cllrs before the meeting. To date, the Council has spent £58,882.19.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u> There were no comments or questions regarding the financial projection.</p>
13.	Date and time of next meeting	<p>Next meeting is to be held Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 6.30 pm</p> <p>Meeting closed at 8.10 pm</p>

Agreed and signed by Chair of Sacriston Parish Council Date