

Sacriston Parish Council

Minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Fulforth Centre on Wednesday 1st February at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors D Robson, B Mulvey, P McLoughlin, Mrs B Smith, F Morrell, R Harrison and Mrs SJ Harrison, Mrs H Liddle, L Claughan, H Dixon and Ms E Waldock.

151 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors D Shotton, Mrs R Shotton and S Wilson. Clerk J Lawton was unable to attend the meeting, and minutes were taken by Councillor Waldock.

152 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2017.

Councillor Morrell highlighted that there was no mention of the insurance claim in regards to the damaged Church fence in last meeting's minutes.

In relation to item 145, Councillor Dixon informed the council that he was simply investigating costs for future reference and that the fencing was not necessary.

In relation to item 147, Councillor McLoughlin informed the council that the Clerk's appraisal had been conducted.

153 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

154 POLICE MATTERS

Councillor Liddle and PCSO Wignall provided an update to the council of crime in the area. Fraud, in relation to impersonation of HMRC, and Motor Vehicle theft was highlighted as a problem in the area.

155 ISSUES/QUESTIONS- GENERAL PUBLIC

There were no members of the public in attendance.

156 PRECEPT/BUDGET REQUIREMENTS 2017/18

Item was deferred until the next meeting.

157 GROWING SACRISTON TOGETHER/IN BLOOM

Councillor Liddle gave an update that Sacriston has entered in for 'In Bloom 2017', and project planning has begun. The clerk will circulate the full report from G. O'Brien regarding 'In Bloom' to the full council.

Councillor Liddle stated that due to a hold up in funds from the AAP, the community gardens had not been able to proceed. Hopefully this will soon be rectified.

158 COUNCIL & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

P McLoughlin informed the council about the idea highlighted in the Human Resources and Finance Panel of the need of evidence of training, especially when considering Quality Status. The thought is to contact a local speaker, such as Steve Ragg, who would give a half hour presentation before a parish council meeting on a selected topic. These topics would be items which the council felt it was perhaps lacking knowledge of.

Resolved: R Harrison to contact Steve Ragg to see whether he would be willing to give the training talks. Councillors would bring ideas of what they would like the training topics to be to the next Parish Council Meeting.

159 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING FEASIBILITY DISCUSSION

The council compiled a list of items of the lighting equipment for the Christmas Extravaganza 2017. They are:

- 16 motifs of 4 ft (P McLoughlin to investigate prices for 4 different designs, and 16 the same).
- Christmas Tree lights: 300 lights, coloured for the main tree, and 2 x of 200 clear white lights
- Crossroad lights: 2x 200 set white cherry lights

Councillor McLoughlin to find out the wholesale price to be compared with the price quoted by DCC. Councillor McLoughlin to investigate whether they would be able to give a 3 or 5 year guarantee as well as cost of taking up and putting down the lights, dealing with the timer switch and with a presence on the day. Also to investigate whether the lights could be rented with the possibility of either ourselves or the company storing them, and whether the council would own the lights after a certain length of time.

160 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from the Fulforth Centre regarding a Thank You and details of how the £16,000 donation has been spent, and a request for a further donation. Councillor

McLoughlin questioned the hours that the Project Development worker had at the Fulforth Centre.

After due consideration, the council agreed to have the Human Resources and Finance Panel clarify the issues that the discussion had raised through inviting Gemma O'Brien and Linda Marshall to the next meeting, and reporting back at the next full Parish Council.

161 DEVELOPMENT GROUP

There was nothing to report.

162 FULFORTH CENTRE

There was nothing to report.

163 ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

There was nothing to report from New Hills.

Councillor Dixon presented the quote for the work on the Crosslanes allotments. The necessary replacement of the fence of 20m with two gates quote was for £1980 (inc. VAT, which can be claimed back). After a short discussion Councillor Morrell proposed that the council pay for the replacement fencing and gates, with Councillor McLoughlin seconding. The council voted in favour of paying the £1980 for the work.

Councillor Dixon gave a quote for the Womble side of the allotments, of approximately 165m for a replacement fence of the same material as has been recently installed, would be at the cost of £5197.50 (inc. VAT). This was to make the council aware of possible future expenditure. Councillor Dixon did replay his disappointment at the lack of communication from the secretary and chair of the allotment association, the lack of an AGM within the last two years, and the lack of knowledge on what funds raised through the rates allotment holders pay, is being used for. Councillor Morrell raised the question as to whether grants had been sort for work on the site. Councillor Dixon will attempt to contact members of the allotment association before the next parish council meeting, and inform them that the council wishes to examine their finance books before any future money for any works is paid.

Resolved: That the clerk is to contact the relevant parties for the work to be completed on the 20m stretch of fence and the two gates on the Cross Lanes allotments. Councillor Dixon to seek contact with the secretary or chair of the allotment association.

164 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Liddle provided an update. She informed the council that she had met with the North East Consortium, which is a social enterprise, who are looking to purchase the Co-op buildings and do necessary work so that they can be viable retail spaces for small businesses. The group is able to apply for grants to help them do this. They wish to speak to the Parish Council as well as the Development Group in a joint meeting to discuss their plans and gain feedback.

Councillor Liddle informed the parish council that the front street will be resurfaced on the weekend of 4th March. In regards to the gap site, residents from Cross Lees have no direct disabled access to the Front Street. DCC will pay for access from the Cross Lees side, and Councillors Liddle and Wilson will fund the other disabled access point from the Front Street.

Both the Pizza place and Johnston's fish and chip shop are currently up for sale. The Youth Club will opening next month, when the funding from DCC for the Youth services will be cut/directed to a more targeted, family support arrangement. Councillor Liddle also raised the issue of dog fouling within Sacriston, and that a new strategy will begin shortly, more details to follow. Councillor Liddle had put in a request to deal with bus stops. She has been informed that some of the frames are badly damaged, and thus are being prioritised to be replaced.

Councillor Wilson is still investigating the £200 payment for the feasibility study on the lighting column that has yet to be conducted. He is also investigating the electronic display on the bus stop which is not working.

Councillor Liddle informed the council that Purdah will begin on 27th March. Guidelines on how to proceed are to be sort from the Clerk.

165 HUMAN & FINANCIAL RESOURCES PANEL

Councillor McLoughlin gave a report from the last meeting. The discussion had predominately been about the budget, with the clerk presenting a breakdown of funds that the council has spent in 16/17. Currently there is about £27,000 at the moment, and with under-spend in a number of budget headings, the council is expected to have a carryover of over £20,000. The appraisal of the clerk was conducted, with an open and frank discussion and it highlighted a few areas for improvement. The need for an action plan for the coming financial year was discussed, though feedback on the current year is necessary for one to be formed.

166 QUALITY STATUS WORKING GROUP

Councillor McLoughlin reported that the frame work for the website has been completed. It was requested that councillors have a look and check that the information currently available is correct.

The action plan for the next year, with the aims and objectives, will be placed on the website. Councillors to provide feedback on whether anything needs to be added in or taken out.

167 Other Reports

Councillor Mulvey informed the council that he has the contact details for retired member Betty Gibson, so that a letter of thanks for all her hard work over the years can be sent from the whole council, as agreed in previous meeting.

168 ACCOUNTS & GRANT APPLICATIONS

There were no accounts or grants for the council to consider.

169 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications to consider.

Signed _____ Chair