

## **SACRISTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Fulforth Centre on Wednesday 7 September 2016 at 6:30pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Robson, L Claughan, Mrs H Liddle, Ms E Waldock, B Mulvey, P McLoughlin, S Wilson and H Dixon.

### **65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors B Gibson, R Shotton & D Shotton, R Harrison & SJ Harrison, F Morrell and Mrs B Smith.

### **66 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 6 JULY 2016**

**RESOLVED:** "That the minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 July 2016, be confirmed as a correct record".

The Chairman proceeded to sign the minutes.

In relation to minute no. 54, it was reported that there had been localised issues regarding the petrol mower. As such it had been decided that the Parish Council would keep the mower as a community asset. The Clerk would ascertain how much it would cost to add the mower onto the Council's insurance policy.

In relation to damage caused by a road traffic accident at the Churchyard fencing, the Clerk required photographs to provide to the Council's insurers. Councillor H Liddle would provide relevant pictures.

In relation to allotment fencing, a quote had been received from Hazeldene Fencing to complete a small section of fencing work at Cross Lanes Allotments. Council agreed that the company should be instructed to undertake the necessary works.

### **67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **68 ISSUES/QUESTIONS – GENERAL PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

## **69 POLICE MATTERS**

There were no representatives from the Police in attendance. A copy of the latest PACT report was also circulated for information.

## **70 GROWING SACRISTON TOGETHER/IN BLOOM**

Councillor H Liddle provided an update in relation to In Bloom. A celebration event was to be held in the village on 21 September at the Fulforth Centre to mark the local contributions.

In relation to the hanging baskets it was reported that an appropriate stress report was required for the lighting columns, this would be arranged by Councillor Liddle.

## **71 CHRISTMAS TREE/LIGHTING**

In relation to Christmas Lighting, it was reported that the Chairman and Councillor Liddle had met with Durham County Council Streetlighting Team. The County Council would test every lighting motif, prepare an inventory and report on which motifs were suitable for use during the coming season. Should some of the motifs be deemed unsuitable, then the County Council had a limited number of spares which could be used in the village.

In relation to the switch on at the Extravaganza, Durham County Council would initially set the timers for the lights to come on at 4pm apart from Mondays when they would come on at 6pm. After the switch on event, the timers could then be reset.

Durham County Council would also connect up the Christmas tree lights and the Parish Council would arrange for the lights to be placed on the tree.

In relation to the tree, several quotes had been sought, all ranging from £800.00 to £1000.00. However, Councillor Morrell had approached 2 local firms who between them, could undertake all necessary works for a cost of approximately £300.00.

All arrangements as detailed above were approved by full Council.

## **72 GALA BROCHURE**

The Clerk circulated the annual Durham Miners' Gala Brochure which had recently been issued.

### **73 DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

Councillor Waldock gave an update in relation to the Development Group. The Fulforth Walk gates had now been erected and the Group had recently held it's AGM. Councillor S Wilson had been appointed as Vice Chair of the Group. It was noted that AMR had done an excellent job at the pit tub and a letter of thanks would be sent on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **74 FULFORTH CENTRE**

It was reported that the Party In The Park went extremely well. Concerns were expressed about the reduction in users at the Fulforth Centre. It was further reported that all Commemorative Medals for the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday had been distributed successfully at the Party In The Park.

### **75 ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

Councillor Dixon was still waiting to have a meeting with the Secretary of Cross Lanes Allotments. IT was reported that pest control had now been issued and a meeting had been held with Cestria to discuss possible grasscutting in the area of the allotments. A quote was awaited.

### **76 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Councillor H Liddle provided a report regarding County Council matters which related to the local area. The update included information about possible improvements to the front of the Cricjet Club, issues regarding overgrowing hawthorn at Springside, notification of a punk rock event at the Vicarage and it was reported that the Youth Project was now a registered charity. Councillors were also advised that to date, 370 tickets had been sold for the Segga Rocks event.

Councillor Wilson advised that the Church Commissioners were now looking into the issues regarding the crab apple tree which had been reported to Council late last year.

### **77 HUMAN & FINANCIAL RESOURCES PANEL**

The minutes from the recent meeting of the Panel were circulated for information. The Clerk circulated a copy of the table she had prepared concerning the breakdown of all cheque payments made by the Council during the current financial year. The issue was raised that during August recess in particular, no payments could be made due to full Council not meeting. This had been the case recently and some payees had to wait longer than anticipated to receive payments which had previously been agreed under budget headings earlier in the year. To resolve this issue it was agreed that Standing Orders be amended

so that any invoices received under approved budget headings such as Growing Sacriston Together, could be authorised by the Panel rather than waiting up to 2 months for Council to meet.

The Panel would hold its next meeting on 20 September 2016.

## **78 QUALITY STATUS**

It was recounted that at the last meeting, Councillor McLoughlin had prepared a table to be completed by the Clerk, which would detail accurately how the Council currently fared in relation to achieving the Foundation Award. That table had since been completed and was circulated to the Council for information. It was clear that getting a fit for purpose website was paramount to both the day to day running of the Council and furthermore for achieving any Quality Council Award. As such, Councillor McLoughlin was to pursue enquiries with a local gentleman who facilitated the website for a neighbouring Parish Council.

It was further agreed that a Quality Status Working Group be established and following discussions it was agreed that Councillors McLoughlin, Waldock, Dixon and Robson would comprise the Working Group along with the Clerk. A meeting would of the Group would be arranged for 20 September 2016.

## **79 ACCOUNTS/GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The Clerk reported a Grant Application which had been received from Sacriston Colliery Cricket Club Football Club, seeking £400.00 grant from the Council to cover the licence fee for the Colliery Welfare Football Pitch. It was agreed that the item be deferred until the next meeting and that the Club be invited to submit relevant additional information.

**RESOLVED:** "That authority be granted for payment of the following accounts:

ATS - £48.00 – Christmas Tree Works  
D Ingleby - £250.00– Christmas Tree Works  
AMR - £2309.28 – Growing Sacriston Together  
R Copestake - £150.00 – Newsletter Delivery  
Sacriston Community Association - £2492.99.00 – Party in the Park  
DCC - £4011.82 – Growing Sacriston Together  
DCC - £2896.86 – Growing Sacriston Together  
WPS - £760.00 – Newsletter Printing  
NPOWER - £42.25Energy Bill  
Cestria - £1248.00 – Churchyard Groundworks  
J Lawton - £412.60 – Salary  
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HMRC - £103.15 – PAYE Deductions

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**80 PLANNING**

There were no planning applications to consider.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman