

## **SACRISTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Fulforth Centre on Wednesday 1 June 2016 at 6:30pm.

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

### **25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor B Gibson.

### **26 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 4 MAY 2016**

It was noted that Councillor H Dixon was now the Council's representative for Cross Lane Allotments, contrary to what had been recorded in the Minutes.

**RESOLVED:** "That the minutes of the proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 4 May 2016, as amended, be confirmed as a correct record".

The Chairman proceeded to sign the minutes.

### **27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no members of the public in attendance.

### **29 POLICE MATTERS**

There were no Police representatives in attendance, however the PACT report was circulated for information.

### **30 APPRAISAL DOCUMENT**

The most current version of the Appraisal Document was tabled for Members consideration. It was highlighted that there was one final amendment to be made to the document. As all Members were in agreement with the proposed final amendment, it was agreed that the final version would be signed by the Chairman of the Council at the forthcoming meeting of the Human and Financial Resources Panel.

### **31 GRANT AWARDING POLICY**

Consideration was given to the current Grant Awarding Policy with a view to possibly updating it. Following due consideration, minor amendments were agreed, for the document to reflect that all grant applications would be considered within 3 months of receipt and that applicants MAY be required to provide copies of constitutions, year end accounts and other such supporting information. It was agreed that the amended version of the Policy would be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

### **32 COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS**

The Clerk had now taken delivery of the Commemorative Medals order to mark the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and as such Members gave due consideration as to how and when they could be distributed locally. Following discussions it was agreed that they should be distributed at the Party in the Park on a first come first serve basis.

### **33 GROWING SACRISTON TOGETHER**

An itemised breakdown of costings for current and future projects, was presented to the Council (for copy see file of Minutes), with several costs to be paid for from the Parish Council's budget allocation.

One of the itemised costs was for the Parish Council allocation to purchase a petrol mower as a community asset. Members were concerned about the associated constraints which could be associated with purchasing such a community asset, such as storage, running costs, health and safety issues. The cost of the mower was £160.00. Councillor Liddle was able to provide some clarity as to envisaged use and storage of the mower. Following due consideration, Members were in agreement that they did not wish to be responsible for a community asset such as a petrol mower and so instead would make a donation to the Community Association for £160.00.

### **34 CHRISTMAS TREE/LIGHTING**

The Chairman advised that since the last meeting of the Council he had been in discussions with Durham County Council in relation to Christmas tree works. It had been planned that works in Sacriston would take place in May, however it had since transpired that those planned works had to be put back to a later date. Members agreed it would be beneficial to look for another firm who could possibly undertake the necessary works and as such the Chairman would liaise with Ms G O'Brien. Councillor H Liddle reported that she was yet to hear from both Gateshead Borough Council and also a contact with Durham County Council's Events Team.

### **35 LAND SALE**

Correspondence had been received from Durham County Council regarding a request locally to purchase an area of land adjacent to 25 Charlaw Close. The land was to be used as garden land. Following due consideration, the Council had no objections to make to the request.

### **36 NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS ON THE CDALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Correspondence had been received from CDALC regarding nominations for the coming years Executive Committee, a matter which would be determined at the CDALC AGM in October. Members were happy to pledge their support for Councillor R Harrison for a position as an Executive Member and for the position of Vice President.

### **37 PLAWSWORTH ROAD SCHOOL SITE**

The Clerk and Councillor H Dixon provided an update on discussions between Durham County Council and local residents in relation to issues with the development at the Plawsworth Road School Site. Members were in agreement that while they were happy to be kept updated as to how discussions progressed, there was nothing further that the Parish Council could do in relation to the issues.

### **38 FIELDS IN TRUST**

The Clerk reported correspondence from Centenary Fields regarding securing local recreational space in perpetuity as a Centenary Field in honour of the memory of the people who lost their lives in WW1. It was agreed after much discussions that the area of land at the crossroads next to the pit tub should be categorized as a Centenary Field and so an application would be submitted.

### **39 DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

There was nothing to report other than what had already been discussed earlier in the meeting regarding Growing Sacriston Together.

### **40 FULFORTH CENTRE**

There was nothing to report.

#### **41 ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

Councillor Dixon advised that there were currently 4 vacant plots at Cross Lanes Allotments and 2 interested potential tenants. He had met with the Chairman of the Allotment Association and it was hoped that regular meetings would follow.

In relation to New Hill Allotments, an invoice had been submitted to the Council for the purchase of Pest Control, following consideration the Council agreed to pay the invoice.

#### **42 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Councillor H Liddle provided a report regarding County Council matters which related to the local area. In relation to concerns expressed from Members regarding the current condition of the Embrace Care carpark, Councillor Liddle advised that though she had no involvement in the works to the carpark, she would look into the concerns which had been raised.

#### **43 HUMAN & FINANCIAL RESOURCES PANEL**

Councillor McLoughlin provided an update in relation to the recent meeting of the Human and Financial Resources Panel. It was the intention of the Panel to write to the Fulforth Centre to seek clarity in relation to its funding bids and related fee's.

#### **44 QUALITY STATUS**

The Clerk advised that she was expecting an invoice in order for the Council to register for the Foundation Quality Status award, it was agreed that should the invoice be received ahead of the forthcoming Human and Financial Resources Panel meeting, then a cheque could be prepared that evening.

#### **45 CDALC**

Councillor R Harrison provided an update in relation to the County Durham Association of Local Councils.

#### **46 ACCOUNTS**

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

Durham Miners Association- £1200.00 – Gala Band Donation  
CDALC - £657.16 – Annual Subscription  
Paxtons - £630.00 –Pest Control  
Graphic Print - £30.00 – Growing Sacriston Together

G Richardson - £200.00 – Growing Sacriston Together  
Sacriston Community Association - £300.00 – Growing Sacriston Together  
Sacriston Community Association - £400.00 – Growing Sacriston Together  
Sacriston Community Association - £200.00 – Growing Sacriston Together  
Sacriston Community Association - £160.00 – Growing Sacriston Together  
Tower Mint Limited - £486.60 – Commemorative Medals  
Durham County Council - £5490.64 – 2015/16 Christmas Lights  
J Lawton - £412.60 – Salary  
HMRC - £103.15 – PAYE Deductions”

#### **47 PLANNING**

There were no planning applications to consider.

#### **48 PARISH NEWSLETTER**

Since the Council had previously agreed on a new printing firm to undertake Newsletter Printing, it was agreed that the next edition of the Newsletter should get underway. As such, Members were encouraged to send any relevant articles to Councillor H Liddle.

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