

**THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF**

**THE HEALEYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2020**

**Present:**

Councillor A. Pearson (Chair)

Councillors D. Dixon, A. Hird, J. Forster, J. Robson, K. Spencer, A. Wallace

County Councillors J. Considine (arrived 7.25pm), O. Johnson (arrived 7.20pm)

J Coates, L. Standish (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

None

1. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs A. Pearson and J. Robson, Item 12 – donations (Castleside Primary School Governors)

1. **Public Participation**

None.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLV ED** that minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 30 January 2020 were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising:

* Tesco vouchers, donated for the VE Day events have a 5 year expiration date and can be collected in April.

1. **AAP Reports**

None received. Cllr O. Johnson will make contact with colleagues at AAP to request that the Parish Council receive all future correspondence.

1. **Chair’s Report**

* Welcome to the new clerk – L. Standish. Handover until 31/03/2020.
* VE Day – discussed under item 13.
* Statement released on 18 February 2020 – Ethical Partnership Housing Needs Survey. Statement available on the website and in the next edition of the newsletter.

1. **County Councillors Report**

Cllrs O. Johnson & J. Considine

* Budget setting meeting held at Durham County Council. Election due in 18 months’ time. Council tax will be increased by 2.9% annually. In addition, a 2% increase adult and social services charged on council tax, ringfenced for this purpose.
* Grant approval for improving towns and villages with funds taken from reserves. Improvements to be raised with county councillors, with items that would improve residents’ quality of life, i.e. footpaths or other areas.
* Major review of leisure facilities. North West Durham is well served, other areas such as East of the County will be reviewed. Smaller areas will also be considered for funding.
* Demonstration at County Hall from Extinction Rebellion recently.
* Selective Licencing Consultation for landlords with a view to bidding at the end of the financial year.
* Actions from last meeting- street lighting no update as yet as to the owner of the lights and AAP Report to be followed up with colleagues.

1. Finance

1) Accounts for Payment

The financial report was **RESOLVED** as a true record.

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2) Account balances summary update

Full Parish Council funds are all in Lloyds account. Summary balances confirmed:

**LATEST BANK BALANCES**

HSBC Business Money Manager Account as at 11 February 2020

£ NIL

HSBC Community Account as at 11 February 2020

£ NIL

Current balance of Lloyds Bank as at 23 February 2020

£22,363.69

1. **Clerk’s Report**

An update on ongoing matters was provided as follows:

* Laptop – discussion around the need for Microsoft One Drive, email, Windows 10. Options to be presented at the next meeting.
* Website hosting – prices obtained from two companies to date and they are vastly different. More information to be sought before the next meeting.
* Donation to schools – CDALC (County Durham Association of Local Clerks) have confirmed that items can be purchased by the Parish Council and then gifted to a local school, should this be agreed by members during the donations deliberation (covered under item 12).
* Planning approval for Heritage Trail Board to be installed was issued by email on 12 February 2020, reference: Decision Notice DM/20/00052/AD
* The new Clerk, Lisa Standish, is unable to make July meeting. It was **RESOVLED** that recess to take place in July rather than August 2020.

1. **Correspondence**

* Email received from a resident dated 4 February 2020 regarding a spate of theft in the area, namely the entrance to Wharnley Way, Castleside, requesting the CCTV camera previously is reinstated.

It was **RESOLVED** to raise the concerns with Durham County Council Asset Management as the CCTV pole is still there without the camera.

* Email received on behalf of Woodlands Park farm dated 7 February 2020, informing the Parish Council of the following: “We are in the process of submitting a planning application to develop a farm experience centre which would be fully accessible to all ages and we would like to know if the Healeyfield Parish Council might be happy in supporting our venture”.

It was **RESOLVED** to respond stating Healeyfield Parish Council will respond as a statutory consultee if and when a planning application is submitted to Durham County Council, in line with the formal process.

1. **Planning Matters**

None.

1. **Donations**

The donations budget of £250 was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** that the following decisions be made:

* Castleside Primary School – purchase of and subsequent donation of books to the value of £140
* 1st Castleside Scout Group – granted a donation of £50
* St John’s Church – granted a donation of £30
* Consett Brass – granted a donation of £30
* NEPACS – No donation granted.
* Citizens Advice – No donation granted.
* WI – No donation granted.

Cheques to be presented at the March meeting.

1. **VE Day 2020**

Extraordinary meeting held before the Ordinary Meeting on 27 February 2020.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

* Prizes will be awarded best decorated house (red, white, blue), vouchers donated by Tesco.
* Friday 8 May - Street Party Bring and Share event with entertainment to be confirmed, Winston Churchill Speech, piper playing 75 VE Day music, closed by a toast to the WWII veterans. An offer of free transport will be advertised on posters, provided by members.
* Saturday 9 May - Durham University Big Band (tbc), Village Hall to provide bar, Pie and Pea supper, lighting to be organised.
* Sunday 10 May – Chair conversed at length with Reverend Martin Jackson about holding a service of thanksgiving at 3pm. Unfortunately, these efforts have been fruitless. It was therefore agreed that a ecumenical service will be held in the Village Hall. The school choir will also be invited to attend and Consett Brass to accompany the signing if available.
* Celebratory mug printed for the occasion x 200, the value should not exceed £300.

1. **Consett Road**

An update was provided on the project as follows:

* £100 quotation received spraying and cleared to date
* Further quotations to be collated.

1. **Fossil find at Castle Hill Wood – update**

An update was provided on the project as follows:

* Cllr A. Wallace submitted a proposal which was circulated by email prior to this meeting. This proposal favoured installation of the fossil in the Village Hall dry stone wall, subject to approval.
* It was **RESOLVED** to present proposal Village Hall. Should they accept the proposal, a letter of authority would be sought to give permission.

1. **Parish Wood**

Cllr A. Wallace raised concerns around carrying firearms which is prohibited and dog fouling in wood.

It was **RESOLVED** to

* Put a notice in the Parish Newsletter
* Investigate statutory signage costs
* Request additional dog fouling bins from Durham County Council funds (refer to item 7).
* Peter Downes from Land and Oak and Iron continues to use the land for coppicing and light training.

1. **Calendar of Events**

It was **RESOLVED** that the following dates be agreed:

* Litter Pick - 4 April 2020, Village Hall, 10am-12 noon
* VE Day – 8-10 May (events detailed under item 13)
* Autumn Festival – 27 September, Village Hall, 3-5pm
* Remembrance Sunday - 8 November, War Memorial, 3pm
* Christmas Tree Lights – 26 November, St John’s Church, 6pm

1. **Members Reports**
2. Feedback from Councillor’s Surgery

None.

1. Parish Benches

Report from Cllr Wallace following a tender process it was **RESOLVED** that:

The contract for works be awarded to Briary Garden Services, subject to receipt of insurance documentation.

1. WW1 Heritage Project

It was **RESOLVED** to:

Defer to March meeting, as a standing agenda item for further detail.

1. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

* WWI Heritage Trail
* Consett Road
* Final budget presentation
* Town and Village Improvements
* VE Day and Consett Road to move to Members Report section.

1. Councillor Questions – information only
2. Date of the next Ordinary Meeting – Thursday 26 March 2020 commencing at 7.00pm at Castleside Village Hall.

That pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2) that the public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed.

1. Confidential items

One item raised.

**Conclusion of Meeting at 8.45pm**

Signed …………………………. Cllr Pearson of the Council