

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance, Development and General Purposes Committee held at Lynwood House on Wednesday 26 November 2014 at 7.15 pm

Present Mr C Burton (Chair)

Mr S Walker, Mr M Wardle, Mr P Jackson,
Mr O Johnson, Mr K Harrison, Mr B Glass,

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Mrs M Gray - away

Mr B Gray - away

The above apologies were received and accepted

265/14 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

266/14 Public Participation

The public participation policy was distributed for the benefit of the public present.

267/14 Budget Position

The Lead Officer presented the finance report.

Recommended - that the report be received

268/14 Memorial Plaque – First World War

Members were informed that the Memorial Plaque previously displayed at Park House needed to be relocated.

Aubrey O' Brien a local resident had undertaken the task of cleaning and polishing the plaque. Aubrey attended the meeting. He informed Members that research shows that the Memorial Plaque was originally located in the old picture house and then at the council offices. He states that there are other listed war memorials that people should be aware of. He would be disappointed if the plaque was in a location where it could not be widely viewed by the community.

It was agreed that the Memorial Plaque needed to be housed indoors and in a location where the community could view it.

Recommended - that an approach is made to Lanchester Community Centre to display the memorial plaque

269/14 Lanchester Miners' Banner Group

The minutes from the last meeting of the group were discussed. The grant funded project is nearing an end with a few items still to purchase. At the meeting the future of the banner group was discussed.

Recommended - that the minutes of the meeting be received

270/14 Christmas Lights - Switch on Event (min 221/14)

Members were informed that the arrangements for the Christmas Lights and the switch on event have been made. The County Council have dressed the Christmas tree with the new LED lights. Arrangements for the switch on event are complete and the event will commence at 5.30pm on the Village Green with the switch on taking place at 6.00pm

Recommended - that the information be received

271/14 DIAL Document (min 223/14)

Members were informed that a proof of the new document has been received. This proof has been forwarded to Members for consideration.

Recommended - that the information be received

272/14 Lanchester Community Emergency Plan

The preparation of this document is progressing. A recent meeting of the working group agreed changes to the draft document and the telephone contacts tree. This information has been distributed to all Councillors for comment.

Recommended - that the information be received

273/14 Budgets 2014/15 and 2015/16

The Lead Officer presented the budget report.

Members were informed that a national pay award had now been agreed. The Handyman is employed on the equivalent hourly rate of SCP 7.

The National Pay Award included the following elements:

- New pay scales to be introduced from 1 January 2015 (not back dated)
Clerk SCP 34 - £29,558.00 (FTE) – 2.2% pay award
Handyperson SCP 7 - £7.128 (hourly) – 6.2% pay award
- A one-off payment to be made in December
Clerk SCP 34 - £100.00 (FTE)
Handyperson – SCP 7 - £325.00 (FTE)
- A further one-off payment to be made in April
Clerk SCP 34 - £33.00 (FTE)

Recommended - that the National Pay Award is applied to both staff

Members discussed the proposed Durham Living Wage and the Clerks hours

Recommended that:

- (i) The clerks hours are increased from 23 to 24 hours per week from 1 April 2015
- (ii) The hourly rate of the Handyperson is increased to reflect the proposed Durham Living Wage of £7.43 per hour from 1 January 2015

Members discussed the garage rents.

Recommended - that the garage rents are increased from £45.00 to £50.00

The proposed budget for 2015/16 was considered.

Recommended - that the budget is agreed subject to inclusion of the above decisions

274/14 Date of next meeting

Recommended - that the next Finance, Development & General Purposes Committee meeting be held on Wednesday 28 January at 7.15pm at Lynwood House

Business concluded at 8.30pm