

Lanchester Parish Council

**Minutes of the Finance, Development and General Purposes Committee
held in the Conference Room in Park House, Lanchester on Wednesday
27 November 2013 at 7.15 pm**

Present Mr C Burton (Chair)

Mr K Harrison, Mr M Wardle, Mr P Jackson
Mr S Walker, Mrs M Gray, Mr K Leary

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Mr O Johnson - other commitments

Mr B Glass - away

Mr B Gray - other commitments

The above apologies were received and accepted

257/13 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

258/13 Public Participation

There were no press or public present.

259/13 Budget Position

The Lead Officer presented the finance report. There were two large funded projects which affected the probable outturn for the year. The details of these projects and the effect on the budget were explained to Members.

Recommended - that the report be received

260/13 Lanchester Miners' Banner Group (min 215/13)

Members were informed of progress and considered the minutes and actions from the last meeting.

Progress on all elements of the project had been made.

The conservation works on the original banner are well underway. The replica banner has been completed and is currently displayed at Park House. The banner workshops have been finalised and are taking place between now and next May. The dance workshops have been arranged in some schools with

2 schools still to be co-ordinated. Work continues on gathering information for the information packs. The celebration event will be co-ordinated by the Parish Council.

The AGM of the Lanchester Miners' Banner Group will take place on Thursday 28 November.

Recommended - that the minutes of the recent meeting be received

261/13 Christmas Lights (min 216/13)

Members were informed that the works to replace the Christmas Lights on the six large trees on the Village Green with new LED lights had been completed.

Members received an update on the arrangements for the Christmas Light Switch On event which is due to take place on Saturday 30 November.

Recommended - that the information is received

Members were informed that Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society would also be attending the event to sing some carols.

Mrs M Gray declared an interest.

Members considered a donation to the group.

Recommended - that a donation of £90.00 is made to Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society

Members discussed the lights on the fenced Christmas Tree and the fact that the Christmas Tree has grown considerably over recent years.

Recommended - that the Christmas Tree lights are placed on a future meeting agenda for discussion

262/13 Farming, Wildlife & Environment Working Group (min 217/13)

Members were informed of progress and considered the minutes and actions from the last meeting.

Members considered the project outline and the project enquiry form which had been submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund and were informed of the response received.

The next meeting of the working group to consider the next steps is due to take place on Wednesday 4 December

Recommended - that the information be received

263/13 Lynwood (min 218/13)

Members considered the draft agreement provided by Derwentside Homes regarding office space for the Parish Council and the management arrangements for the community space.

It was agreed that a document outlining our proposals be drawn up for consideration by the next Finance, Development & General Purposes meeting

Recommended - a document is drawn up for consideration at the next meeting

264/13 Bank Stabilisation Works – Kitswell Park (min 193/13)

Members were informed that the works undertaken by the County Council to stabilise the bank of Smallhope Burn at Kitswell Park had been completed.

A site visit to consider the work had been undertaken by the Clerk and Councillor Harrison. Overall the work and reinstatement works had been carried out to a good standard. There were some issues around grass seeding and removing stones which has been conveyed to the County Council.

Recommended - that the information be received

265/13 Budgets 2013/14 and 2014/15 (min 214/13)

Members considered the report which detailed current budget and projected year end position and proposals for the budget for 2014/15.

Members were reminded of a discussion at a recent Parish Council meeting on the 'Local Council Tax Support Scheme' which will affect the tax base. In addition information has been received from the County Council on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTSS) grant which is likely to be reduced this year and in subsequent years.

Information on the exact tax base for 2014/15 and the amount of LCTSS grant that Lanchester Parish Council will receive will be available in December.

It was agreed that a decision on precept could not be made until more information on the tax base and LCTSS grant was available.

Members discussed the proposed budget.

Recommended that:

(i) the budget be agreed at £62,202.80

(ii) the decision on the precept be deferred to a future meeting

266/13 Date of next meeting

Recommended - that the next meeting be held on Wednesday 29 January at 7.15pm in the Conference Room at Park House

Business concluded at 8.15pm