

Lanchester Parish Council

**Minutes of the Finance, Development and General Purposes Committee
held in the Conference Room in Park House, Lanchester on Wednesday
28 November 2012 at 7.15 pm**

Present Mr C Burton (Chair)

Mr K Harrison, Mr M Wardle, Mr K Leary
Mr S Walker, Mr B Glass, Mr A Nairn,
Mr O Johnson, Mr M Clarke, Mr A Myers
Mrs M Gray, Mr B Gray,

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:
Mrs A Cook - sick
Mr P Jackson - other commitments

The above apologies were received and accepted

283/12 Dispensations

The Council considered the request for dispensation from the following members to allow them to discuss and agree the budget and precept.

Councillor O Johnson
Councillor C Burton
Councillor M Wardle
Councillor K Harrison
Councillor S Walker
Councillor M Gray
Councillor B Gray
Councillor A Nairn
Councillor K Leary
Councillor B Glass
Councillor A Myers
Councillor M Clarke

Resolved - that the dispensation be approved

284/12 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

285/12 Public Participation

There were no press or public present.

286/12 Budget Position

The Lead Officer presented the finance information.
Recommended - that the report be received

287/12 Lanchester Miners' Banner Group

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

Recommended - that the information be received

288/12 Christmas Lights

Members discussed the recent Christmas Light Switch On and agreed that it had been successful.

Members were informed that the new LED lights had been installed on the middle tree on the Village Green. It was agreed that they provided a good display and were an improvement on the existing provision which is dated.

Members were informed that the current provider of refreshments for the event had informed the Council that they would be unable to provide the service in future. This generated a discussion on the event and possibilities for future years.

Recommended - that the item is placed on the next agenda for discussion

289/12 Kitswell Park Football Field

Progress is being made on seeking the soil samples to analyse the soil content.

It was agreed to inspect the pitch in the New Year to ascertain whether the football teams can recommence playing.

290/12 Jubilee Oak

Arrangements are being made to plant the jubilee oak near to the path on the Village Green.

Members were informed that a recent application for a tree grant had been successful and that the project to plant a small number of trees at Kitswell Park would be progressed.

291/12 Budgets 2012 / 13 and 2013 / 14

Members considered the report which detailed current budget and projected year end position and proposals for the budget for 2013/14.

Members were reminded of a discussion at a recent Parish Council meeting on the County Councils proposals to introduce a 'Local Council Tax Support Scheme' which may affect the tax base. The County Council proposals included a protection for Parish Council in their tax base although they also proposed to remove the double taxation grant currently paid to some Parish Councils. Recent correspondence received from the Government suggests that the tax base for local councils will not be protected. This means that the tax base is likely to be reduced although there is no information at this stage on what the tax base is likely to be. In addition it is not known if the County Council will also still remove the double taxation grant which Lanchester currently receive £1645 per annum.

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

Members discussed the proposed budget. Members asked for more information on the salaries and the impact on the budget of introducing an increase.

Recommended that:

- (i)** the budget be agreed pending further discussion on the salaries
- (ii)** the decision on the precept be deferred to a future meeting

292/12 Date of next meeting

Recommended - that the next meeting be held on Wednesday 30 January at 7.15pm in the Conference Room at Park House

Business concluded at 8.00pm