

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance, Development and General Purposes Committee
held in the Conference Room in Park House, Lanchester on Wednesday
28 September 2011 at 7.15 pm

Present Mr C Burton (Chair)

Mr K Harrison, Mr M Wardle, Mr P Jackson
Mrs M Gray, Mr A Myers, Mr S Walker
Mr A Nairn

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Mr M Clarke - other commitments
Mr O Johnson - away
Mr B Glass - away

The above apologies were received and accepted

238/11 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

239/11 Public Participation

There were no press or public present.

240/11 Budget Position

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

**241/11 Lanchester Partnership – Public Meeting – County Durham
Strategy and Strategic Housing Land Availability
Assessment**

Members considered the letter received from Lanchester
Partnership regarding involvement in the above event.
Recommended - that the Parish Council not be involved in the
organisation of the event but that Members attend the meeting
to listen to the views of the community

242/11 Disabled Parking Bay

Members were presented with information received from the
County Council which gave costs and timescales indicating that
providing a parking bay would cost upwards of £2500

Recommended that:

- (i) a disabled parking bay is not provided
- (ii) residents are referred to the legal entitlements of blue badge holders

243/11 Amendments proposed by Government concerning Carers Allowance

Members discussed information received regarding the removal of the Carers Allowance when the carer starts to draw their State Pension.

Recommended - that a letter is sent supporting the objection to the removal of the Carers Allowance when the carer starts to draw their State Pension

244/11 Locality Map

Members considered the progress report detailing activity from July - September 2011 along with committed spend to September 2011.

Recommended that:

- (i) the report be received
- (ii) the Development Officer be commended on the work undertaken
- (iii) the Development Officer be invited to attend the next Finance, Development and General Purposes meeting

245/11 Christmas Lights

Members considered the quote of £1,013.00 received from Durham County Council for dressing and undressing the Christmas Tree and to basic test, snag and relamp the seven trees on the village green.

Recommended - that the quote be accepted

The County Council have obtained a small test supply of a new LED lamp. It is intended to trial this on one of the trees during this winter.

Members discussed the forthcoming Christmas Light 'Switch On' event and agreed a date of Saturday 26 November at 6.00pm. It was agreed that the event would celebrate the Friends of Longovicium new publication and invite those who had been involved in the document. As in the past, local school children would be invited to help officially turn on the lights and the brass band would be invited to play on the Village Green. This would be followed by a buffet and drinks in the Chapter House.

More details and costs would be brought to the next Ordinary meeting for approval.

246/11 Village Green

Members were informed of costs for the following items:

- Treework at the top end of the new path
- Planting a small number of trees on the bypass side of the middle of the path
- Wild flowers to be sown at the top end
- Whips to be planted at the top end (Rowan and Hazel)
- Replace old fence at the bottom end with hedge planting
- Replace the 2 litter bins
- Investigate possible art work (wood or stone)

Recommended that:

(i) a report be presented at the next Ordinary meeting for consideration

(ii) a grant application for Northern Gas Networks be completed

247/11 Date of next meeting

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

Business concluded at 8.30pm