

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Lynwood House on Tuesday
10 March 2015 at 7.15pm

Present Mr O Johnson (Chair)

Mr C Burton, Mr K Leary, Mr K Harrison,
Mr S Walker, Mr M Wardle, Mrs M Gray, Mr B Gray,

Mr R Young - County Councillor - observer
Mr Simon Longstaff - Durham County Council

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Mr P Jackson - away
Mrs A Cook - other commitments
Mr A Nairn - work commitments
Mr B Glass - other commitments
The above apologies were received and accepted

40/15 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

41/15 **Public Participation**

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

42/15 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10 February 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson

43/15 **Committees**

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

44/15

Lanchester Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Chair welcomed Simon Longstaff from the Durham County Councils Drainage & Coastal Protection Team to the meeting.

Simon presented information on the proposed flood alleviation scheme for Lanchester.

Work has been ongoing with the Environment Agency for several years to produce plans to tackle the flooding problems in Lanchester. Durham County Council is responsible for Alderdene Burn and the Environment Agency is responsible for the Smallhope Burn. Any work implemented must not impact adversely on the other watercourse and it is therefore important that the two organisations work together to produce a sound plan.

The initial proposals to put in larger pipes to discharge water from the Alderdene Burn / culvert to further upstream have been discounted.

The County Council have engaged a consultant to look at the wider flooding picture

The following has been proposed:

- Reduce the size of the entrance to the culvert at Alderdene Burn. This will reduce the amount of water entering the culvert at peak times. The basin at the entrance to the culvert will need to be increased which will store the water.
- Increase the size of the drainage pipe from the Valley Walk leading to the village

It is hoped that these two measures will reduce the flooding in the village.

The County Council have done site investigations, survey work and modelling exercises and are working with the Environment Agency to finalise the scheme.

Members of the public asked questions regarding the scheme.

Simon invited members of the public and Councillors to visit Durham County Council offices to view the plans.

The Chair thanked Simon Longstaff for attending the meeting.

45/15

Neighbourhood Warden Report

Resolved - that the Neighbourhood Warden report for January be received

- 46/15 Correspondence**
- (i) County Durham Training Partnership – Training Opportunities**
Members considered the training offered
Resolved that:
 - (i)** the information be received
 - (ii)** councillors contact the Clerk if they wish to attend the training
 - (ii) Campaign to Protect Rural England - newsletter**
Resolved - that the newsletter be received
 - (iii) Traffic Survey – A691**
Members considered the results of a recent traffic survey which included comparisons of a similar survey undertaken the previous year
Resolved - that the information be received
- 47/15 Area Action Partnership (AAP) / Parish Councils Committee (PCC) (min 26/15)**
- Members considered the minutes of the recent PCC meeting
Resolved - that the minutes be received
- Members were informed that the next PCC meeting was scheduled to take place on Saturday 14 March at 10.00am and that the next AAP meeting will take place on Wednesday 11 March
Resolved - that the information be received
- 48/15 Neighbourhood Plan (min 27/15)**
- Members considered the minutes of the recent meeting
Resolved - that the minutes be approved
- Mike Wardle informed Members that returns from the recent questionnaire survey had been analysed and that the working group had split into smaller groups to look at the information and sharpen the results. This will produce a list of issues from which further work can be undertaken to produce policies for the document. It is intended to report results of the survey to the community. Work also continues to prepare a funding bid to pay for sections of the plan preparation.
- There is a concern regarding the latest developments with the Durham County Plan and what this may mean for the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that it is important to continue with the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Resolved** - that the information be received

49/15 Memorial Plaque – World War I (min 28/15)

Members were informed that the arrangements for the event were as follows:

Saturday 11 April
11.00am – refreshments in the small hall
11.30am – unveiling of the memorial plaque

An article inviting people to attend would be submitted to the Village Voice and invites would be sent to appropriate organisations

Resolved - that the information be received

50/15 Risk Assessment Schedule

Members considered and reviewed the policy.

Resolved - that the policy be approved

51/15 Internal Audit Arrangements

Members considered and reviewed the policy.

Resolved that:

- (i) the policy be approved
- (ii) Mr Mike Young be approved as the internal auditor

52/15 Schools – Distribution of newsletters

Resolved – that a donation of £75.00 is awarded to each of the Primary schools in Lanchester

53/15 Grants / Donations

Members considered the 8 applications received

Resolved that the following donations are made:

- (i) Lanchester All Saints Parish Centre - £300.00
- (ii) Lanchester & Burnhope Parochial Church Council - £300.00
- (iii) Lanchester Agricultural Society - £300.00

54/15 Financial Information

The Lead Officer presented report J

Resolved - that the report be received

A bank reconciliation was distributed for Members to consider

Resolved - that the report be received

55/15 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

BT	Broadband	£100.53
BT	Phone	£86.65
S Laverick	Salary (February)	£1231.08
D Maddox	Salary (February)	£418.73
Durham County Council	Pension (February)	£375.14
S Laverick	Expenses	£105.46
EP Primary School	Donation	£75.00
RC Primary School	Donation	£75.00
Lan. All Saints Parish Church	Donation	£300.00
Lan. Parochial Church Council	Donation	£300.00
Lanchester Agricultural Society	Donation	£300.00

56/14 Grass Cutting Contract 2015 and long term agreement

Resolved - that under the powers contained in Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public be excluded from the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

Members discussed and considered the returned prices and the awarding of a longer term contract.

Resolved that:

- (i) the grass cutting contract be awarded to A D Purves Landscaping being the lowest tender
- (ii) a three year contract be awarded, the price for year two and three to be confirmed prior to the grass cutting season commencing

57/14 Grassed Area – Lanchester Valley Railway Path – between Station Road and Newbiggen Lane

Members considered the licence agreement entered into with the County Council in 2014 which had allowed the Parish Council to undertake a number of cuts to the above grassed area. Under this agreement the County Council had retained ownership and maintenance responsibility for the area.

Members considered this information and a discussion took place on whether the Parish Council should cut the grass in this area again in 2015 under a similar arrangement.

Resolved that:

- (i) a licence agreement be entered into with the County Council for 2015 to cut the grass in this area

(ii) a review of these arrangements takes place at the end of the season

Members discussed the proposed flood alleviation works as outlined in the presentation earlier in the meeting and the possible impact this may have on this grass cutting area

Resolved - that a letter is sent to the County Council seeking clarification on the work involved

58/15 Chairperson's Announcements

There were no announcements

59/15 Questions from Members – Information only

There were no questions from Members

60/15 Date of next meeting

Resolved - that the next Ordinary meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 14 April 2015 at 7.15pm at Lynwood House

Meeting ended at 8.45 pm