

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Conference Room in Park House, Lanchester on Tuesday 11 June 2013 at 7.15pm

Present Mr O Johnson (Chair)

Mr C Burton, Mrs A Cook, Mr Peter Richardson, Mr P Jackson
Mr K Harrison, Mr S Walker, Mr B Glass, Mr K Leary
Mr B Gray, Mrs J Richardson,

Mr Chris Hindmarsh – Neighbourhood Warden

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:
Mr Philip Richardson - other commitments
Mrs M Gray - other commitments
Mr M Wardle - away
The above apologies were received and accepted

129/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

130/13 Public Participation

There were no press or public present.

131/13 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20 May 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson

(ii) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20 May 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson

132/13 Police Report

Members considered the Police report which gave information regarding incidents / crimes in the area for the period 24/4/13 – 19/05/13 as follows:

Number of community related calls 12

(These calls are outlined below. Other calls not listed refer to incidents such as road traffic collisions, stray farm animals, concern for safety reports, false alarm)

Alcohol Seizures **1**
A group of 8 youths were found in possession of alcohol in woods to the rear of Deanery View. All the youths details were obtained and forwarded to the Alcohol Referral Unit for further action to be taken

Dwelling Burglaries **1**
1 x report of a Honda 350cc stolen overnight from a barn at a farm near Maiden Law

Burglary (other) **0**

Bogus Callers **2**
2 x reports from residents at Alderside Crescent regarding two adult males going door to door to sell small household items. The males claimed to be from Middlesbrough Probation Service and selling items as part of their probation programme. However investigations reveal that this is not the case and any incidents should be reported directly to the Police.

Anti-Social Behaviour **8**
2 x reports in connection with a neighbour dispute at Kitswell Road
1 x report received from a resident on Durham Road in connection with a civil dispute over an on-going court case
1 x report regarding youths congregating at The Garths and causing a nuisance
1 x report of youths throwing stones at windows of a shop on Front Street
2 x reports of youths congregating in the woods to the rear of Deanery View. The youths had built a camp which was removed the Durham County Council
1 x report of youths banging on the doors and windows of a property in Valley Grove. However it may be that the resident misunderstands noise coming from the TV as coming from outside

Criminal Damage **0**

Thefts **0**

Members received an update on Operation Valencia, the live event which is to take place on Thursday 13 June in Lanchester.

The Chair welcomed Chris Highmarsh, the new Neighbourhood Warden for the Lanchester area. Chris presented the Neighbourhood Warden report for April and outlined the main activities of the Neighbourhood Wardens.

133/13 Correspondence

- (i) **Lanchester EP Primary School – Letter of thanks Resolved** - that the letter be received

134/13 Grassed Area – Lanchester Valley Railway Path – between Station Road and Newbiggen Lane (min 111/13)

Members were informed that following the decision at the last meeting a licence agreement had been signed and exchanged with Durham County Council for this year. A site visit had taken place with our grass cutting contractor and the first cut to this area had already taken place.

Members were informed that thanks had been received from several residents.

Members were informed that this arrangement would be reviewed at the end of the year.

135/13 Area Action Partnership (AAP) / Parish Councils Committee (PCC) (min 113/13)

Members received an update.

Resolved - that the minutes of the PCC meeting be received

Members discussed the Highways Issues correspondence.

Resolved that:

(i) the identified issues remain relevant

(ii) the issue of flooding be added to the list of concerns

Members were informed that the Village meeting to discuss AAP priorities had been arranged for Tuesday 23 July between 3.30pm – 6.30pm at Park House.

136/13 Tree Report – Village Green (min 119/13)

Members considered the report and the recommendations for tree work.

Resolved - that the work be undertaken at a cost of £2385.00 + VAT

137/13 Farming, Wildlife & Environment Working Group

Members received an update on recent meetings of the working group. The group are working up proposals for a heritage project in the Parish following the successful heritage elements of the Locality Map project which concluded in April 2012.

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the meeting are received

(ii) approval is given for work to continue on developing the project

(iii) further updates are presented to the council for approval

138/13 Christmas Light Renewal – Village Green

Members were informed that a grant of £18,000 had been secured from Durham County Council Neighbourhood Budget to replace the Christmas lights in the remaining six trees on the Village Green.

This work has been ordered and is planned to take place in the autumn.

Work on the Christmas Light switch on event will continue and will be reported to future meetings of the Finance, Development & General Purposes Committee.

139/13 Lanchester Miners' Banner Group

Members considered the minutes of the recent meetings of the group.

Members were informed that a grant of £23,500 had been secured from Durham County Council Neighbourhood Budget which will allow the project to take place.

Work is now progressing on all elements of the project;

Resolved - that the minutes of the recent meetings be received

140/13 'Bag It and Bin It' in County Durham

Members were informed of the 'Bag it and bin it' campaign operated by the County Council to encourage and promote responsible dog ownership.

Resolved - that the information be received

141/13 Quality Parish Status

The Quality Parish Council Scheme is being reviewed this year with the aim of re-launching an updated standards scheme in October.

Lanchester Parish Council was due to reaccredit by September 2013, however the scheme has been frozen until the new criteria is known. Reaccrediting Council will be given at least 3 months in which to reaccredit once the scheme is re-launched.

142/13 Annual Report

Members considered the Annual Report and made some minor alterations.

Resolved that:

(i) the Annual Report be approved

(iii) the Annual Report be distributed at a cost of £60.00

143/13 Financial Information

The Lead Officer presented report J.

Resolved - that the report be received.

144/13 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

S Laverick	Salary (May)	£1180.64
D Maddox	Salary (May)	£384.23
Durham County Council	Pension (May)	£373.82
Lanchester Cricket Club	Donation	£300.00
Jim Devenport FAC	Banner Report	£150.00
Olivers Tree Services	Tree work – Kitswell	£1050.00
Durham R C C	Photocopying	£256.02
S Laverick	Expenses	£57.37

145/13 Chairperson's Announcements

There were no Chairpersons announcements.

146/13 Questions from Members – Information only

Stuart Walker made reference to some episodes of 'Cold Calling' which had taken place in the village. There was particular concern over the vulnerability of elderly residents.

147/13 Date of next meeting

Resolved - that the next Ordinary meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 9 July 2013 at 7.15pm.

Meeting ended at 8.40pm