

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held via 'Zoom' on Tuesday 8 September 2020 at 6.30pm

Present Cllr. K Harrison (Chair)

Cllr. J Considine, Cllr. O Johnson, Cllr. I Tute, Cllr. S Walker,
Cllr. T Jones, Cllr. P Jackson, Cllr. D Smith, Cllr. M Gray,
Cllr. B Gray, Cllr. A Gray, Cllr. A Cook

Richard Holden MP

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Cllr. L Montgomery - ill
Cllr. K Leary - ill
Cllr. D Friesner - away

The above apologies were received and approved

78/20 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

79/20 **Public Participation**

There were public present at the meeting.

80/20 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Resolved that:

- (i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28 July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

81/20 **Richard Holden MP**

Richard Holden MP was welcomed to the meeting. He informed Councillors that he is very interested in local council work. He is working with NALC the national association on several matters and sits on the Across-Party Parliamentary Group for Local Democracy (APPG).

Mr Holden answered several questions from Councillors.

Mr Holden confirmed that his priorities for the area included: public transport, cycling/walking, Shotley Bridge Hospital proposals, national bus strategy, regeneration of high streets, mental health services, jobs/economy and local campaigns.

The Chair thanked Mr Holden for attending the meeting.

Mr Holden left the meeting at 7.00pm

82/20 Correspondence

(i) Letter from Durham County Council – 2021/22 Budget Planning – Tax Base and LCTRS grant

Members were informed of information received from the County Council which gave an early indication of the tax base for 2021/22. Further information would be received later in the year to allow accurate budget planning to be undertaken.

Resolved - that the letter be received

83/20 Planning Letters

Members considered the letters sent regarding the following planning applications:

- DM/20/01973/RM
- DM/20/01276/FPA

Resolved - that the decision to send the letters be ratified

Members were informed that an application for Certificate of Existing Use had been received for Chapel View, Millershill Lane. The Parish Council had responded to a similar application in June 2020 which had subsequently been withdrawn.

Resolved - that the same letter be submitted to Durham County Council

A member of the public attended the meeting to inform the council of concerns regarding works being carried out in a field near to the Lanchester Valley Walk.

Resolved - that this matter is placed on the next Parish Council agenda.

84/20 Small Business Grant Fund – Covid 19

Councillors were informed that as a recipient of small business rate relief the Parish Council were eligible for a small Business Grant. An application has been submitted and a grant of £10,000 has been received.

Resolved - that the information be received

85/20 Garage – Park House Play Area

Councillors were informed that it had been discovered that the Parish Council garage had been broken into on 30 August 2020. The Police have been informed and a crime reference obtained.

The insurance company have been informed and the incident has been logged as a notification only pending confirmation from the Parish Council that a claim is to be progressed. It was confirmed that the insurance is a re-instatement policy and this claim would carry a £125.00 excess.

The Councillors were informed of the items stolen and agreed that a claim should progress.

Councillors were also provided with information on options to create additional security for the garage.

Resolved that:

- (i)** A claim be progressed with the insurance company
- (ii)** Security work are undertaken at a cost of £950.00 + VAT

86/20 Play Inspections

Councillors were informed that the annual inspections had been received for Manor Grange Play Area, Park House Play Area, Hollinside Play Area and Hurbeck Cottages Play Area. Some replacement of safety surfacing at Park House had been identified.

Councillors considered a quote received for the safety surface works and agreed that additional quotes be sought.

Resolved that:

- (i)** the play inspections be received
- (ii)** further quotes are sought for the safety surface repairs

87/20 Memorial Seat

Councillors were informed that the installation of the Memorial seat was progressing. A meeting had taken place with the contractor to agree location. It was agreed that the seat would be surrounded by a winstone dust surface to aid accessibility. Confirmation had been received from the County Council that planning permission would not be required.

It is planned that the seat will be installed towards the end of September.

Resolved - that the information be received

88/20

Manor Grange Play Area

Councillors were provided with the following update:

Planning Permission - Confirmation has been received from the County Council that planning permission would not be required

Grant Applications - Applications for funding had been completed in March 2020 for the County Durham Community Foundation and The National Lottery. Unfortunately both applications had been unsuccessful with feedback from both organisations stating that they were prioritising projects to address Covid 19 issues. It was agreed to look into the 'Pocket Parks' funding for this project.

Lease - The County Council are currently progressing this

Project Funding - Monies have been committed to the project from Durham County Council Area Budget and Durham County Council Neighbourhood Budget. This funding will be released once certain conditions have been met. Councillors agreed to commit monies to the project.

Consultation - It would be beneficial to conduct some consultation with children and families on the project. This is more problematic due to Covid 19 restrictions. It may be possible to conduct this through the schools.

Resolved that:

- (i) the information be received
- (ii) the Parish Council commits up to £30,000 depending on the outcome of any further grant applications

89/20

Christmas Light Switch On

Councillors considered the implications on the Christmas Light Switch On due to Covid 19. It was agreed that a public switch on event could not take place on the Village Green. It was agreed that the lights are set to come on between 4pm – 12 midnight from Saturday 28 November.

A price had been received from Durham County Council to dress and undress the Christmas Tree and to undertake snagging and repairs to the lights in the trees.

Resolved - that the County Council undertake the works to the lights at a cost of £1,273.88 + VAT.

90/20 Future Meetings

The Local Authorities and Police & Crime Panels (flexibility of meetings) Regulations 2020 came into force in April 2020 and remains in force until May 2021. This allows for Parish Councils to hold meetings remotely.

Depending on whether further regulations are introduced after May 2021 will determine whether remote meetings can continue.

Councillors discussed exploring possibilities for delivering hybrid meetings to include a joint remote / physical meeting.

Resolved - that the running of a hybrid meeting is explored

91/20 National Pay Award

Members were informed that the National Salary Award has now been agreed for 2020/21.

Resolved - that the National Salary Award is applied to both staff posts

92/20 Financial Information

The Lead Officer presented report C.

Resolved - that the report be approved

93/20 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

S Laverick	Salary (July)	£1,377.93
D Maddox	Salary (July)	£480.10
Durham County Council	Pension (July)	£418.84
On-line Playgrounds	Play parts	£88.80
On-line Playgrounds	Play parts	£96.00
S Laverick	Salary (August)	£1,377.93
D Maddox	Salary (August)	£480.10
Durham County Council	Pension (August)	£418.84
CCL Office Ltd	Stationery	£109.71
CDALC / NALC	Annual Subscription	£580.33
S Laverick	Expenses	£114.96

94/20 Chairperson's Announcements

The Chair informed Councillors that information had been received from Churches Together regarding their plans to hold a reduced Remembrance Service on 8 November. They will complete a risk assessment and ensure that they comply with Covid regulations.

Resolved - that the Parish Council supports their plans subject to a Covid risk assessment being undertaken and that the service complies with current regulations

The Chair thanked all Councillors for attending and for their patience and understanding during this virtual meeting.

95/20

Date of next meeting

Resolved - that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will take place via 'Zoom' on Tuesday 13 October 2020

Meeting ended at 8.15pm