

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held at Lanchester Community Centre on Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 7.15 pm

Present Cllr. K Harrison (Chair)

Cllr. P Jackson, Cllr. J Considine, Cllr. O Johnson,
Cllr. I Tute, Cllr. A Gray, Cllr. D Smith,
Cllr. T Jones, Cllr. S Walker, Cllr. L Montgomery,
Cllr. D Toner, Cllr. V Jackson, Cllr. B McDermid

68/21 Election of Chair

Resolved - that Councillor Keith Harrison be elected as Chairperson for the ensuing year.

69/21 Acceptance of Office

The elected Chair signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

70/21 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Cllr. D Friesner - family commitments
The above apologies were received and accepted

71/21 Co-option

Councillors considered the one unfilled vacancy following the recent elections and the process for co-option.

A discussion took place on whether to fill the vacancy at this meeting or whether to advertise the vacancy to the community.

Following a vote it was agreed that the vacancy should be advertised on the Parish Council notice board.

Resolved that:

- (i) The vacancy is advertised on the notice board
- (ii) Candidates must satisfy the eligibility criteria and provide a statement outlining why they wish to become a Parish Councillor

72/21 Election of Vice Chair

Resolved - that Councillor Paul Jackson be elected as Vice Chairperson for the ensuing year.

73/21 Appointment of Delegates / Representatives

Councillors discussed the committees.

The following committees were agreed:

- Planning Committee
- Finance, Development and General Purposes Committee (to include Recreation Facilities Committee matters)
- Complaints Committee (six Councillors to be selected as required)

Members discussed the attendance at committee meetings and quorate arrangements for committees.

Resolved that with regard to the Planning Committee and the Finance, Development and General Purposes Committee:

- (i) all Parish Councillors can attend committee meetings
- (ii) all Councillors attending have a voting right
- (iii) a committee meeting is quorate with a Chair and three other members

Resolved - that the following members be elected to represent the Council as follows:

Lanchester Community Association

Cllr. Ian Tute and Cllr Paul Jackson

Parish Council Committee

Cllr. David Smith and the Clerk

County Durham Association of Local Councils Smaller Local Councils Forum

No nominations

74/21 General Power of Competence

The Government as part of the Localism Act 2011 introduced a new 'General Power of Competence' for local councils. The

Power gives eligible local councils 'the power to do anything that individuals generally may do' providing it is within the law. In order to adopt the Power, Councils need to demonstrate that they fulfil the criterion which includes:

- (i) having a qualified Clerk
- (ii) the number of Councillors elected at the last election or at a subsequent by-election must equal or exceed $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total number of seats on the council

Resolved - that Lanchester Parish Council meets the criteria for the General Power of Competence and adopts the Power

75/21 Banking Arrangements

Resolved - that Barclays Bank continue to provide the banking service for Lanchester Parish Council.

The business was concluded at 7.45pm