

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Conference Room in Park House,
Lanchester on Tuesday 11 March 2014 at 7.15pm

Present Mr O Johnson (Chair)

Mr C Burton, Mr S Walker, Mr M Wardle, Mrs A Cook
Mr K Harrison, Mr K Leary, Mr P Jackson, Mr A Nairn,
Mr B Gray

Mr R Young - County Councillor – observer

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Mrs M Gray - ill
Mr B Glass - work commitments

The above apologies were received and accepted

54/14 **Declarations of Interest**

Paul Jackson declared an interest in item 19 and 16.

55/14 **Public Participation**

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

56/14 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 February 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson

57/14 **Committees**

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

58/14 Neighbourhood Warden Report

Resolved - that the Neighbourhood Warden report for January be received

59/14 Correspondence

(i) Lanchester Allotments Association – Minutes of AGM

Resolved - that the minutes be received

(ii) Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council – weekly play inspections

Members considered a request from Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council for us to carry out their weekly play inspections and charge them for the service. Members discussed the impact on our Handypersons hours of work and expressed some concern over potential liability issues if we provide that service.

Resolved - that Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council would need to discuss the arrangement with our Handyperson with a view to employing him directly to undertake this work

(iii) Campaign to Protect Rural England – Spring Newsletter

Resolved - that the newsletter be received

(iv) Durham County Council – Implementation Plans (min 41/14)

Members were informed that the information provided by the Parish Council would be included in the plan

Resolved - that the information be received

60/14 Area Action Partnership (AAP) / Parish Councils Committee (PCC) (min 38/14)

There was no report given.

61/14 Grassed Area – Lanchester Valley Railway Path - between Station Road and Newbiggen Lane (min 45/14)

Members were informed that the licence between the County Council and the Parish Council allowing the Parish Council to cut the grass in the above area had been signed and returned.

Resolved - that the information be received

62/14 Risk Assessment Schedule

Members considered and reviewed the policy.

Resolved - that the policy be approved

63/14 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

64/14 Financial Regulations

Members considered and reviewed the policy.

Resolved - that the policy be approved

65/14 Equal Opportunities Policy

Members considered and reviewed the policy.

Resolved - that the policy be approved

66/14 Health & Safety Policy

Members considered and reviewed the policy.

Resolved that:

- (i) the policy be approved
- (ii) the policy be reviewed once the Parish Council has moved to its new premises

67/14 Schools – Distribution of newsletters

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

68/14 Grants / Donations

Members considered the 7 applications received

Resolved that the following donations are made:

- (i) County Durham Stroke Club - £45.00
- (ii) Willow Burn Hospice - £200.00
- (iii) North East War Memorial Project - £45.00
- (iv) Great North Air Ambulance - £110.00
- (v) Lanchester & Burnhope Parochial Church Council – Maintenance of the Tower Clock - £200.00
- (vi) Durham County Brass Band Association - £50.00

69/14 Financial Information

The Lead Officer presented report J.
Resolved - that the report be received.

70/14 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

S Laverick	Salary (Feb)	£1190.32
D Maddox	Salary (Feb)	£387.34
Durham County Council	Pension (Feb)	£377.55
Talk Talk	Phone	£20.93
Durham County Council	Christmas Tree	£579.60
Durham Community Action	Photocopying	£731.10
S Laverick	Expenses	£419.07
Durham County Council	Replace Christmas Light	£18,396.28
Jim Devenport	Banner Conservation	£500.00

71/14 Planning Applications

Mike Wardle took over as Chair for this item only.

Members considered the following planning applications:

1/2014/0052 - Listed building consent for conversion of former public house (Grade II) to five one/two bed roomed apartments, demolition and reconstruction of new rear single storey extension and internal refurbishment at the Queens Head, 17 Front Street, Lanchester

1/2013/0661 - conversion of former public house to five one/two bed roomed apartments, demolition and reconstruction of new rear single storey extension and internal refurbishment at the Queens Head, 17 Front Street, Lanchester

Members considered the above two applications together as they relate to the same development.

Members considered and discussed the plans:

Resolved - that Members raise no objection to the application

Members welcome the sympathetic development which will improve the empty and boarded up building. Members feel that the rear of the property will be improved with the proposals and welcome the provision in the development for public parking.

DM/14/00327/FPA - single storey extension at 14 Fenhall Park,
Lanchester

This application was not considered as the plans had not been made available on the County Council website.

72/14 Chairperson's Announcements

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 were informed of recent correspondence and a FOI request from a company.

Members confirmed how they had arrived at their decision to award the grass cutting contract for 2014.

73/14 Questions from Members – Information only

Mike Wardle raised the recent public consultation by a developer regarding the building of houses on a site up Newbiggen Lane.

Resolved - that this item be discussed at the next planning meeting

74/14 Date of next meeting

Resolved - that the next Ordinary meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 8 April 2014 at 7.15pm.

Meeting ended at 8.45pm