

# Lanchester Parish Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Lynwood House on Tuesday 11 January 2022 at 7.00pm

**Present** Cllr. K Harrison (Chair)

Cllr. S Walker, Cllr. D Friesner, Cllr. B McDermid  
Cllr. T Jones, Cllr. E Hepplewhite, Cllr. V Jackson  
Cllr. D Smith, Cllr. P Jackson,

County Cllr. D Oliver

**Apologies** Apologies for absence were received as follows:

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Cllr. I Tute          | - other commitments |
| Cllr. A Gray          | - other commitments |
| Cllr. L Montgomery    | - other commitments |
| Cllr. O Johnson       | - ill               |
| County Cllr. M McGaun | - ill               |

The above apologies were received and approved

### **1/22 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

### **2/22 Public Participation**

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

### **3/22 Minutes of the last meeting**

#### **Resolved that:**

- (i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

### **4/22 Correspondence**

- (i) **Letter of thanks – Lanchester Choral Society**  
**Resolved** - that the letter be received

**(ii) Lanchester Partnership – Christmas Events**

Lanchester Partnership provided the following information:

The Santa Stroll in December had gone well with approximately 260 gifts given out to children. The Parish Council were thanked for providing the gifts.

The live streaming of the Christmas Light Switch On had 262 viewers and has had over 6,700 views. The Parish Council thanked Lanchester Partnership for providing this element of the event.

**Resolved** - that the information be received

**5/22 Durham County Councillors**

County Cllr. Doug Oliver provided the following update:

This had been a quieter month with the Christmas period. Most Durham County Council officers are working from home.

- Dealing with several planning applications
- Drainage problem on Kitswell Road – awaiting information from County Council officers
- Parking outside schools – awaiting options from County Council officers. A meeting is to take place with the Head Teacher from the EP Primary School
- A meeting with Go North East to take place early this year

**Resolved** - that the information be received

**6/22 County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC)**

**Referendum principles for 2022/23 precepts**

Councillors were informed that the Government have confirmed that Parish and Town Councils will not be constrained by any cap on precept increases for 2022/23

**Remote Meetings**

Two model letters were considered which would highlight support for remote council meetings. These letters could be sent by Councillors and Councils to the MP and Government Ministers.

**Resolved that:**

- (i)** The letters are sent from the Parish Council
- (ii)** The letters are forwarded to Councillors so they may send individual letters

**Double Taxation**

Councillors were provided with information received from the County Association which included a report from the County Council. The matter of double taxation is complicated and options to address double

taxation could be very time consuming and complex. Double taxation can occur when within a principal local authority's area there are services delivered in some places by that authority and in other places by a Town or Parish Council. This can result in some residents paying for the services in their local area through its precept while at the same time they contribute to the cost of provision elsewhere through the Council Tax bill from their principal local authority.

The initial response from Councillors was concern over the complex issue and the time and practicality of trying to address the matter.

**Resolved that:**

- (i) the information is sent to Councillors to consider
- (ii) the initial concerns of the Parish Council are forwarded to the County Association
- (iii) further information is awaited from the County Association

**7/22**

**Storm Arwen**

Councillors discussed Storm Arwen which occurred on 26 November and the subsequent power outage which lasted for several days for some residents in Lanchester.

Durham County Councils Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) have confirmed that they are undertaking a detailed debrief over the coming months. This will consider what action was taken, work with other organisations and what can be learnt going forward.

The Lanchester Community Emergency Plan at present is an initial response plan to put in place immediate actions prior to emergency services attending. Following the work undertaken by the CCU it may be that the Lanchester Community Emergency Plan is amended to include some outcomes and actions following Storm Arwen.

Councillors discussed the role of Northern Powergrid. It was felt that they did not provide accurate information and updates on timescales or contact affected residents and provide adequate support.

**Resolved** - that a letter is sent to Northern Powergrid expressing concern regarding communications, accuracy of information and support for affected members of the community

**8/22**

**Recycling Bins – Front Street**

The provision of recycling bins was discussed.

**Resolved** - that the County Council are asked to consider the provision of recycling bins in the village.

**9/22 Precept Report 2022/23**

The Lead Officer presented report B.

Councillors considered and discussed the options for the precept.

**Resolved** - that the precept be set at £70,660.78 for 2022/23

**10/22 Financial Information**

The Lead Officer presented report C.

**Resolved** - that the report be approved

**11/22 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved** - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

|                          |                      |           |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| S Laverick               | Salary (December)    | £1,409.28 |
| D Maddox                 | Salary (December)    | £545.89   |
| Durham County Council    | Pension (December)   | £430.37   |
| HMRC                     | Tax & NI (Oct – Dec) | £1,112.34 |
| Fenland Leisure Products | Play Equipment       | £25.60    |
| S Laverick               | Expenses             | £167.06   |

**12/22 Chairperson's Announcements**

There were no Chairpersons announcements.

Councillors discussed the possibility of arranging hybrid remote meetings for Parish Council meetings.

**Resolved** - that this provision is explored

**13/22 Date of next meeting**

**Resolved** - that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 8 February at 7.00pm

Meeting ended at 8.30pm