

Lanchester Parish Council

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

Present Cllr. K Harrison (Chair)

Cllr. P Jackson, Cllr. E Hepplewhite, Cllr. L Montgomery,
Cllr. A Gray, Cllr. O Johnson, Cllr. D Smith,
Cllr. J Considine, Cllr. B McDermid, Cllr. D Friesner,
Cllr. S Walker, Cllr. V Jackson, Cllr. D Toner

County Cllr. D Oliver
County Cllr. M McGaun
Clair Richardson – Northumbrian Water Ltd

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Cllr. I Tute - ill

Cllr. T Jones - away

The above apologies were received and accepted

201/22 Declarations of Interest

Councillor V Jackson declared an interest in agenda item 9.

202/22 Public Participation

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

203/22 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that:

- (i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28 September 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

204/22 Committees

Resolved that:

- (i) the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 28 September 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted

Clair Richardson from Northumbrian Water Ltd attended the meeting and provided the following information:

- **Proposed capital works to address flooding on Ford Road**
The situation is being monitored. Capital works will be prioritised according to need
- **Drainage works undertaken on Station Road / Cadger Bank**
Gully improvements have taken place. CCTV surveys are to take place.
- **Works undertaken on Village Green - December 2020**
It had been identified that the pressure had been too high resulting in damage to the system. Work involved installing a pressure reducing valve to reduce pressure to stop the mains bursting.
- **Problem of low water pressure experienced by some residents**
This occurred following the work on the Village Green in December 2020. A valve has been changed to a manual valve to address the problem.
- **Repairs following flooding on Newbiggen Lane**
Work was undertaken to repair the damage and investigation work undertaken
- **Problems with the drains on Deanery View / Peth Bank and Durham Road - October 2021 onwards**
Northumbrian Water Ltd and Durham County Council have undertaken investigations and repairs. Clerk to send Clair the history of e-mails on this matter.

Cllr. Jude Considine entered the meeting – 7.15pm

In addition the following matters were raised by Councillors:

- Does the culvert under the Village Green need clearing.
Clair will look into who is responsible for this work
- The culvert on the grassed area near Newbiggen Lane may need clearing
- Would like clearer notices which indicate when Northumbrian Water Ltd are aware of a leak and dealing with it
- Details on the Northumbrian Water Ltd website need to be up to date
- Concern of the run off of chemicals into watercourses.
Councillors were advised to report any incidents of pollution on the Northumbrian Water Ltd website
- The gullies along Newbiggen Lane need clearing. The Clerk to report this matter to Durham County Council.
- Discharge into Smallhope Burn. This matter has previously been reported to both NWL and the Environment Agency. The Clerk to send the correspondence to Clair.

- Surface water on paved areas within curtilage of dwellings causing water run-off.

Northumbrian Water Ltd will ensure that there is planned maintenance on problem areas including culverts and gullies. It was confirmed that NWL and the County Council regularly meet to discuss matters.

Councillors mentioned an upcoming meeting with Northern Powergrid to discuss resilience following extreme weather. It was felt that this was something that may be of interest to NWL. The Clerk to forward details of the meeting to Clair.

Resolved that:

- (i) the actions are undertaken
- (ii) the information be received

Cllr. Alison Gray entered the meeting – 7.40pm

206/22 Durham County Councillors

County Cllrs. Doug Oliver and Michael McGaun provided an update on the following areas of work:

- Consett swimming pool – re-opened
- Durham Road – ramp to replace steps into estate - work ongoing
- Ornsby Hill – resurfacing work to be undertaken in October
- Parking restrictions at schools – formal consultation ongoing
- Draft anti-social behaviour strategy – multi agency approach across the county

The County Councillors were asked about the County Council involvement in the Warm Hubs project. It is expected that an Area Action Partnership meeting tomorrow will provide further information.

Resolved - that the information be received

Cllr. Ossie Johnson entered the meeting – 7.45pm

207/22 Correspondence

(i) Durham County Council – Tax Base and Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant

Councillors were provided with information on the indicative tax base and Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant. This will provide information for budget planning and precept setting.

Resolved - that the information be received

(ii) Durham County Council – Road Traffic Order – Parking Restrictions

Councillors considered the order which would introduce additional parking restrictions around several key areas in the village. Councillors asked whether houses in the proposed areas had been informed of the consultation.

Councillors accepted the plans but acknowledged that this was a difficult situation which would require monitoring and enforcement.

A member of the public sought clarification that the parking restrictions only applied to one side of the road in front of Church View.

Resolved that:

- (i)** the proposals are accepted
- (ii)** following introduction of the parking restrictions the County Council are asked that enforcement takes place

(iii) The Clerk Magazine – September

Resolved - that the magazine be received

208/22 Gate between Ashdown Grove and the bike track (min 182/22)

A site visit has confirmed that the gate and portion of fence is on Parish Council leased land. A new gate has been installed by someone which provides access from Ashdown Grove into the recreation ground.

It was clear that the portion of fence and gate are on Parish Council leased land.

The Parish Council agreed that the gate could remain but that it needed to remain unlocked and accessible.

Resolved - that the residents of Ashdown Grove are informed of this decision

209/22 Warm Hubs (min 182/22)

At the last Parish Council meeting Councillors had received information from Churches Together regarding the Warm Hubs project and how this was progressing.

The Area Action Partnership (AAP) are holding a meeting on 12 October to further the projects across the Mid Durham AAP area. It is expected that the meeting may offer clarification and provide information on funding opportunities. The meeting will include attendance by representatives from community buildings interested in being involved. It was confirmed that some Lanchester Parish

Councillors and members of Lanchester Partnership will also be attending the meeting.

There will need to be a joined up approach from the community buildings to deliver a Warm Hub project in Lanchester. A meeting in Lanchester is planned.

Resolved that:

- (i) Councillors report back to a future Parish Council meeting
- (ii) A financial contribution to be considered once further details are available

210/22 Disabled access to the village shops (min 182/22)

Councillors discussed the difficulties in crossing the roads and accessing shops in the village if you have a disability

Resolved - that the County Council are asked for advice on the matter

211/22 Jubilee Tree (min 186/22)

Councillors agreed the price for a Jubilee Tree and official plaque.

It was agreed that a funding application be submitted to the Area Action Partnership.

The location for the Jubilee Tree and the tree to be planted by Olivers was agreed.

Resolved that:

- (i) the funding application be progressed
- (ii) the Jubilee Tree and plaque be purchased
- (iii) the planting of the trees be organised

212/22 Christmas Light Switch On Event (min 187/22)

Councillors considered and agreed the arrangements for the event. The times and dates that the lights are to be lit will be agreed at a later meeting.

A discussion took place on who to ask to switch on the lights. It was agreed to ask Councillor Ossie Johnson

Resolved that:

- (i) the event be progressed
- (ii) the information be received

213/22 Lanchester Solar Planet Walk

The notes from the working group meeting on 20 September were considered

Resolved - that the notes be approved

Cllrs A Gray, B McDermid and M McGaun left the meeting – 9.00pm

Councillors considered information on a draft budget for the project. It was agreed that due to uncertainty on future prices that the contingency element of the budget be increased. It is intended to submit a project proposal form to the Area Action Partnership for consideration of funding. In addition a request to use S106 monies from the County Council will need to be progressed and a contribution from Lanchester Parish Council agreed.

Councillors considered a contribution towards the costs of the project and approved £7,000.00

Resolved that:

- (i) the draft budget for the project be agreed
- (ii) the project proposal is submitted to the Area Action Partnership
- (iii) the use of S106 monies is progressed
- (iv) the contribution from the Parish Council be approved

214/22 Lanchester in Bloom

Councillors considered the increased flower displays in the village organised by businesses in the village and the positive response of the community.

Councillors considered whether this could be built on in future years.

Resolved that:

- (i) future provision and development is considered
- (ii) funding for future provision be considered

215/22 Financial Information

The Lead Officer presented report E.

Resolved - that the report be approved

216/22 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

S Laverick	Salary (September)	£1,449.59
D Maddox	Salary (September)	£555.16
Durham County Council	Pension (September)	£437.90
HMRC	Tax & NI (July – September)	£1,119.34
Mazars	External Audit Fee	£480.00
Olivers Tree Services	Tree Work	£162.00
BT	Phone & Broadband	£186.42
S Laverick	Expenses	£252.84
Olivers Tree Services	Tree Work	£384.00
Hags	Manor Grange Play Area	£19,135.68

217/22 Position of Clerk

The process and timescale to progress the recruitment of a Clerk was discussed.

Resolved - that a working group is established to agree a recruitment pack and timescale the content to be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 8 November

218/22 Chairperson's Announcements

Councillors were reminded of the meeting organised by Northern Powergrid which will take place on Friday 14 October.

219/22 Date of next meeting

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

Meeting ended at 9.35pm