

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Lynwood House on Tuesday 12 March 2024 at 7.00pm

Present Cllr. K Harrison (Chair)

Cllr. I Tute, Cllr. V Jackson, Cllr. P Jackson, Cllr. B McDermid,
Cllr. O Johnson, Cllr. T Jones, Cllr. D Friesner, Cllr. S Walker,
Cllr. A Gray, Cllr. D Smith

3 x members of the public

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Cllr. L Montgomery - away
Cllr. E Hepplewhite - away
Cllr. J Considine - away
Cllr. D Toner- away

The above apologies were received and accepted.

31/24 **Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were received:
Councillor P Jackson – item 13 min 42/24
Councillor D Smith – item 13 min 42/24

32/24 **Public Participation**

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

33/24 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Resolved that:

- (i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th February 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted.

34/24 **Virgin Media network expansion**

The Community Lead from Virgin Media attended the meeting to inform members of the works that will be taking place in Lanchester. Once the

works are completed residents will be able to access Gigabit broadband, and other Virgin Media services.

When rolling out the network to new areas, they use a hybrid approach of utilising existing infrastructure and installing their network through civil engineering.

Although they always try to keep any disruption to a minimum, they realise that residents may raise concerns about the works in their area, so they want to make sure everyone is aware of what will be taking place. Residents should receive a letter before any works begin outside their property. They hope to only be working outside the same property for a couple of days and are hoping to complete all the work in the Village by September 2024. The Clerk will be happy to provide contact details if any residents have further questions or queries.

Resolved – that the information be received.

35/24 Lanchester Wheelchair User Group

Members from Lanchester Wheelchair User Group attended the meeting to provide Councillors with a presentation describing their objectives as a group, the accessible and inaccessible areas around Lanchester and their three wishes for Lanchester to help with accessibility. These included dropped kerbs, especially around the King's Head. The steep slopes made smaller either side of the King's Head to village green crossing point. Consideration of an allocated crossing point across the village Front Street.

Resolved – that the information be received. The Councillors advised that the group contacts Durham County Councils inclusivity/access officer and we offer our support.

36/24 Police Reports

Members were updated on the recent meeting with PCSO Connor Milner. This included discussions about:

Parking - They have recently visited Lanchester EP and All Saints school and any vehicles that were blocking pavements have been asked to move and explained the dangers of blocking pedestrian access.

Speeding – There has been an increased number of vehicles speeding in Lanchester. Speed cameras have been asked to target specific areas to try and promote sticking to the speed limit.

Dog fouling/fly tipping and littering – The neighbourhood warden has been made aware of some of the problem areas.

Resolved that:

- (i) that the information be received.

- (ii) the Clerk to organise the next meeting with PCSO
Connar Milner

37/24 Correspondence

- (i) **Clerk & Councils Direct Magazine - February Resolved** – that the magazine be received.

38/24 Durham County Councillors

County Cllr. D Oliver sent his apologies.

39/24 Tanfield Lea Banner Group

Request for the loaning of the Lanchester Banner to Tanfield Lea Banner Group.

Resolved – approval granted.

Councillor Alison Gray left the meeting.

40/24 Karbon Homes

Lanchester Parish Council received a letter from Karbon Homes recommending action to be taken to reduce the amount of combustible material in the office space by reviewing the items that are stored and where they are stored.

Resolved – The clerk to dispose of any paperwork that is no longer needed and to invest in some office cupboards.

41/24 Kitswell Park Play Area – Annual Inspection

Councillors were informed that the annual inspection for Kitswell Park Play Area had been completed. No major or high-risk problems were raised, however a number of maintenance issues need to be undertaken.

Resolved - that the report be received and identified works be addressed in a future meeting.

42/24 Grants and donations

Councillors considered the grant/donation applications received.

Resolved - that the following donations be approved:

- (i) Lanchester PCC – Church Clock - £300.00
- (ii) Lanchester Partnership - £500.00

43/24 Planning Application

Application for agricultural land improvements utilising imported soil materials at Spring Gardens Farm, Howden Bank Lanchester DM/21/02616/WAS (amended plans)

Councillors discussed the application.

The Parish Council consider that the previous objections regarding this application sent on 4 October 2021, 28 September 2022 and 10 May 2023 and 21 November 2023 remain valid.

Resolved – that a letter is sent to the County Council further objecting to this application and the letter also be sent directly to the Environment Agency.

Councillor Trevor Jones left the meeting.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s. 1(2)
It is likely that the press and public will be excluded from this item due to the confidential nature of the information.

44/24 Planning update

The Councillors were updated on a number of planning items.

Resolved – that the information be received. The Clerk and Councillor David Friesner to write a further letter to the Solar Energy SPD DCC Stage 2 Consultation reinforcing our points.

45/24 Clerk Contract

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

46/24 Financial Information

The Clerk presented the report.

Resolved - that the report be approved.

47/24 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

D Maddox	Salary (February)	£646.82
L Dodd	Salary (February)	£1481.04
DCC	Pension (February)	£451.62
Post Office	Post	£3.95
Tribune	Stationery	£218.17
Tyne & Wear Play	Kitswell Play Park Inspection	£275.00
MK Print Solutions	Printing of Feb Newsletter	£129.00
Total Results	Web Hosting	£105.00
L Dodd	Expenses	£62.16

Councillor Ian Tute left the meeting.

48/24 Chairperson's Announcements

There were no Chairpersons announcements.

49/24 Date of next meeting

Resolved - that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 9th April at 7.00pm.

Meeting ended at 9:00pm