

# Lanchester Parish Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Lynwood House on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.00pm

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

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

3xMembers of the public

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

Cllr. D Friesner – away  
Cllr. D Toner – work commitments

The above apologies were received and approved.

**84/24**      **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**85/24**      **Public Participation**

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

**86/24**      **Minutes of the last meeting**

**Resolved that:**

- (i) the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted.
- (ii) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted.

## **87/24 Police Report**

Members were updated on the recent PACT report for May.

A teenager has been arrested in connection with a number of suspected sexual offences. Police issued an appeal following reports of a man indecently exposing himself along the former railway line between Langley Park and Consett. Following the appeal, officers arrested a 14-year-old boy on suspicion of sexual assault, indecent exposure and threatening and abusive behaviour. He has since been bailed with several conditions. A Durham Constabulary spokesperson said: "I would like to thank members of the public who have assisted us with our enquires. The investigation remains ongoing and anyone who has not yet reached out to police with information is asked to contact 101 quoting incident number 133 of May 16." If you or someone you know has suffered a sexual offence, please report it to the police online or via 101. Always call 999 in an emergency.

### **Resolved that:**

- (i) That the PACT report be received.
- (ii) the Clerk to write a letter to the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner at Durham Constabulary about the incident on the Lanchester Valley walk and police presence at Parish Council meetings.

## **88/24 Correspondence**

- (i) **Letter – Michael McGaun**  
Members were informed that County Councillor Michael McGaun has resigned from the Conservative Party and will serve the remainder of his term as an independent. He will still work closely with County Councillor Doug Oliver on local matters.  
**Resolved –** that the information be received.

## **89/24 Durham County Councillors**

Apologies received from County Councillors Doug Oliver and Michael McGaun.

## **90/24 Lanchester Solar Planet Walk**

Councillors received an update on the project. The route is to be walked with the Countryside Rangers to mark the exact location of each information board for the project. This will then help the lease to be progressed.

**Resolved –** that the information be received.

**91/24 Greencroft Forest Park**

Councillors were given an update from the meeting that was held in the Village about this development.

**Resolved** – that the information be received.

**92/24 Christmas Light Switch On**

Members agreed the date and time of the light switch on event and the times the lights will be turned on and off each day.

**Resolved** – approved.

**93/24 Clean Earth Energy**

Councillors were provided information on a planning application for the Wind Farm and Hedleyhope. Clean Earth Energy will be attending a future meeting to provide more information.

**Resolved** – that the information be received.

**94/24 Flood Report**

Councillors discussed the report from Durham County Council.

**Resolved** – that a meeting to be arranged in the near future with Durham County Councillors, Durham County Council and residents.

**95/24 D-Day 80 Beacons Event**

The event had taken place on Thursday 6th June. Over a hundred people attended the event which had run very smoothly.

**Resolved** – that the information be received.

**96/24 Financial Year 2023/24 End of Year Accounts**

The Clerk presented the report.

**Resolved that:**

- (i) the Council approve the Annual Return – Annual Governance Statement
- (ii) the Council approve the Annual Return – Accounting Statement
- (iii) the Council approve the financial position for the end of year

**97/24 Financial Information**

The Clerk presented the report.

**Resolved** – that the report be approved.

**98/24 Accounts for Payment**

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

D Maddox	Salary (May)	£648.82
L Dodd	Salary (May)	£1495.98
Durham County Council	Pension (May)	£451.62

**99/24 Chairperson's Announcement**

There were no Chairpersons announcements.

**100/24 Date of next meeting**

**Resolved** – that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm

Meeting ended at 8:30pm