

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Lynwood House on Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 7.00pm

Present Cllr. K Harrison (Chair)

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

2xMembers of Clean Earth Energy

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Cllr. A Gray – work commitments
Cllr. D Toner – work commitments
Cllr. J Considine – other commitments
Cllr. L Montgomery – other commitments

The above apologies were received and approved.

101/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

102/24 Public Participation

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

103/24 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that:

- (i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th June 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted.

104/24 Clean Earth Energy

Members of Clean Earth Energy attended the meeting to provide information about a planning application that has been submitted – DM/24/01272/FPA – Land To The North Of 1 Ford Road Lanchester. They presented us with the facts and answered all Councillors questions.

Resolved – Members are to direct any further questions or queries they may have to the Clerk who will forward on to Clean Earth Energy.

105/24 Police Report

Members were updated on the recent PACT report for June.

The police were called when the SPAR in Lanchester reported a shoplift of various goods from the store. Officers attended to collect CCTV after the individuals could not be located from descriptions. The crime is still being investigated with positive identification of two males still outstanding.

A member of the public made off without payment at the Jet garage in Lanchester. In this circumstance, the incident was not malicious and the driver simply forgot to pay. This is being dealt with via a civil route.

Officers attended Lanchester Social Club after police received a call about an altercation outside the premises. When officers arrived, no suspects were identified to be in the area. After speaking to bar staff, the suspects were identified, and CCTV enquiries were made. With the help of witnesses and CCTV, the investigation is ongoing.

PCSO's 30136 Milner and 8740 Hart have been moving drivers along who are illegally parked on Kitswell Road, Front Street and The Mill. PCSO Milner is still working with the council and various other partner agencies to try and ease the issue in Lanchester. Engagement with local schools and residents has been positive.

Resolved that:

- (i) That the PACT report be received.

106/24 Correspondence

(i) Email – Virgin Media

Councillors raised some concerns with the recent works that have been carried out by Virgin Media. One being the yellow box at the end of Ford Road, this was a temporary box and has now been replaced with a taller, grey box which matches others in the Village.

Resolved – that the information be received.

107/24 Signage

The signage around the Village was discussed. Councillors would recommend, as Lanchester Village is in a conservation area, that all business owners work with the guidance and approval from Durham County Council regarding all signage.

Resolved – that the information be received

108/24 Lanchester Solar Planet Walk

Councillors received an update on the project. Meeting has been arranged with the contractor to discuss in more detail the designs of the notice boards.

Resolved – that the information be received.

109/24 Kitswell Park Play Area

Councillors were informed that the rubber matting under the swings had worn away.

Resolved – Councillors approved new matting could be obtained and installed by the handyman.

110/24 Access from Valley Grove/Woodlands to Lanchester Valley Walk

Durham County Council have approved works to improve the entrance from The Woodlands/Valley Grove to Lanchester Valley Walk. This will hopefully be carried out in the near future.

Resolved – that the information be received.

111/24 DCC Planning SPD Consultations

Councillors were updated on the responses the Parish Council have sent regarding some of the consultations. Councillors were also advised to respond individually to consultations where appropriate.

Resolved – that the information be received.

112/24 Tree Surveys

Councillors discussed if any tree works needed to be carried out in the Village.

Resolved – Members agreed to carrying out any tree works when we have a new survey completed.

113/24 Flooding improvements

Councillors had a number of suggestions to put to Durham County Council on the maintenance of the Village. The Clerk to contact Durham County Council with these suggestions.

Resolved – the Clerk to update Councillors at a future meeting with Durham County Councils reply.

114/24 Grass Cutting
Members discussed the grass cutting in the Village and confirmed that the contractor's licenses/qualifications were all up to date.
Resolved – that the information be received.

115/24 Heritage 100 Walk
Members were informed the post for Lanchesters Heritage 100 Walk project has been installed, just off Newbiggen Car Park.
Resolved – Councillors agreed that the post looks lovely and hope many residents enjoy the walk.

116/24 Fenhall Park – Overgrown shrubbery
Members were updated on the situation.
Resolved – that the information be received.

117/24 Newsletter
Councillors considered the newsletter.
Resolved - that the newsletter be approved for distribution.

118/24 Financial Information
The Clerk presented the report.
Resolved – that the report be approved.

119/24 Accounts for Payment
Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

D Maddox	Salary (June)	£648.82
L Dodd	Salary (June)	£1495.98
Durham County Council	Pension (June)	£451.62
HMRC	PAYE/NI (April – June)	£981.93
Tribune	Stationery	£244.25
AD Purves Landscaping	Grass Cutting	£2943.90
Durham County Council	Trade Waste Service	£255.84
Laura Dodd	Expenses	£63.66

120/24 Chairperson's Announcement
There were no Chairpersons announcements.

121/24 Date of next meeting
Resolved – that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 10th September at 7.00pm

Meeting ended at 8:35pm