



**THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF
THE HEALEYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 20 MAY 2021**

Standing Order suspended, all in favour to move on from the Annual Meeting of Electors Meeting which ended at 7.12pm to the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 7.15pm

Present:

Councillor A. Pearson (Chair)

Councillors J. Robson, A. Wallace, D. Dixon, A. Hird, K. Spencer

Councillor O. Johnson, J. Considine

L. Standish (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

1. Apologies for Absence
None
2. Declarations of Interest
Councillor A Wallace is a volunteer warden with The Woodland Trust
3. Public Participation
None
4. Appointment of Chairman for April 2021/2022
It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor A Pearson be hereby appointed Chair for the ensuing municipal year ending May 2022. The declaration of acceptance of office was signed.
5. Appointment of Vice-Chair
It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor J Robson be hereby appointed as Vice Chair for the ensuing municipal year ending May 2022.
6. Code of Conduct for Parish Councillor's
The code of conduct is currently in the process of being changed. It was **AGREED** to accept the current process but may need to readjust during the year.
7. Confirm Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 30 May 2019
The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 30 May 2019 were **RESOLVED** as a true record.
8. Confirm Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 29 April 2021
The minutes of the previous Ordinary Meeting held on 29 April 2021 were **RESOLVED** as a true record.
9. Chairman's Report
The well at the cemetery has been repaired. Recognition was given to Councillor's Johnson and Considine for their work and commitment over the years serving the community.
10. County Councillor's Report
Councillor Johnson advised the parish that Durham was currently a hung council and big changes are ahead for Durham County Council. Councillor Considine advised that there will be lots of funding will be available this financial year. Clerk to contact Healeyfield's new councillors Doug Oliver and Michael McGaun and invite them to our next meeting.

11. Details were requested regarding the miner sculpture at Castleside. An article was forwarded to the clerk from Councillor Pearson which was passed on.
A resident raised a complaint with regards to the state of a nearby property. The members advised that the clerk contact the resident and request they contact the neighbourhood wardens and the clerk will do the same on behalf of the parish council.
A resident requested to be kept informed on any progress regarding a previous complaint. Councillor Pearson had received a response regarding the complaint, from Durham County Council, and had objected and emphasised that the complaint was raised by Healeyfield Parish Council. A resident requested being kept informed on any progress regarding the planting of wildflowers around Castleside. The clerk is still awaiting a response from Durham County Council.
12. Finance
 - A) Accounts for payment
The VAT Reclaim has been received of £379 and the storage standing order has commenced. Expenditure over £100 was CDALC's annual subscription
 - B) Account balances summary update
Bank balance = £36,334 less uncleared payments of £1120 = £35,214
13. Clerk's Report
A-Byte would like to set up a standing order for monthly payments. it was **AGREED** to make payment 10th of every month and a standing order form was completed and given to Councillor Robson.
Martin Briscoe is dealing with the removal of the flagstones and grass seeds at Wharnley Way. The clerk was informed that the flagstones had now been removed.
The grass cutting contractors requested 2 weeks' notice for the grass cutting and strimming. It was **AGREED** that the first cut would be mid-June, clerk to contact the contractors and request confirmation upon completion. Councillor Pearson advised that the cutting will be reduced in some areas when they have been identified and confirmed.
The removal of the CCTV pole was chased but received to reply from Durham County Council. It was **AGREED** to raise the issue with the new councillors at our next meeting.
The contractor for the installation of the fossil advised it will be fitted towards the end of May but no confirmation of the exact date has been received as yet.
Durham County Council will be delivering 16 tonnes of plantings next week to the car park at Church Street. Clerk to confirm delivery and request if any can be rolled out in the car park to even it out when delivered. A further 2 contractors were suggested if this was not possible.
Clerk to chase the drone filming
14. Planning Applications
No applications within Healeyfield Parish Council. Concerns were raised regarding an application being made for an incinerator at Consett. It was **AGREED** that Councillor Pearson will contact the Planning Department and raise the concerns discussed, which will include affects to the local roads, health and atmosphere. Also, the loss of visual amenity and ask is there a need for this type of development in this particular area.
15. Insurance Renewal
The insurance renewal has increased considerably this year from £501.51 to £744.92. The budget was set at £600. The clerk to contact the insurance company and provide reasons for such an increase.
16. Co-Option
Healeyfield Parish Council are currently carrying 1 empty seat and require 7. It was **AGREED** to put an article in our next newsletter and an advert on the noticeboards. It was **AGREED** a deadline of July's meeting. Branding/Marketing to be added to the next meeting's agenda.
17. Parish Benches Review
The contractor providing the Marmax benches advised that discounts had ceased on all purchases but a 10% was negotiated. Councillor Pearson spoke to Alf Addison's' daughter and the following inscription is to be placed on the plaque.

Donated by
Healeyfield Parish Council
In memory of Alf Addison (Skip)
Honorary Freeman of Healeyfield

It was also **AGREED** to provide a plaque on one of the Healeyfield Parish benches for another Freeman Arthur Lambert, with the same inscription. Councillor Wallace to forward details of which benches have the plaques.

The cast iron benches have now been removed by the contractor.

18. Parish Paths and Woods Review
Councillor Wallace advised that a complaint had been raised to The Water Board regarding footpath 6. There may be a pipe leaking and is going to be investigated. He also stated that there is an old map prepared by Healeyfield Parish Council showing various walks. Part of the area is impassable due to brambles made the suggestion of clearing the area and re-opening the footpaths. Councillor Robson suggested publishing the walks in a new brochure.
Local walks and renewal of Information Board be added to the next agenda
19. AP Grant for Towns and Village projects application – repairs to footpaths
It was **AGREED** to carry this item on to next month's agenda to discuss with the new Durham County Councillors.
20. Litter Pick
Councillor Robson advised that some individual residents have been doing this throughout lockdown. It was **AGREED** to hold the next litter pick 17 July 10am-12noon, providing restrictions have been lifted for organised events as per the Government guidelines after 21 June. Councillor Robson to complete a robust Risk Assessment and check availability for the village hall or school hall.
21. Thanks Giving Day
It was **AGREED** to carry this item on to next month's agenda.
22. Recording of Meetings
Councillor Pearson advised that there is a need for a policy for the use of recording devices. The clerk is to contact CDALC and request guidance on such a policy as this could have some impact on any FOI requests.
20. Date of Next Ordinary Meeting
Thursday 24 June 2021 at 7pm
Councillor Dixon requested Flower Tubs adding to the next agenda

Conclusion of meeting at 20:55

Signed Cllr A Pearson Chair of the Council