



**THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF
THE HEALEYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ONLINE THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2021**

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
Councillor D Dixon due to personal circumstances. **ABSENCE APPROVED**
2. Declarations of Interest
Councillor A Wallace is a volunteer warden with The Woodland Trust which, item 12.
Councillor A Hird is a committee member for the Community Centre, item 16.
3. Public Participation
None
4. Confirm Minutes Ordinary Meeting held on 25 February 2021
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 25 February 2021 were accepted as a true and correct record.
5. Chairman's Report
Councillor A Pearson is in the process of completing the report for The National Heritage Fund, with Councillors K Spencer and J Robson. We are now in Purdah, councillors to familiarise on expectations during the election period. Refer to the CDALC email. Elections are coming up and councillors should have received their papers now, which can be forwarded to County Hall. The Register of Electors is available from Monday, councillors need to have submitted a request form to receive. There has been a Speight of arsonist incidents and anti-social behaviour in the community, which is on the agenda and will be discussed later. A member of the community has commented on how Impressed they were with the flower tubs.
Councillor A Wallace advised members that the Electoral Services provide a service to advise and review councillors' forms prior to submitting and will answer any questions.
6. County Councillor Report
Councillor J Considine advised that COVID numbers are coming down within Durham County Council and would like to thank everyone in the villages for doing their part. Castleside numbers have risen, which is unusual, but only has 8 cases. Dashboard has now information on vaccines carried out within the county. The Together Hub are now dealing with financial concerns. Please be aware of text scams with regards to Corona Virus offering grants for people self-isolating from the council with any links. Delete the message and do not open the link, the council would not send texts. Work has been in process regarding planning permission for the Co-Op but will be discussed later.

Councillor O Johnson advised that he attended his last full council business meeting yesterday and has to attend the AGM in May for a technical handover as he and Councillor Considine will not be standing for council next year. Councillor Johnson said it has been an honour to work with the parish and serve the citizens of Castleside and Healeyfield. The Head of Planning is retiring but no-one has been appointed as yet. The text scams also include the Inland Revenue, National Insurance and other government agencies.

Councillor A Pearson thanked Councillor's Johnson and Considine on behalf of the parish for the work and support they have provided over the years and wished them luck in their new ventures.

7. Correspondence

The insurance Company has emailed requesting if any updates are required on the current policy. Councillor A Pearson reviewed and advised there may be a potential change following discussions in item 16.

RB Tree and Landscapes emailed a quote for this year's grass cutting at the same cost as last year. Item to be added to next month's meeting.

8. Finance **AGREED**

a) Accounts for Payment

Items over £100 was a new laptop which had been previously approved. Donation cheques to the scouts and Consett Brass have expired and were not cashed.

b) Account balances summary update

The current bank balance at Lloyds is £25,558.62 less uncleared cheques of £1,150.41 giving the parish a balance of £24,408.21 as at 17th March. This will change by the end of March when the final accounts will be carried out and presented at April's meeting.

c) Final Budget

The budget was updated to show the increase to parish benches and £1000 added to village projects which were accounted for the Drone footage, which has not yet been completed.

Jonanathan Coates has agreed to carry out an audit of the annual accounts.

9. Clerk's Report

The waste bin has still not been installed, clerk to chase with Durham County Council. Quotes and concerns for the benches have been circulated, another quote has been requested but will be discussed later.

A quote has been received for the installation of the fossil **AGREED**

The CCTV works circulated for April was the incorrect location. The CCTV pole in question is at Consett Road at the intersection of Rowley Way, A692.

10. Planning Applications

Prospects Estates with regards to The Co-Op.

Clerk to submit a statement to the Planning Department:

The parish council welcomes the development and feel it will be a great improvement to its current state and an asset to the residents of the Parish. The only request is that the dry-stone wall running along the south side of the A692 on the boundary of Rowland is retained and maintains positive aesthetics and in keeping the characteristics of the village.

Councillor O Johnson advised that an application had been received the following application DM/21/00854/FPA Single storey sun lounge to front

RESOLVED No comment.

11. Parish Paths and Woods Review
Councillor Hird met with the farmer with regards to requesting repairs to an existing fence. One length of fencing rail has been knocked down, Phil Archer has some supplies and will repair with Councillor Hird. Also, 3 circular posts that have rotted, the wire is holding them together. The works is too small for a contractor and the 3 posts would cost £15. It was proposed that the works be carried out when other works to the paths is to be carried out in the area. The farmer stated that there is no problem with access for equipment and machinery and he has room to store chippings in the Dene Howell area for the parish rather than store them in the car park and transport to the woods when needed. Councillor Wallace suggested that the posts be repaired when the fossil is installed, by the same contractor. Councillor Pearson also suggested another contractor that may be able to carry out the works. Councillor Hird to meet with Councillor Wallace to discuss the works required.
Councillor Hird advised that Durham County Council had been informed regarding the member of the community who had a fall at near Church Road and the depth of the drop from the Kerb needed repair (footpath 6), which has still not been carried out. Councillor Pearson advised that the Public Rights of Way never came back with a price for other works in the area, Councillor Considine to chase with Durham County Council and to chase the Grant discussed previously.
12. Castle Hills Wood
This item is linked with item 19. This needs to be included in parish paths review as some areas are excessively muddy and waterlogged. Councillor Pearson suggested that the parish work with the Woodland Trust to improve conditions and requested Councillor Wallace contact the Trust and set up a meeting to discuss and possibly offer our financial support. Councillor Wallace advised that a funding request had been submitted to Durham County council to raise the public footpath and some stones could be placed at the entrance of the wood by Woodland Trust volunteers. Councillor Wallace is meeting with the Area Manager of the Trust tomorrow and will discuss the repairs. Councillor Considine advised that there will lots of funds going in to the towns and villages next year so there will be funds available for village improvements after the elections, around May/June. AP Grant to be added to May Agenda - Footpaths.
13. Parish Benches Review
Councillor Wallace advised that the quote for the 5 bench repairs totals £3671. The contractor has concerns with the benches with concrete bases and hairline cracks that could make the bench collapse. It was suggested that instead of repairing all the benches be replaced with Marmax benches at a total cost of £1260 (discount included in pricing) and the contractor to remove the old benches and install and fix the 5 Marmax benches. The Clerk has requested a quote from the contractor for removing and fixing.
Councillor O Johnson advised that both Lanchester and Burnhope parish councils have Marmax benches in two different styles, with which both are very happy with and suggested visiting the area. Councillor Pearson suggested that the parish obtain quotes that do not include sand blasting and powder coating and repaint only and retain the benches with the metal ends and timber, as they part of the parish heritage and in keeping with the village. The benches with concrete bases should be replaced with Marmax benches.
Councillor Robson requested a catalogue for the styles of Marmax benches available.
Councillor Wallace to obtain a catalogue/photographs to circulate and contact the contractor on another quote.
Councillor Pearson proposed that the parish retain benches 11, 8a and 8 and explore the possibility of replacing benches 10 and 19 be with suitable Marmax benches. **AGREED**

14. Consett Road
Councillor Robson suggested planting wild flowers or Bee Bombs and a village project for a memorial for 2020/21 COVID. To plant wild flowers in the widest part and narrowest part to place painted stones in a forget me not pattern. Facebook have a group called Consett Rocks which has over 1000 followers.
Councillor Pearson agreed with the flowers but has concerns over the areas either end
Councillor Hird agreed with the flowers but the areas either end need more thought
Councillor Spencer thought the painted stones was a good idea and could do poppies. If we do the village in Bloom, it could also become part of that.
Councillor Pearson suggested that the parish plant wild flowers only this year, the choice of flowers needs to be taken in to consideration as the weather will have a wind and rain factor. A meeting with the current contractor for planting will be set up to discuss available options with Councillor Pearson and Councillor Robson. **AGREED**
15. Horse & Groom
Councillor Pearson will be speaking with the landlady next week with a view to making an application for an Asset of Community Value.
Concerns were shared with the council from residents that if the building becomes an asset of community value there may be more anti-social behaviour. Councillor Hird has been in touch with the Public Rights of Way Team to repair the Boom Gate lock. It was **AGREED** to proceed as previously discussed.
16. Secure Storage
Councillor Hird advised that there is capacity at Grove Methodist Church for storing equipment and filing. The church council have requested that the parish make an annual donation for usage and the parish to insure the contents stored. All areas will be secure, a lock can be placed on the cupboard for paperwork and access can be given by the church to access the equipment, which is also securely locked. It was **AGREED** to make a quarterly donation of £100. Clerk to inform the insurance company.
17. Defibrillator Councillor
Councillor Hird advised that the battery renewal is a cost to the parish when it needs replacing, along with the pads @ £36 each.
18. Remote Meetings
Remote meetings regulations will expire 6th May and in person meetings will resume at the end of May. The government might extend the provision until the end of October. Councillor Johnson advised that an Act of Parliament needs to be made to extend the regulations but the council have had no response as yet.
19. Anti-Social Behaviour
25 February 2021 at 8pm. Gorse bushes set alight in field north of Castle Hill Wood which has horses.
10 March seen at 11am. A hay bale placed to stop vehicle access into the quarry where the footpath exits onto the A68 was set on fire.
13 March at 3pm. The fire brigade attended a 100+sqm gorse fire in the western area of Castle Hill Wood, two youths were seen running east towards the Sandy Path
16 March at 6pm. The fire brigade attended a 100sqm gorse blaze on the Sandy Path near the east side of Castle Hill Wood. At the same time sections of the recently planted Four Lane Ends Wood behind the Horse and Groom were set alight but burnt out quickly.
22 March. Fire engine at Castle Hill wood
The PCSO shared the following with the council:
The PCSO advised that they are going to increase their presence in the area. It has been reported to the MP of the lack of police presence in the area, which in turn has been reported to Durham County Council.

20. Alf Addison
Councillor Hird advised that the funds were going to be donated to the village hall to install a stair lift, which they are now unable to do. It was proposed that the parish to purchase and install a bench at the back of village hall and add it to the bench project instead **AGREED**
21. NHS & Frontline Workers Day
5th July 2021, deferred to April meeting.
22. Date of the next Ordinary Meeting
Thursday 29th April 2021 at 7:00pm

Conclusion of meeting at 20:54

Signed Cllr A Pearson Chair of the Council