



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

Present:

Councillor A. Pearson (Chair)

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

Durham County Councillor M. McGaun

L. Standish (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

1. Apologies for Absence
Councillor D Oliver due to prior commitments with Durham County Council
2. Declarations of Interest
None
3. Public Participation
One member of the public attended
4. Chairman's Report
 - a. Winter planting has been completed
 - b. Remembrance poppy net was displayed and thanks to those who provided the extra poppies, thanks to those who stitched them on, thanks to those who erected the net. Letters of thanks to be sent by clerk. The parade took place Sunday 14th November, thanks to the clerk for arranging the traffic management and TTRO. Over 100 residents attended, not as many as previous years but a good turnout.
 - c. Christmas light 'Switch On' was this evening prior to our meeting. Thanks, were given to Councillor Hird for his assistance with installing and fixing. The top strand of lights will need repairing. There was a very good turnout, the school choir attended along with Consett Brass. Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the school choir
5. Confirmed Minutes Ordinary Meeting held on 28 October 2021 **AGREED**

6. County Councillor Report

- a. Councillor McGaun expressed how he much appreciated that he attended the Remembrance Service, he was impressed with the event and how many young people attended
- b. Councillors attended the collapsed wall 14/11/21 and 24/11/21 to access and speak to the owners and emailed. Awaiting a response to arrange another visit
- c. Consett swimming pool will be opening late spring next year
- d. Moorland Crescent waste has now been cleared and awaiting an update
- e. A68 road safety, councillors have had meetings with residents and requested a detail survey, awaiting updates
- f. Severe weather reports for strong winds this weekend, amber weather warning. Gritters have been out and departments at Durham County Council are on standby
- g. A police report for Castleside was provided and statistics have halved since last year and are lower than other local areas
- h. Councillor McGaun provided a Cabinet update on behalf of Durham County Council, there has been a death of a councillor, Lumiere and their 2025 bid for City of culture, young people, rural issues, the winter programme, Christmas decorations, vaccinations and other latest news. Updates can be found on Durham County Councils latest news website.
- i. Councillor Pearson raised awareness of a possible rough sleeper in the area and enquired about procedures for support. Councillor McGaun advised that he will investigate as local wardens are usually involved in these situations.
- j. Councillor Pearson also enquired about Childrens Services and attendance, regarding educating children at home and the impact of Local Authority resources. Councillor McGaun will contact Durham County Council for further information, as more pupils are being educated at home post pandemic.

7. Correspondence

- a. A resident emailed 19/11/21 regarding parish benches and grass verges. Clerk to contact Durham County Council (John Snailham) to cut verge from Beeches Lane to Brookside Cottage and contact the resident to advise that this is being arranged and that the benches stated are in phase two of our benches project.
- b. A resident emailed 16/11/21 regarding the dog fouling in Castleside. Clerk to contact John Snailham Clean & Green Team and request further signage and contact the resident to advise to contact the Neighbourhood Wardens
- c. A resident emailed 16/11/21 regarding an incident 12/11/21 in the parish woods involving a dog attack. The clerk advised that this involved a contractor who had been requested to provide a quote for repairs to the parish woods and had emailed the resident prior to the meeting to confirm. Member's discussed and **AGREED** that the incident had been dealt with as the contractor had contacted the resident, apologised and paid for the vet expenses. Clerk to respond to resident
- d. Email received from Councillor McGaun regarding street and car park lighting. Power to the car park lights comes direct from the street lights. It was requested that someone from the local authority visit the site and meet with a member of the council to investigate.
- e. Councillor Robson advised that 2 emails have recently been received regarding the defibrillator stating that it had been activated.
- f. Letter received dated 21 November from Castleside History Society. The letter was circulated, members discussed and **AGREED**:

- i. Relocating - The parish council appreciate the request for their opinion and have no objection to the relocation, they wish the Society every success in their new venue
- ii. Aerial Photograph – The parish council have no objection to the large aerial print being displayed in Castleside’s Workmans Club but require a formal letter of agreement
- iii. Storage - The parish council will arrange storage of the other custodian photographs, dialogue to be opened with the village hall committee regarding storage

Clerk to respond to the letter, the aerial photograph being displayed remains the property of Healeyfield Parish Council, a formal letter of agreement will be forwarded to Castleside Workman’s Club which should be signed and returned to the Parish Council. A plaque will be purchased and placed on the frame of the photograph. Also, further to earlier correspondence we enclose the parish council Deferred Request for Funding Policy, which was implemented at October’s meeting, should they wish to apply for further funding. Councillor Hird to speak to the village hall committee regarding storage and displaying photographs.

8. Finance

- a. **Accounts for Payment** - items over £100 GMS Bench repairs £3,698.40 and Beacon Traffic Management for Remembrance Parade £600
- b. **Account Balance Summary Update** - Bank balance £24,385 and Parish balance £23,358 after uncleared payments deducted, now using Reserves
- c. **Budget Setting 2022/2023** - It was **AGREED to** raise Precept from 22.64 to 24.90 (10%), there was no increase last year and reserves are now being used. Budgeted costs are approximately £21,000 with estimated income of £15,000 the overall cost 2022/2023 is approximately £6,000 more than the income expected, to come from Reserves. Repairs to the woods, benches and Queens Jubilee projects are in place as well as the usual maintenance and running costs.
- d. **Debit Card & Financial Regulation Policies** - The new Debit Card Policy was **AGREED**, the Financial Regulation Policy needs to be updated to reflect the changes, to add to next agenda. The debit card has now been received and activated.

9. Clerk’s Report

- a. CCTV – Durham County Council confirmed that works are scheduled 20/12/21.
- b. Letter of thanks for the poppy net was sent, three more letters requested
- c. A-Byte – clerk to telephone to chase, working towards getting this implemented
- d. Flower tubs – received approval from Durham County Council to install 3 planters under the sign as they will be set far enough away from the road. To be implemented spring 2022.
- e. Marketing – 3 quotes received for banners and feather signs with bases. It was **AGREED** to appoint Total Merchandise. Councillor Wallace to forward designs and photograph of an aerial view, no email address and only the website, name and photograph.
- f. Plannings – it was **AGREED** not to appoint a contractor for the spreading of plannings to the carpark and members volunteered to carry out the work, the quote was too high to warrant the amount of expense.
- g. Parish Woods – 2 quotes were received for the specifications forwarded for the parish wood repairs. It was **AGREED** to appoint Special Branch Tree Services, who

were on CDALC's recommended contractors list. Clerk to contact contractor, Councillor Wallace to be the point of contact

10. Planning Applications

DM/21/03909/FPA Davison Square. Castleside, provision for new drive directly off A68

It was **AGREED** clerk to issue a letter of support for application as it would remove parked cars from the footpath therefore creating a safer environment for pedestrians.

11. Outstanding Item

Discussed earlier

12. Parish Paths and Woods Review

Councillor Hird advised he inspected the styles a couple of weeks ago and they are fine and a dog sign needs replacing.

13. Parish Benches Review

Deferred to next year, Councillor Wallace to produce specifications on next phase.

14. Queens Jubilee Review

- a. Councillor Robson advised that £100 was previously spent on bunting and flags, clerk to forward a letter to request the items be returned to the parish council. Councillor Robson to forward contact details and list of items.
- b. Councillor Pearson to obtain further quotes for fireworks and a band for Music Through the Years, Saturday 4th June 2022
- c. Register the Event - Lighting of the Beacon 2 June 2022 to light before 9.15pm

15. AAP Grant Application

Discussed earlier

16. Photographs

Discussed earlier

17. Date of the next Ordinary Meeting

27 January 2022 at 7pm

18. Confidential Items

None

Conclusion of meeting at 21:05

Signed Cllr A Pearson Chair of the Council