



**THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF
THE HEALEYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ONLINE THURSDAY 29 APRIL 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
None
2. Declarations of Interest
Councillor A Wallace is a volunteer warden with The Woodland Trust which, item 12.
Councillor D Dixon declared an interest under correspondence.
3. Public Participation
None
4. Confirm Minutes Ordinary Meeting held on 25 March 2021
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 25 March 2021 were accepted as a true and correct record.
5. Chairman's Report
Councillor Pearson gave thanks to Councillor Hird for arranging storage facilities for the parish council. Councillor Robson requested the removal of the poppy net from the scout hut to be now stored at The Grove, Councillor Dixon will arrange transport and move next week. Councillor Pearson had a phone call from the Bereavement Services informing the parish that the well will be repaired at a cost to the local authority.
Councillor Pearson advised that there will not be an election this year, we have been allocated as an uncontested election. The Chair also gave final thanks to councillor's Johnson and Considine at their last meeting with Healeyfield Parish Council for their service and invited both to our next meeting in May.
Councillor Pearson has received a letter from a resident congratulating the parish council on the winter bedding this year and how good it looked.
6. County Councillor Report
Councillor Johnson advised that we are currently in purdah, no county meetings have been held; it has been a quiet period although all services continue. The AGM is the next council meeting 26th May where Councillor Johnson will complete his final handover.
Councillor Dixon gave his personal thanks to Councillor Johnson and on behalf of the village hall for his service.
7. Correspondence
All correspondence has been circulated to members prior to the meeting.
(i) 30.03.21 Castleside village hall would like to place an article in our next newsletter regarding re-Opening.
(ii) 30.03.21 A member of the community emailed regarding the well. Councillor Pearson advised To respond and advise that work is due to commence in the next few weeks and will be carried out by a sub-contractor of Durham County Council. All water will be diverted back in to the well and no longer on to the road.

(iii) 13.04.21 A member of the community emailed regarding the planting of wild flowers in Castleside. The parish council gave this some consideration and in the most part wish to maintain their cutting regime but are exploring areas that would lend itself to sowing wild flowers following seeking advice from the management.

Councillor Johnson advised the clerk to contact the council with regards to the regime and maintenance of planting wild flowers. Clerk to contact Clean & Green at Durham Council.

(iv) 16.04.21 A member of the community emailed regarding Gill Wood. Councillor Pearson advised that he had contacted the Planning Department at Durham County Council for advice. Councillor Hird proposed that the resident be advised the parish council will contact the planning department and request a site visit following their complaint. Councillor Spencer second, Councillor Dixon abstained due a declaration of interest, Councillor Pearson also abstained from the voting.

AGREED

8. Finance **AGREED**

a) Accounts for Payment

Expenditure over £100 winter newsletter £255, total payments = £685.43

b) Account balances summary update

Precept of £11846 was received 7th April, current bank balance is £36,344.40 less uncleared payments of £691.06 = £35,653.34. The Donations budget was increased by £400 to allow for The Grove storage.

c) AGAR

All accounts have been audited by Mr J Coates. Donations to the scout group and Consett Brass expired and were entered back in to the accounts, along with a cheque to A-Byte. A total bank balance carried forward from 2020/21 was £24492.77. There was a surplus of £3,258 which was due to COVID and work not being completed for the bench repairs, Remembrance Sunday and drone footage.

Councillor Robson suggested setting up a standing order to pay A-Byte rather than a monthly cheque, as the amount is £4.56. Clerk to check with A-Byte.

Councillor Pearson read the statement to members. AGAR **AGREED**.

9. Clerk's Report

Chased drone footage and they are commencing filming shortly.

The waste bin has now been installed.

The insurance company has been contacted and details updated regarding storage.

The contractor has been contacted to go ahead with the installation of the fossil plaque

A standing order has been set up for the payments for the storage, 1st payment due 1st May

CCTV electric pole, the person dealing with it at County Hall is on holiday but still chasing with National Grid to disconnect. Councillor Considine is going to chase.

Co-option is to be added to our next agenda, we are carrying 1 seat. We can advertise in our next newsletter, noticeboards and website. Interviews will be carried out when we have at least 2 applicants.

10. Planning Applications

DM/21/01131/FPA 2 Sycamore Court, Rowley. Extension to an existing garage.

No comment from members.

11. Parish Paths and Woods Review

Councillor Wallace advised that anti-social behaviour has dropped off this month. The Woodland Trust have had contractors in to clear the burnt areas and create a few fire breaks. There was a meeting yesterday with the Finance Manager of the Trust and they visited Castleside Wood.

Footpaths were discussed and the Finance Manager is looking for support from other areas and making an application for funding from the Lottery. No financial support was requested from Healeyfield Parish Council. The Sandy Path footpath will be presented to the new councillor for funding to raise the path due to flooding.

Councillor Hird advised that nothing has been done regarding the drop from the footpath where a member of the community fell. Councillors Hird and Wallace have installed 8 signs informing people coming out of the parish woods to keep to the public footpaths and to put dogs on leads. Repairs have also been carried out to the styles where dogs were getting through. The 4 damaged posts were also investigated, which will be added on to

future works with a contractor. Councillor Hird advised that a new bridge would be beneficial near the second stile as it is prone to flooding.

The total costs for the signs were approximately £40 plus a lock & hasp was purchased for the storage. Councillor Pearson authorised the payment. Councillor Wallace queried the boundaries of the parish woods with regards to the damaged posts. Councillor Pearson confirmed that the posts are within our boundaries and our liability. The Deed of Dedication, for the parish wood, registers against 10 Front Street, Councillor Pearson will speak with the Solicitors and confirm details. They may need to revise the address for the land, with regards to any future queries with the land registry. Councillor Wallace advised that there are a large number of leaning and dead trees but they can't be cut until September, can we start looking for contractors. **AGREED**

Councillor Considine forwarded details from the Public Rights of Way Team regarding work they intend to carry out. Footpath 6 is pencilled in for next month through the LTP Programme, footpath 1 and a footbridge will be looked at over the summer due to access and there is funding in the LTP Programme.

12. Grass Cutting

It was **AGREED** to go ahead with RB & Tree Landscape's quote, which was the same price as last year for 2 cuts July/October. Clerk to advise RB that we will give at least 2 weeks' notice in June and August, but depends on the weather. Councillor Wallace suggested adding the strimming on to this contractor as the previous contractor did not complete the works satisfactorily. Clerk to contact RB to carry out the works.

13. Parish Benches Review

Councillor Wallace advised an extra bench was added to the order for the Alf Addison donation to the village hall, with a small plaque. GMS provided another quote or works and the additional marmax benches totals approximately £3700, it was **AGREED** for the parish council to donate an extra £100 towards to the bench for the village hall. It was also **AGREED** that the cast iron benches have hammarite rather than the sand blast and powder coat as the hammarite would be easier to maintain and cheaper in the long term.

14. NHS & Frontline Workers Day

It was **AGREED** to carry forward this item to next month's meeting due to current restrictions.

15. Newsletter

It was **AGREED** to produce a summer edition and provide a slot for the village hall. To be distributed end of June and deadline for information 1st June. Councillor Robson suggested an insert for VE Day and a commemoration for Prince Philip.

16. Old Planters

Councillor Hird advised that there are 17 old planters available but they would need to be inspected before use elsewhere. Councillor Wallace advised The Seed Bank help plant trees and they need planters, he will pass photos on to see if they would like some for local schools. Councillor Hird advised that the village hall or local pubs and churches may want them. Councillor Dixon will inspect and assess them first. Councillor Hird advised that they are the parish councils' responsibility to either dispose of or pass on.

17. Remote Meetings

There are no more remote meetings and our next meeting will be held at the village hall. Meetings will be held in the main hall. The hall will need to be cleaned before and after use, Councillor Pearson will circulate the risk assessment. Face masks should be worn unless you are speaking, this may change nearer the time. Councillor Pearson advised that Zoom have taken a payment for the year, this will be cancelled with 1 months' notice. Clerk requested the continuation of recording meetings for accurate minute taking. It was **AGREED** and be deleted after the minutes have been approved.

18. Planting at Castleside Sign

Councillor Robson advised that the Castleside sign, at Vicarage Bank, used have a planter but it is dropping to bits. It was proposed that the planter be repaired or removed and plant in to the ground. It was **AGREED** to tie in the planting with the summer and winter planting regime. It was also **AGREED** to remove the plaques from the old planters and place them on the new planters.

19. Removal of flag stones
Councillor Robson advised that there are 6 flag stones that are cracked/broken at the top of Wharnely Way at the junction with Consett Road (next to the CCTV pole that needs removing), which previously had a seat on it. Can they be taken up and some grass seed put down. Councillor Pearson advised that it is Durham County Councils land and they need to be contacted to make good of the area. Clerk to contact Highways to remove the flag stones.

20. Date of Next Annual Meeting, Parish Meeting of Electors & Ordinary Meeting
Thursday 20th May 2021 at 7pm

Conclusion of meeting at 20:46

Signed Cllr A Pearson Chair of the Council