

GOSFORTH . PARISH . COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Gosforth Parish Council held in the Supper Room of the Village Hall on Wednesday, 8th February 2017 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr T Norman (Chair); Cllr C Walton (Vice Chair); Cllr D Ancell; Cllr G Hutson; Cllr I Rae

Apologies: Cllr D Gray; Cllr D Hobson; Cllr A Jacob; Cllr G Parker; Cllr M McKinley; Cllr P Turner

12/17 Declarations of Interest

None received.

13/17 Agenda Management

The Chair requested that the minutes be approved following the briefing by CNC police and welcomed PS Neil Horricks and PC Daniel Pape to the meeting. He reminded Councillors that owing to elections, the Parish Council would need to ensure that there could be no accusation of political bias.

14/17 Project Servator

Project Servator was originally a City of London police initiative to encourage vigilance by the public during the Olympic Games. It has now been rolled out by CNC police to the local area in a bid to encourage local people to report anything they see which might be suspicious and to look at ways of deterring any threats, for example by signposting the potential for armed patrols.

The Parish Council were generally supportive of the initiative and received apologies from the police that there had been no prior consultation to the launch of the initiative. They also noted the alarm which might be caused to tourists by the sight of armed police in the village.

It was felt that while patrols were always armed, there was no need to use heavy weaponry on day-to-day foot patrol in the villages, although a side arm was always carried.

It was suggested that CNC police look at an advertisement in Tethera as a means of getting their message across to the public.

The Chairman thanked CNC police for their contribution to the meeting before their departure.

15/17

Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 11 January 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Cllr Ancell confirmed that the shop had received an offer of a defibrillator through a funding scheme. It was therefore agreed to discuss any future use of the telephone kiosk at the next meeting.

16/17

Planning Matters

Bradbury House – it was believed that there had been no withdrawal of the application and, therefore, the Council's previously agreed position would continue to stand.

However, it was believed that a compromise had been reached with the nursery and the school over their safeguarding concerns and the issue now was to resolve any sewage problems. A visit by Cumbria County Council had resolved any parking restriction issues.

Sellafield - Four planning applications had been received with respect to storage of nuclear fuel on Sellafield site. The responses put a time limit on the length of any permission and also noted the change of emphasis to storage and the associated community benefit which should sit alongside that.

Resolved – to approve the planning responses for storage of nuclear fuel at Sellafield as above.

It was noted that planning approval for modifications at Lynsey House had been granted.

17/17

Dog Fouling

A member of the public attended the meeting to draw attention to some disquiet in the village about persistent dog fouling. The clerk had been in touch with the dog warden and signs had been painted on the pavements and the dog warden had advised that he would need evidence to be able to tackle persistent offenders. It was felt by the member of the public that this was an inadequate response.

The Parish Council agreed to request some additional dog bins and more signage.

18/17 **Public Participation**

A member of the public drew the Parish Council's attention to what he felt were some dead and dangerous branches on a spruce tree in the field adjacent to Ellerslie House. The Parish Clerk was asked to draw the concerns to the attention of the landowner.

19/17 **Meetings**

A Sellafield liaison meeting was attended by Cllr Norman. In addition to the emergency exercise explanation which the Parish Council had already received, there was discussion about the services and off-site working to the south (as well as to the north) and plans to consider alternative transport arrangements.

A 3-tier meeting had also been attended by Cllr Norman. Cumbria County Council had completed their budget consultation and the budget would be set in the next few days. Copeland Borough Council had realigned their debt and felt they were getting on top of it, but were expecting further cuts to their budget from Government. The message of employment and skills and a good commercial culture, it was felt, would help regeneration of the towns and increase income. In addition, there had been a talk from NuGen re their consultation. There had been nearly 1300 submissions, a 60% increase over the previous consultation, with a variety of topics. Cllr Norman had been invited to attend NuGen liaison meetings as part of Ponsonby Parish Council and would equally look after the interests of Gosforth Parish Council.

Cllr Hutson had attended a Sellafield Stakeholder meeting, where there had been discussion of re-skilling and relocation of staff given the anticipated end of reprocessing. In light of the continued uncertainty of the opening of Caldergate (circulating in the community), there had been assertion that there were no plans currently to close the gate.

20/17 **Gravel Pit**

It had been previously agreed that the existing lease be extended indefinitely, but with a six-month notice period either side and a clause permitting sub-contracting, but if this were to be the case, that the Parish Council had the right to increase the rent. The deed of variation had been circulated for signature.

Resolved –that the deed of variation be signed.

21/17

Gosforth Playing Field

Electricity North West had approached the Parish Council to site a sub-station on the playing field to build greater resilience to the supply in Gosforth. The rental would be £135 per annum with a review every 6 years in line with RPI. The Chair and the Clerk were continuing to negotiate the route of the cables.

Resolved – that authority be delegated to the Chairman to finalise the details and enter to a wayleave agreement on behalf of the Council.

22/17

Financial Matters

The Clerk tabled a reconciliation in respect of monies owing to the Public Hall Management committee for the library costs. The total amount spent on the Library for 2016-17 would be £1,064 of which £875 was owing to the Public Hall. However, the Parish Council had paid electricity over and above the £1,000 grant limit of £270.31 for electricity. The net amount therefore owing was £605.

Moving to the relatively urgent need to replace the fire doors of the public hall, £500 had been awarded towards the cost by the Mid-Copeland fund. The best quote in terms of price and quality had come in at £2,555 inclusive of VAT. VAT could be reclaimed by the Parish Council. Were the Public Hall willing for the Parish Council to retain the £605 above, this would leave a shortfall of £939.

Resolved –

- 1) that as trustees of the Public Hall, the Parish Council pay the shortfall of £939 for the Public Hall fire doors (while continuing in the interim to pursue funding opportunities that might be available).

The budget for 2017-18 was tabled. This included a continuation of the library service. There had been a slight change since the finance committee (who had continued to be consulted) as a result of increased costs of legal fees in respect of the car park takeover. The total precept for 2017-18 was £24,296, which would give a £1.50 increase on a Band D property (per annum).

The Bank reconciliation to 31 January 2017 and anticipated payments were tabled.

The contract was due for renewal for the cleaning of the toilets.

Resolved –

- 2) that the Parish Precept for 2017-18 be approved at £24,296.
- 3) that the Bank reconciliation and payments be approved.
- 4) That the toilet contract be renewed on the same terms and conditions.

The Clerk had been discussing with the Finance Committee whether to retender the grass-cutting service and it was felt this exercise should take place in the not too distant future. However, it had since been noted that additional work was included in the current contract (such as grass edging) and it was agreed to wait for the revised costs for 2017-18 before taking a final decision as to the timing.

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 4th January 2017 were received for information.

23/17

Registers

The Clerk tabled the risk register and the asset register. The Council noted that the volunteer library service should be added to the risk register. With respect to the asset register, it was noted that rusting filing cabinets had been deleted and that the public hall and the playing field, given that these were public assets, had been added to the register as community assets at a value of £1.

Resolved – that subject to the above comments, that the risk and asset registers be approved.

24/17

Correspondence

The police report was received and noted, as was the pre-election guidance which had been referred to earlier.

25/17

Items in Camera

None received.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm