

GOSFORTH . PARISH . COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Gosforth Parish Council held on Wednesday, 12th July 2017 at 7.30 pm in the supper room of the Public Hall.

Present: Cllr T Norman (Chair); Cllr C Walton (Vice Chair); Cllr D Ancell; Cllr D Gray; Cllr A Jacob; Cllr M McKinley; Cllr I Rae; Cllr S Symons (from Minute No 69/17)

Apologies: Cllr G Hutson; Cllr D Hobson; Cllr P Turner

67/17 Declarations of Interest

None received.

68/17 Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

69/17 Councillor Co-option

Resolved – that Sam Symons be appointed as a Co-opted Councillor (Proposed: M McKinley; Seconded: D Ancell)

Cllr Symons filled in her declaration of acceptance of office, witnessed by the Clerk.

70/17 Planning Matters

The appeal for adjacent Hillcrest was noted. Councillors felt that there were no changes to the views that they put forward previously.

There were no issues arising from the application to fell and prune the trees at Gosforth Hall Hotel.

It was noted that the Red Admiral had withdrawn its planning application.

71/17

Gosforth Playing Field

The minutes of the Playing Field Committee had been circulated. There was general agreement on the part of both the committee and the council that the cost of remedial maintenance to the pavilion should be deducted from monies owed to the rugby club, which had notified its intention to wind up, and that any money remaining should be held in reserve for the benefit of the 'new' rugby club if the revival proved sustainable.

In respect of playground inspections, further evidence was provided of the need for a weekly inspection and Cllr Symons volunteered to carry this out to avoid a complex rota.

It was noted that authorisation to replace the second cradle seat was being requested under financial approvals.

72/17

Public Participation

None

73/17

Meetings

The Chair and Vice Chair had met representatives of Sellafield Ltd as a result of some residual concern over the AGR extension planning application. Assurance had been received that the suitability of the buildings would be reviewed under the Office of Nuclear Regulation every 3-5 years. In respect of attendance at planning meetings, it was accepted that there *should* be attendance at planning meetings.

In respect of socio-economic benefits attached to planning applications, the Chair and Vice Chair were informed that £15m had been negotiated in respect of planning gain over a five year period, a percentage of this covering the specialist nuclear post at Copeland Borough Council and the remainder would be for the new Whitehaven School Campus.

In considering this latter piece of information, the Parish Council noted that there had not been consultation about this and more information would be sought from other stakeholder groups.

The Chair and Vice Chair had also met with the NDA and in respect of Newton Manor, their estate team had enlisted the help of a conservation architect and it was proposed to demolish the manor and create a picnic area with a mausoleum. Looking at the plans, the Council were in agreement in principle, however, they would like further discussion on parking and access, and recreational use of the tarn, and they would wish a further meeting to discuss in more detail.

74/17

Financial Matters

The Clerk noted that in response to the submission of the Accounting Statement, the only question arising was to question why payment of the clerk had been less than the previous year. This was explained again to the auditors, that it was because there had been a change in accounting procedure the previous year to include the March salary in-year (making 13 payments for one year only) and because the current clerk does not charge mileage expenses.

Resolved –

- 1) That the monthly bank reconciliation be received and noted, and financial expenditure, as detailed on the reconciliation, be approved.
- 2) That repair in hard wood of the Meadowfield bench be approved (in expectation that some funding might follow).
- 3) That it be noted that Gosforth Bakery had agreed to repair the repair of the car park bench (subject to quote)..

75/17

Correspondence

Grant request – no further correspondence had been received since the last meeting from St Mary's.

No police report had been received.

The National Grid consultation response and the Copeland Village planning survey were approved.

It was noted that a resident had raised the issue of the undergrowth of the trees in the car park and that Copeland Borough Council had agreed to remedy this the following week.

It was also felt that the shrubs at the entrance to the car park were in need of attention.

76/17

Questions from Councillors

It was asked whether there was a vision for the village as it was felt that there was a need to refresh ideas for the public realm and facilities, particularly in light of the cycleway and it was agreed that the village care committee should meet. It was also agreed that a refresh of the Parish Plan would be helpful.

It was asked whether the Clerk had progressed the registration of the Gravel Pit. The clerk informed the Council that there were four forms required, and that in light of the reduced hours over the past two months, that this had not been progressed, but would be progressed over the next few months.

It was asked what benefits would come with World Heritage Status to Parishes in the west of the Lake District National Park, and noted that funding sources were already available.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm