

GOSFORTH . PARISH . COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Gosforth Parish Council held on 13th September 2017 at 7.30pm in the Supper Room of Gosforth Public Hall.

Present: Cllrs T Norman (Chair); C Walton (Vice Chair); D Gray; Cllr G Hutson; Cllr A Jacob; Cllr M McKinley; Cllr S Symons; Cllr P Turner

Apologies: Cllr D Ancell; Cllr D Hobson; Cllr I Rae; Cllr M McKinley

Also present: B Hough; S Swift, NDA and M Darwell. J Coward Architects
J Murray, Clerk

77/17 Declarations of Interest

None received.

78/17 Newton Manor

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority had been invited to update the Parish Council about plans for Newton Manor. It was admitted by the NDA that they had not previously managed the properties to an acceptable standard, but recognising this, there was a commitment now to find the best way forward, given that a top priority had to be health and safety.

The architect, commissioned by the NDA, had extensive experience of conservation work and acknowledged that the cost of full repair would be extensive, and in the NDA's view, could not be justified from public purse. Unfortunately, sources of other funding were unlikely as this was not a listed building.

It was noted that there was still some exploratory work to be carried out, and that things may change, but that the Council would be updated.

The intention was to record the building as a full 3D image, to safeguard the historical interest and provide a local educational tool, before demolishing the building. The entrance portal would be retained and rebuilt as a feature of the site in future, housing benches and interpretation materials and a bat shed.

The aspiration was that this would be sited in such a way as to access as much of the original view as possible.

It was asked about ongoing maintenance of the site and it was felt that this required further thought in terms of the future management of the asset, but possibly some form of environmental management company.

It was asked about the position of some of the other NDA properties in the area and the Council was informed that they were all being reviewed.

79/17

Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

80/17

Planning Matters

New Steam Generation Plant – the key issues for the Parish Council were the management and monitoring of the construction traffic, and the wear and tear on an already inadequate road; the noise levels during construction and testing; and the need for adequate recompense for those Parishes which would be directly affected.

Wind Hall – demolition of barn

This was supported, but with the additional point that if any road closure was required, that there be adequate liaison to ensure that no other roads were closed at the same time.

Red Admiral

The revised application, for a toilet block and staff accommodation to service existing caravan sites, was supported.

81/17

Parish Planning

Resolved –that a parish planning sub group of Cllrs Rae; Norman; Symons and Ancell be approved (subject to their willingness to take part) and that co-opted members of Keith Rhodes for the Public Hall and Anthony Millard for the playing field, be approved.

It was noted that the process was likely to take 18-24 months for the process.

There had been a meeting with NuGen to see whether they could offer any assistance with the process, but there had been no response so far.

82/17

Gosforth Village Care and Assets

The question of unauthorised signage was raised and there was general agreement that the village care committee should consider this matter, in light of liability and other issues which could arise.

It was noted that the tourist information boards were out of date and that Cllr Gray had located the original art work for the posters. Whether this should be updated should be considered by the Committee.

Cllr Gray informed the Council that Mrs Clarke from Gosforth wished to make a donation to replace the bench at the top of the car park in memory of a late relative, with appropriate plaque. The cost of the bench would be £416.69 +VAT of £70 and removal and fixing costs (to be determined).

The Clerk noted that the bench at Meadowfield had been repaired to a high standard. There had been an offer to repair the bench at the foot of the car park and the Chairman agreed to ask for an update.

The notes from the Library meeting were circulated and noted.

The rotary locally had suggested a defibrillator for the village. It was recalled that one had been delivered to the village shop and was still to fixed. It was felt that a second defibrillator in the vicinity of the school/church would be helpful.

Resolved – that Councillor Gray be authorised to order the bench at a cost of £416.69 + VAT of £70 on the understanding that an equivalent donation was to be received for the bench and removal and fixing costs.

83/17

Meetings

Cllr Walton had attended the Copeland Borough Council meeting in respect of the review of Councillors in August. Events had overtaken the consultation, but he had felt that proposals had been thoroughly worked through. While there was political discontent, it was noted that a reduction from 51 to 32 was put forward to the Boundary Review Commission. The next stage would be to look at ward boundaries, from October to February.

It was noted that the NDA stakeholder meeting of 18/19 September was too onerous a commitment for the Parish Councillors and that regular stakeholder updates would keep the Council informed.

Cllr Turner was attending the 3-tier meeting of 14 September 2017.

There being no other attendees, it was suggested that Ian Rae might like to attend the next meeting of the A595 liaison meeting.

Cllr Hutson had attended Sellafeld Stakeholders meeting. Everything seemed to be going pretty well and to plan. A national policy statement and definition of communities could be expected before Xmas. The issue of long-term repositories may also resurface. The issue of community benefit being used to finance the new school complex in Whitehaven continued to be controversial.

Cllr Turner noted that he was attending a meeting with Bradbury House in respect of delivery of community services.

84/17

Financial Matters

Resolved –

- 1) that the bank reconciliation to 31 August 2017 be received and noted, and payment approved.
- 2) that the External Auditor's report and certificate be received and noted (there being no issues arising from the external audit of 2016-17).

Cllr Walton requested sight of July's bank statement (as a 2-monthly reconciliation to 31 August 2017 had been carried over the summer, July's bank statement had not been included in papers).

85/17

Correspondence

The Calc newsletter and police report was received and noted.

A letter had been received noting that the Frizington Recycling Centre was coming up for renewal and the Council would be fully supportive of any application to renew.

86/17

Questions from Councillors

It was asked if the issue of weeds could be raised with Copeland Borough Council.

It had been suggested that a bus shelter (to be funded by fund-raising) be put up at the end of Meadowfield. It was felt that there were a number of issues arising, such as maintenance, planning, the potential for anti-social behaviour and agreed that this is not something that the Council could support at this time.

The number of bottles left lying around after closing time at the Lion and Lamb was noted and Cllr Symons agreed to raise the issue with them.

The extent of take-aways and bottles from the Wild Olive in the play area was also a cause for concern and Cllr Symons agreed to discuss this with them.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.