

GOSFORTH . PARISH . COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Gosforth Parish Council held on Wednesday, 17 January 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Supper Room of Gosforth Public Hall.

Present: Cllr T Norman (Chair); Cllr C Walton (Vice Chair); Cllr A Jacob; Cllr G Hutson; Cllr D Gray

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

Also present: J Murray (Clerk); County Councillor P Turner

01/18 Apologies

Council was informed that Cllr Rae was currently having difficulties in attending owing to a project requiring his attendance in Manchester and were requested to grant a 6-month leave of absence.

Resolved – that Councillor Rae be granted a leave of absence from 17 January 2018 for six months.

02/18 Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

It was noted that the defibrillator was operational and requested that the arrangements for checking the defibrillator were verified.

In respect of the Viking Way, it was asked whether the County Council could do a health and safety assessment of the cycle way on completion. A few concerns had been raised in respect of the camber and proximity to the road. The flooding was attributed to a blocked gully which would be cleared as soon as a jetting team could be mobilised. The unfinished section was noted and was being progressed.

03/18 Councillor Resignation

Cllr Turner had resigned on the grounds of his county workload and was duly thanked by the Council for his input. The Clerk confirmed that due process was being carried out. If there were no calls for an election, co-option procedures would follow.

04/18 Planning

It was noted that there was a change of planning officer for the area at the Lake District National Park Authority. The Clerk was intending to organise a meeting and would let the Council know the details should they wish to attend.

The application just received for Hillside in Wellington was considered and supported. There had been no communication from neighbours.

The Rainors Farm application had been refused by the LDNPA as insufficient evidence had been submitted to support the statements included within the application.

The Bleng Farm agricultural development had been granted.

The environmental improvement works at Hawkbarrow Farm had been approved.

05/18 Sellafield Transport Movement Plan

Some disappointment was expressed that the focus of the Plan would appear to be to the north, with little consideration being given to the south of the site. This was likely to give rise to all day parking in villages, preventing residents, visitors and short-term trade from accessing services.

In particular, by delegating contractors' parking to be resolved by contractors, and making no provision for them to park and ride, it was felt that local villages became the default option. It was felt that one or more park and ride facilities would be required to the south of the site, which are equally accessible to contractors and staff.

As the transport plan is implemented, there is every likelihood that local villages would find themselves in a position of having to implement their own parking management to take account of the above issues, measures which are costly and resource intensive for small parishes. It was felt that some funding should be made available to assist with this.

It was noted that the Viking Cycle Way does not appear on appendix 2.

Finally, it was suggested that consideration be given to charging for parking for those 'driving' to site to discourage road use.

05/18 Parking

In anticipating some of the issues that might arise from the discussion above it was requested that research be carried out into parking charges for the village car park as a plan B, structured to discourage long-term parking. It was noted that any such move would need to be part of a wider parking management plan for the village to avoid displacement.

06/18 Village Care and Assets

However infrequently, the need to implement some form of 'alert' system to deal with 'slippery' conditions on the car park was noted. The question of a grit spreader would be considered alongside any such system.

The Clerk requested authorisation for some tree pruning to take place in the car park to clear the telephone wires, which was approved.

The Clerk requested to take action if the bench at the foot of the car park was not repaired by the end of February, which was agreed.

(Action since: Bench has been repaired by Gill Umsworth of Gosforth Bakery, to whom thanks have been offered).

07/18 Meetings

Cllr Gray had met with Gosforth Scouts, who are fund-raising for a picnic bench for the car park. It was suggested that the Council meet the cost of installation.

Cllr Walton had attended the Mid-Copeland meeting. The purpose of the group was to be refreshed and refined. Some concerns from some parishes on data protection were raised and this was being researched further. A dementia friendly project was being trialled in Seascale. The consultation on the boundaries for Copeland Borough Council wards was discussed, with proposals for two councillors to cover Gosforth, Seascale and Wasdale.

The next 3-tier meeting would be held on 1st March 2018, with a theme of the emergency services.

08/18 Financial Reconciliation

The financial reconciliation and payments were approved. It was noted that there was one reconciliation date which appeared to be erroneous and it was agreed that this be checked.

09/18 Risk Register Review

The risk register was received and considered.

Resolved – that the risk register 2018 be approved.

10/18 Asset Register

The Asset Register was received and considered. It was raised whether the gravel pit should be included on the asset register. The Parish Clerk strongly advised that it should not be on the asset register until the land was in the formal ownership of the Parish Council.

Resolved – that the Asset Register be approved.

11/18 Correspondence

No correspondence was tabled.

12/18 Questions from Councillors

It was asked whether the proposals for new lampposts in the square were known, noting in particular the lamppost proposed for outside Denton House. Cumbria County Councillor Paul Turner agreed to look into this.

It was asked whether the street signs at Meadowfield and Denton Park could be drawn to the attention of the responsible authorities. (Action since: Copeland Borough Council aware, but order them in batches in order to get better prices).

It was asked whether ENWL could be requested to replace the noticeboard in the village following the accident. (Action since: ENWL aware. No commitment yet to do so, but enquiries continuing).

It was requested that the bin also be replaced. (Action since: reported)

It was noted for information that while BT had a legal obligation to replace phone lines, there was no such obligation in respect of broadband and this was being pursued nationally.

13/18 Items in camera

None received.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm