

GOSFORTH . PARISH . COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Gosforth Parish Council held on Wednesday, 14th March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Supper Room of the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs T Norman (Chair); D Gray; D Hobson; G Hutson; I King;
M Fussell (from Minute no 27/18)

Apologies: Cllrs C Walton; D Ancell; A Jacob; McKinley

Leave of absence: Cllr I Rae

Also present: J Murray (Clerk)

24/18 Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 14th February 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

25/18 Declarations of Interest

None received.

26/18 Councillor Co-option

The recent advertisement had produced two candidates for co-option. Both had been considered very strong candidates with much to offer the local community and the Chair, Vice Chair and Cllr Hutson had considered the applications and met one of the candidates (the other being unavailable).

Assisting the difficult decision, one candidate anticipated some work commitments out of area which would hinder his participation in the medium term. Therefore, the recommendation was that Mark Fussell be co-opted to the council on this occasion and that the remaining candidate be encouraged to apply on a future occasion.

Resolved – that Mark Fussell be co-opted to Gosforth Parish Council

(Proposed: Cllr Hutson; Seconded Cllr Norman)

Mark Fussell was invited to join the meeting and signed the declaration of acceptance of office, witnessed by the Clerk.

27/18 Planning Matters

The Council considered proposals for the Bungalow on Whitecroft, where, following advice, it was now proposed to demolish the existing bungalow and rebuild a dormer bungalow with the aim of a well-insulated building. Neighbours had been notified and there had been no adverse comment. The Council supported the application.

The second application to be considered was for permanent planning permission for the security fence at Newton Manner. On circulating the application, there had not been unanimity of view and therefore the application had been brought to the meeting and an extension secured.

However, it was agreed at Parish Council that it was not clear why such a fence needed to be retained for the amenity project that was proposed and why a more friendly barrier could not be considered. This being the case the Parish Council agreed that their response would be that they would be happy for a further temporary application to be lodged, however, were not content with the permanent retention of a security fence unless there was some overriding explanation (which had not been forthcoming thus far).

28/18 Gosforth Village Care and Assets

Cllr Gray noted that the scouts were fundraising to make a donation to the Parish Council for a bench and the Parish Council was requested to support the positioning of the bench on the cycle way subject to approval by the County Council and to meet the cost of siting the bench. This was agreed.

Cllr Hutson raised the issue of parking which continued to prove problematic. The council was informed that Cllr Ancell was monitoring car park useage and that the park and ride at Greengarth had only just started and there was a need to see how the situation evolved. It was asked that Cllr McKinley be approached to give an overview of the administration of their parking.

The Clerk informed the Council that her advice had been sought on the accessibility of the Supper Room in the Public Hall as the stairlift was no longer operational and parts obsolete. The Clerk noted that 'reasonable adjustment' was required to meet the requirements of the Equality and Diversity Act 2010. The Parish Council, and the Lake District National Park Authority, really did need accessible accommodation. This being the case, the Parish Council was requested to meet in future in the Library on the same terms and conditions as were currently the case. Accessibility to the Supper room could form part of a funding bid for wider improvements to the Public Hall.

Resolved – that the venue for Parish Council meetings move to the Library.

29/18 Public Participation

A member of the public present raised the issue of the trees at Ellerslie House. He was advised that the landowner had been approached and had arranged for inspection and had been informed that there was no danger from the remaining trees.

30/18 Meetings

Cllr Norman had attended the Parish Council Forum. In addition to the transport plan, Sellafeld Ltd had explained that a planning application was anticipated for a retreatment plant. This was significant build and very important for the future of Sellafeld. They were forewarning of the scale of the building. They had also circulated on a confidential basis a list of the planning application for the next 10 years, which anticipated significant construction.

It could be anticipated that with the build programme at Sellafeld, coupled with nuclear new build, that the influx of contractors might be significant over the next 10-15 years.

The CRUG AGM was noted and Cllr Gray would try to attend.

31/18 Financial and Administrative Matters

The Clerk drew attention to the fact that three applications had been received so far for the clerk vacancy. It was agreed that shortlisting take place at the next meeting and that a panel be approved for subsequent interview. A list of questions would be drawn up in advance of interview.

The Clerk requested the appointment of Kathryn Lee as internal auditor for 2017/18 accounting statements, the cost of which was a £60 honorarium. Kathryn was AAT qualified.

The Bank reconciliation for February 2018 and payment were received and signed by the Chair.

The Clerk noted that insurance was being looked at again, but that the existing suppliers had confirmed that they were willing to continue on the same terms and conditions as previously. Other quotes were looking at reasonable reductions.

The Clerk noted that the renewal terms and conditions for EON were not favourable and that she had compared with other suppliers. The most favourable was Scottish Power and a comparison of figures for both the Public Conveniences and the Public Hall was presented. It was anticipated that over three years, there would be a saving of around £550 on the quote from Eon for the Public Hall and that the public conveniences would stay as per current costs.

Resolved –

- 1) That Cllrs Norman; Walton and King form the interview panel.
- 2) That the Bank Reconciliation and payments be approved
- 3) That the switch of electricity supply for the Public Hall and the Public Conveniences to Scottish Power be approved.

32/18 Data Protection Audit

The clerk clarified the significant confusion over GDPR. However, it did look likely that the Council would need to register. The data protection audit which had taken place demonstrated that there were no significant issues anticipated for compliance.

33/18 Correspondence

The Calc circular had been circulated. Response to the MRN consultation had been circulated and the Clerk was requested to respond in similar vein for Gosforth PC in respect primarily of the A595 south.

34/18 Questions from Councillors

Cllr Gray asked that thanks be recorded to all those who had helped distribute Tethera and asked that a Parish Council report be considered for the next edition of Tethera.

Cllr King asked that if there was need for additional input into the nuclear group in respect of geological disposal that he be approached as he knew of someone in the village with PhD in Geology he felt would be suitable.

Cllr Hobson asked about the number of potholes in the village. These had been reported and it was noted that recent local media coverage had seen CCC apologise for the state of the roads and outlined the significant overspend currently on the roads budget.

Cllr Hutson reminded the Committee of the missing signs and bins following the collision at Xmas. The Clerk advised that ENWL had been in touch and were looking to replace the Board and that the other two missing items had been reported.

Cllr Fussell asked whether it would be appropriate to raise the contractor parking issue with those managing contractors, and this was welcomed.

The meeting closed at 2110h