

GOSFORTH . PARISH . COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of Gosforth Parish Council held on Wednesday, 18th April 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Library.

Present: Cllrs T Norman (Chair); C Walton (Vice Chair); D Ancell; M Fussell; D Gray; I King

Apologies: Cllrs D Hobson; G Hutson; A Jacob; M McKinley

Leave of absence: Cllr I Rae

35/18 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Norman – in Little Fold planning application
Cllr Gray – in a complaint re 5 Denton Park

36/18 Minutes

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

37/18 Consultation – Local Boundary Commission

The Council was content with the proposals for future District Council wards, but agreed to put forward the suggestion that Gosforth and Seascale wards combine with two councillors, thereby offering greater resiliency to the residents of each.

38/18 Planning Matters

The Council considered the following planning applications:

Laneside – the Council had no objections
Sellafield control cabin – the Council had no objections

(Cllr Norman withdrew from decision-making)

Little Fold – the Council had no objections

The approval of the planning application for Hill View, Wellington was noted.

39/18 Gosforth Village Care and Assets

Cllr Ancell had been monitoring car park usage. There were 45 places on the car park, 5 restricted waiting for the bins and 4 disabled. 10-14 spaces on the car park were regularly used for residents. In addition to this, some spaces were regularly used by local workers during the day and by contractors staying in the village.

One contractor in particular was seen using the car park as a Park and Ride, but other than that, there did not seem to be a huge number of park and ride spaces being used.

Under the terms of the agreement, no buses or commercial vehicles were supposed to use the car park.

It was noted that the British Parking Association could offer advice and this may be sought. It was agreed that monitoring would continue as the changes to parking on site had only just been introduced with the park and ride at Greengarth. The issue was wider than Gosforth, other villages being also affected.

The ownership and responsibility of the defibrillator was raised. It was clarified that Cllr Ancell had taken up the offer and responsibility of the defibrillator, but that a request to the Council had been received about longer-term maintenance. This was still pending, as the Council had resolved in January that Cllr Ancell should enquire as to why there was no lock on the defibrillator before taking a decision (there having been some vandalism). Cllr Ancell would follow this up. It was requested that a first responder be approached about their availability to assist with maintenance.

The Council was reminded that a regular contribution to Tethera would be welcome. Cllr Ancell and Cllr Fussell agreed to assist with distribution.

40/18 Public Participation

None received

41/18 Meetings

Cllr Walton had attended the mid-Copeland meeting. Of note, the planning application for the bungalows at Bradbury House was being delayed owing to the cost of works being quoted for by United Utilities. There was a proposal being explored for a 'Cumbria exchange' matching local projects with companies interested in socio economic work. A revised terms of reference for the mid-Copeland group was agreed, following agreement that membership continued to be helpful.

The Chair reported that he had attended a meeting with NuGen the previous week on behalf of Ponsonby Parish Council primarily in respect of their communication with local residents.

42/18 Financial Matters

The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation to 31 March 2018 and the approval of payments, which were agreed. It was noted that while the accounts would come to the next meeting, there had been a clean audit for 2017-18.

The Clerk put forward a proposal for a change of insurance contract beginning 1st June 2018. Research had been undertaken, involving 5 quotes in total, and the proposal being put forward to the Council, as per the proposed schedule tabled, represented a significant saving for the Council.

Resolved – that the contract with Axa Insurance be approved for a 3-year term from 1st June 2018.

43/18 Correspondence

The police report had been circulated.

Noting the consultation on encampments, it was felt that this was not currently an issue for the Council.

The consultation on the Geological Disposal Facility had been received and it was felt that the response of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group should be supported, subject to making the point that in respect of Gosforth, the geology had already been proven to be unsuitable and to re-emphasise the need for compensation to host communities and to individuals who would be disadvantaged by having a disposal facility nearby. The Clerk was requested to respond accordingly.

Cllr Gray withdrew from discussions

A complaint had been received in respect of an area of green land at the lane between Denton Park and Wasdale Road, alleged to be approximately 150 square metres, which had been fenced off by 5 Denton Park as part of their garden. Information was requested as to when and how the land had been purchased by 5 Denton Park.

It was noted that the Parish Council did not have any powers in respect of land ownership. In the ensuing discussion, the Clerk was requested to

- Forward the complaint to the Lake District National Park authority, in respect of any planning issues.

- Forward the complaint to Copeland Borough Council in respect of any land interest that they might have.
- Contact Copeland Borough Council in respect of the fly-tipping of brash which had been noted on the remaining open space.

44/18 Questions from Councillors

Cllr Ancell reported that the light on the car park was defective. The Clerk would report this.

It was requested that the Clerk approach Copeland Borough Council to have a bin placed on the cycleway.

It was noted that the police were able to provide speed guns to villagers if there were a team of 6. However, the Police were also looking to have a roving team of community speedwatch volunteers in West Cumbria.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.