

GOSFORTH . PARISH . COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Gosforth Parish Council held on Wednesday, 13th June 2018 at 7.30pm in the Library of the Public Hall

Present: Cllrs T Norman (Chair); C Walton (Vice Chair); D. Ancell; D Gray; G Hutson; M McKinley; I King; D Hobson

Apologies: Cllrs A Jacob; M Fussell

Also present: J Murray (Clerk); Jacqueline Williams (Incoming Clerk from 01/0718)

60/18 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Gray declared an interest in the retrospective planning application for land at Denton Park and would withdraw from discussions and would not participate in the vote.

61/18 Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th May 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

In respect of matters arising, Jacqueline Williams was welcomed as the new Parish Clerk.

62/18 Consultation

The Lake District National Park Local Plan Review identified two areas for potential development; 1. Land between A595 and Meadowfield, and 2. Land behind Bradbury House Nursing Home.

Councillors expressed the following general points:

- New houses keep the village viable;
- The local plan identifies areas for potential development which does not necessarily mean they will be developed;
- Any development will require detailed planning permission to be submitted;
- Some sites, previously identified, are not included in the local plan;
- Other sites can be identified and proposed, with the owners' consent.

More specifically

1. Land between A595 and Meadowfield:

Concerns were raised over ingress and egress of traffic onto the A595 and potential alternatives were discussed, including the lay-by at Petton Farm, with pedestrian only access at Petton Place (with pedestrian footpaths to link to existing footpaths);

There would be a need to keep a boundary between Meadowfield and any development and along the A595 to keep a green fringe on the village.

Development would need to be sympathetic to the site, using the contours to avoid intrusive development, which could potentially impact on the views and character of the village.

It would be helpful for any road infrastructure to link with the existing village to provide a second entrance/exit to the village.

Given the potential number of houses, there would be a need to consider the wider infrastructure such as school, nursery, car parking for the village.

There was also concern that any development should be accompanied by flood control measures for the rest of the village, given the beck that flowed through the land.

2. Land behind Bradbury House:
No concerns were raised.

3. Excluded Sites

There was agreement that the land adjacent to Hill Crest should be excluded. However, it was also felt that the field lying to the north of the playing field should continue to be an excluded site.

Resolved –

- 1) that the development sites be supported subject to the comments above.
- 2) That agreement to exclude the site of 'adjacent Hill Crest' be noted.
- 3) That the field lying above the playing field should be added to excluded sites.

It was noted that the last public consultation meeting will take place at Gosforth Primary School on 28th June, between 3.30pm and 7pm.

63/18 **Planning Matters**

Councillor D Gray withdrew from discussion and vote

Retrospective planning application in respect of land at 5 Denton Park:

The Chairman gave the opportunity to the applicant and other interested parties present to add to the letters that had already been received by Parish Councillors. The Chairman then provided a brief synopsis of the points raised, before inviting comment from Parish Councillors.

Objections were raised on the basis of Lake District National Park Authority Planning policy, on the grounds of a need to maintain open spaces in villages together with the loss of green land, and on the grounds of poor design creating an unsafe space. Councillors were unanimous in their decision to object to the application.

It was noted that the question of land ownership was not part of planning policy and was not part of the process that evening. Nevertheless, given the strength of feeling, this could be considered at a future meeting.

Resolved – that the Parish Council object on the grounds of loss of open, green, recreational space and design.

The Parish Council had received a planning application for a security fence on Sellafield for which there were no objections and a second application for the removal of a temporary condition to provide permanent office accommodation, also no objections.

64/18 **Gosforth Village Care and Assets**

Cumbria Exchange – Cllr. King recommended Councillors visit the Cumbria Exchange website which is supported by contractors. Community organisations can post requirements for services, which might be met by companies looking to improve their social responsibility locally. Councillors were requested to consider a list of possible projects to bring to the next meeting. The rear door to the toilets was identified as an urgent job and Cllr. King volunteered to put this on the website.

It was noted that there had been a failure to progress the final clause in respect of the car park documentation. The Council agreed that as the majority of legal documentation had been agreed, there was not an urgency to secure the additional clause in respect of liability on the recycling site.

Concerns were raised regarding the use of the Car Park by businesses and coaches, and it was agreed that Sellafield Ltd be contacted in respect of amended leaflets.

After the slow start to the grass cutting cycle, the Clerk had visited all the sites with Copeland Borough Council. The majority of the areas were cut 14 times a year, with some being 6 times per year. Where there were insufficient cuts, these would not be charged.

Defibrillator Update – the First Responders were not able to take up full responsibility for the defibrillator, but may consider carrying out the annual check. It was asked whether they could offer training and agreed to invite the Chairman to a future meeting. (CW and incoming Clerk)

65/18 **Public Participation**

Public participation had taken place earlier in the meeting under planning.

66/18 **Meetings**

Remembrance Sunday –

The Chair had met with Vicar regarding the 100th Anniversary of WWI in respect of a planned Remembrance Service. It was being suggested that there be a service at the War Memorial with laying of wreaths, followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. Other organisations could be involved such as the Guides, Brownies, schools.

The event will require further detailed planning including a risk assessment and possible road closures, which it was felt that the Parish Council could facilitate.

Cllr Hobson offered to re-point the War Memorial as a matter of urgency and contact a trumpet or bugle player. Councillors all expressed their support for the event.

There had been a Sellafield Parish Forum meeting, for which the minutes had been circulated and noted that there was a need to look out for a planning application to remove a temporary storage condition on Sellafield, which was to extend a nuclear storage facility.

Cllr King attended a meeting with the Chair regarding properties within the NDA estate, following which there had been a tour of CNC facility which was impressive and well worth a visit.

The Chairman had attended a dementia awareness raising event and had found it very useful and would arrange for a talk to the Council, which was welcomed.

67/18

Financial Matters

The Clerk presented the Bank Reconciliation to 31st May 2018 and payments were approved, excepting the toilet door, where it was felt that more enquiries should be made.

A change of the Clerk to Jacqueline Williams effective from the 1st July meant that there required to be a fresh Band mandate.

Resolved -

- 1) Cllrs T Norman; C Walton and D Ancell be approved to continue as signatories;
- 2) That Jacqueline Williams be added as a signatory;
- 3) That Jacqueline Williams be approved to carry out electronic banking (with the exception of any payments to herself);
- 4) That Jacqueline Williams be approved to receive a paying-in card.

68/18

Data Protection Policy

Resolved – to approve the Data Protection Policy.

69/18

Correspondence

The Clerk confirmed that Nugen had been in touch with a proposals to set up a Parish Forum and advised that the details of the new Clerk and the Chair had been passed on.

A request has been received to fly the Red Ensign on 3rd September to honour Merchant Navy Day. Cllr. D Ancell volunteered to obtain a Red Ensign. Cllr. D Gray pointed out that the rope on the flag pole needs attention – Cllr. D Ancell offered to assist.

The Council was advised of a WI event on 16th June 2018 in respect of equality.

70/18 **Councillor Administration**

The Clerk reported that she had received the resignation of Ian Rae from the Parish Council, following a leave of absence. He continued to have work commitments on a weekly basis in Manchester making it difficult to attend.

71/18 **Questions from Councillors**

It was reported that a local resident and wheel-chair user had objected to the excessive speed of farm contractors going through the village. A local police officer attending as a member of the public volunteered to raise the issue in the appropriate circles.

Local businesses were interested in using the phone box if it became redundant. It was noted that previous investigations had been in the context of a home for the defibrillator. The cost of refurbishment (repair, maintenance and potentially earthing could bring the cost to £2,000 +) and that fact that there were conditions for selling the box for £1 was highlighted.

The threat to the phone box had come about through a request for the Clerk to investigate redecoration. However, since then, nothing more had been heard from BT, so the Clerk had been content to let matters lie. It had been previously the case that when boxes were being removed, that consultation had taken place via the District Council. It was noted that the telephone kiosk in Bootle was a modern one and used a book box (while Gosforth had a volunteer library).

Cllr. King asked Councillors to consider the social impact of the Parish Council and requested that this be included as an Agenda item for the next meeting.

72/18 **In Camera Items**

There had been inappropriate use of planning letters in recent weeks and the Clerk received agreement to change the wording to limit inappropriate use.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm.