

Gosforth Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Gosforth Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th September 2021 at Gosforth Public Hall at 7pm

PRESENT

Mark Fussell - Chairman
Councillors

Rachel Unsworth (RU) – Vice Chair

Paul Turner (PT)

David Gray (DG)

Others: Jacqueline Williams (Clerk)

Graham Hutson (GH)

Tyson Norman (TN)

Mike McKinley (MK)

146/21 Apologies for Absence

Written apologies have been received from Cllr. Pennington, due to work commitments and Cllr. McKinley.

RESOLVED that apologies be accepted from Cllr. Pennington and McKinley and the reasons noted.

147/21 Declarations of Interest - None

148/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th July 2021, pages 121 to 124, be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

149/21 Public Participation - No members of the public were present.

150/21 County Councillor and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Turner reported on an issue raised regarding parking on Petton Place where someone had put out cones, although parking in this area is currently legal. Cllr. Hutson said that parking there was a hazard as cars can be backed up to the A595 and it is the main entrance to the playground and playing field. Cllr. Fussell said that the Community Led Plan questionnaires had raised various parking and speeding issues which could be listed. Cllr. Turner agreed to pass the list on to be looked at by the County Council.

Action: CLP sub-committee/PT

Cllr. Turner said that a resident had requested a memorial bench be installed along the Viking Way, close to the parish boundary. Cllr. Gray agreed to clarify the precise location. **Action: DG**

151/21 Planning Applications

Applications:

RESOLVED that the following applications are received and the Planning Authority be advised of the Council's observations as follows: **No Objections** **Action: Clerk**

7/2021/4097 Wind Hall, Wellington – erection of four cabins for short term holiday use – recommend alternative or improved access point. **Action: Clerk**

7/2021/4100 Whitecroft Villa – extension of existing property to form sun room and boot room

4/21/2347/0F1 Fleming Hall – access to Fleming Hall and Newton Manor Farm from A595T
(For Info only) 7/2021/4105 Field at High Croft near Wind Hall, Wellington – pole barn for hay and machinery

Decisions: None

Other Planning Matters:

Lion & Lamb – Wooden balustrade – An enforcement notice has been issued. Cllrs noted that alterations have been made to reduce the height of the balustrade although some concerns remain about the safety of passing pedestrians. Cllrs. raised the issue of the car park at the rear of the building which has been converted into a beer garden which may be in breach of planning regulations.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the planning authority for clarification. **Action: Clerk**

152/21 Financial Reports

RESOLVED that the Bank Reconciliation to 31st August 2021 be received and signed.

The Clerk presented the schedule of payments for approval and noted two invoices for electrical repairs to the public toilets.

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments be approved for payment.

153/21 Public Toilets & Car Park

Cllr. Fussell said that a meeting with Barbara Vernon and Shirley Proctor-Dow of Copeland BC had been held online last week. Andy Pratt and the Clerk had attended. Cllr. Fussell and the Clerk had gone over the history of the negotiations and expressed the frustration of the Parish Council regarding the suggested five-year lease. Cllr. Fussell said that if Copeland are not going to commit to carry out the works in their survey, further dilapidation could result in the Parish losing a key asset for the village at the end of the five-year term. The Parish Council could not spend parishioners' money on a building they did not own or were uncertain about what would happen after five years. Barbara Vernon said that Copeland had been unable to collect data on the use of the car park and toilets in order to justify the expenditure. Initially citing the pandemic which Cllr. Fussell refuted, but further explaining that the pandemic had changed the pattern of use and the data should represent 'normal' usage. Cllrs. Fussell and Pratt emphasised the importance of the car park and toilets for residents, businesses and tourists and said that it had been far busier than in 'normal' years. Barbara Vernon explained that Copeland were short-staffed which was another reason they had been unable to collect data. Cllr. Fussell summed up by saying that we seem to agree on the importance of protecting the car park and he offered to collect the data on behalf of the Borough Council. All agreed to meet again in four to six weeks to progress the matter further. There was a discussion regarding the methodology for the collection of data.

Cllr. Hutson recalled that the land was sold to the Borough Council many years ago and there could be conditions or a codicil on the land. Cllr. Gray suggested a Land Registry and Land Charges search.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write a short email confirming the points raised at the meeting.

Action: Clerk

RESOLVED that the Clerk make Land Registry and Charges search.

Action: Clerk

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Copeland to request a task specification for data collection.

Action: Clerk

154/21 Platinum Jubilee

Cllr. Unsworth had contacted the WI and posted on Facebook but as yet only two comments have been received and no offers to organise events. Her application for the trees has been successful

and they should arrive later in the year for planting. Cllr. Norman suggested dressing the houses for Jubilee might be something the WI could organise.

Action: RU

155/21 Tourist Information Point

Cllr. Unsworth said that she has messaged A-ha! But they seem to have a back-log of work due to the pandemic. The Clerk noted that some windowpanes were still missing from the Telephone Box. Cllr. Unsworth said that the Rotary have all the materials.

156/21 Geological Disposal Facility

Cllr. Graham attended the roadshow event at Drigg and said it had been well delivered.

157/21 Community Led Plan

Cllr. Fussell noted that a late questionnaire had been received and the responses need to be collated and a meeting arranged.

158/21 Playground

Cllr. Unsworth and a local resident had met with Playdale to discuss 'Phase 2' which was for play equipment for children over 8 years. Funding is being looked into. The Clerk said she had found some old documents relating to the cost of the play equipment and agreed to forward these to Cllr. Unsworth.

Action: Clerk/RU

159/21 War Memorial

The Clerk noted that the work identified and quoted for some time ago had not been completed. Cllr. Unsworth agreed to contact an alternative company. Cllr. Norman confirmed that Memorial needs repointing with lime mortar and that ordinary mortar can be used for repairing the surrounding flagstones.

Action: RU

160/21 Defibrillator

The Clerk is concerned that reports by a Councillor regarding the need for new pads and battery for the Defibrillator were not followed up, despite sending emails requesting confirmation that she had sourced the correct products. Cllr. Fussell agreed to discuss this with the Councillor concerned.

Action: MF

161/21 Meetings

Cllrs. Fussell, Hutson and Turner had attended a meeting of the WCSSG.

162/21 Councillor Administration

David Ancell has submitted his resignation. On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr. Fussell thanked David for his time and effort over recent years. The Clerk will report this to Electoral Services and issue a Vacancy Notice. There are now three vacancies.

Action: Clerk

163/21 Councillor Matters

Cllr. Unsworth – reported that the litter bins on the Car Park are full and overflowing.

Cllr. Fussell

- Queried whether having a Scarecrow Festival in Gosforth would be of interest. There was a mixed response.
- Reported that a request to remove two old CCTV cameras from the front of the shop had been received. The Clerk will contact an electrician for a quotation.

Action: Clerk

Cllr. Turner agreed to look into the situation regarding the house next to the shop which has had scaffolding up for an extended time.

Action: PT

Cllr. Norman agreed to respond to the complainant regarding the steps taken to address the issues raised concerning the shop.

Action: TN

164/21 Items in Camera

Items in camera are dealt with in private in accordance with The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

The Clerk read out an email containing a complaint from a local resident. Cllrs. discussed ownership of the land. Although there may have been an historic agreement with Copeland Borough Council that they would maintain it, it appears to have been maintained by the householders over recent years. It is understood that the householders are aware of the complaint and Cllrs. agreed that this was not within the jurisdiction of the Parish Council and can take no further action.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write in response to the complainant.

Action: Clerk

165/21 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 9pm.

Chairman..... **Date:**