

GOSFORTH . PARISH . COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Gosforth Parish Council held on 11th May 2015 at 8.00 pm in the Supper Room of Gosforth Public Hall.

Present: Cllr T Noman; Cllr C Walton; Cllr D Ancell; Cllr D Gray; Cllr D Hobson; Cllr A Jacob; Cllr M McKinley; Cllr I Rae; Cllr P Turner

Apologies: Cllr G Hutson; Cllr G Parker

Also present: Ms J Murray, Clerk

55/16 Election of Chairman

Cllr Hobson having proposed; Cllr Gray having seconded, it was duly

Resolved – that Cllr T Norman be appointed as Chairman for 2016-17.

56/16 Acceptance of Office

Cllr T Norman signed the declaration of acceptance of office, witnessed by the Clerk.

57/16 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Ancell having proposed; Cllr Turner having seconded, it was duly

Resolved – that Cllr C Walton be appointed as Vice Chair for 2016-17.

58/15 Appointment of Committees

Resolved – that the following Councillors be appointed to the Finance Committee and to the Village Care, Car Park and Toilets Committee.

Finance Committee	Cllrs Parker; Jacob; Ancell; Walton; Norman; Turner
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Village Care, Car Park & Toilets	Cllrs Gray; Norman; Ancell; Hobson
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59/16 Appointment to External Groups

Resolved – that the following Councillors be appointed to external groups as follows:

Mid-Copeland Group	Cllrs Gray; Walton
Nuclear Matters	Cllrs Hutson; McKinley; Walton; Norman
Sellafield Sites Liaison	Cllrs Walton; Norman
Sellafield SSG	Cllr Hutson
Cycleway Group	Cllrs Gray; Rae
3-Tier Meetings	Cllr Norman; Turner

60/16 Appointment to Roles

Resolved – that the following Councillors be appointed to the following roles:

Highways (liaison)	Cllrs Gray; Hutson; Jacob; Rae; Norman
F'paths & Common land	Cllrs Hobson; Ancell; Walton
Parish Communications (Tethera; W/On; Web)	Cllrs Gray; Norman; The Clerk

61/16 Appointments as Trustees

Resolved – that the following Councillors be appointed to the charities running the following facilities:

Gosforth Public Hall	Cllrs Hutson; Jacob
Gosforth Playing Field	Cllrs Norman; :Parker

62/16 Declarations of Interest

Resolved – None received.

63/16 Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

64/16 Actions Arising

Success Regime consultation has been circulated before being sent off.
Local Plan (LDNPA) consultation has been circulated before being sent off.
Public Toilets – quote to be sought for the door. Cllr Turner circulated the full advice from Copeland Disability Forum which could form that basis of a future funding request.

65/16 Financial Matters

Resolved – to approve the monthly bank reconciliation and to authorise anticipated expenditure.

The Clerk drew attention to the potential for greater co-operation with Gosforth Public Hall Management Committee under a Memorandum of Agreement and was authorised to develop this further.

With respect to the insurance, the Clerk had noted that it was expected by the insurance company that a 7-day check of playground equipment be carried out and sought and received volunteers to carry this out.

Resolved – that the asset register for 2015-16 be approved and that further consideration of the 2016-17 asset register be carried out by the Clerk before approval.

Moving to the Annual Return, it was

Resolved – that the Annual Governance Statement for 2015-16 be approved.

The accounting statements had been received by the Finance Committee, who had considered the documents in some detail and were happy to recommend the documents to full Council.

There had been a need to restate the accounts by £1 owing to a rounding issue in the previous years' accounts. Otherwise, all was in order.

Resolved – that the Accounting Statement for 2015-16 be approved.

There had been no issues arising from internal audit and it was noted that the Parish Council was in receipt of an intermediate questionnaire, which was also approved.

Resolved – that the intermediate questionnaire response be approved.

66/16 Library Update

A full report had been received by the Annual Parish meeting immediately preceding the Annual General meeting. The link library was due to open on 21 May 2016, 10-1200h on Saturdays, 1300-1530h on Mondays and 1500-1730h on Wednesdays, manned by volunteers.

67/16 Meetings

The Chairman had attended a meeting of Cumbria County Council with respect to a local bus service. The tenders which had been received confirmed that the cost was too great for the Councils involved.

Some funding had been allocated from the Drigg community fund and contact was being made with Muncaster microbus to use this to increase their provision. In the interim, village wheels would continue twice a week.

The Chairman and Cllr Walton had attended the Sellafield Liaison Meeting, where the pipeline replaced was discussed and no issues were anticipated. It was noted that the Sellafield traffic plan had not moved forward. There, was, however, a move by the NDA to hold people to account for their contractual site hours, which would be likely to see increased congestion. It was noted that an aeroplane survey was currently taking place.

Cllr Gray noted that the cycleway was progressing, but that acquisition of land was currently slowing the project down.

With respect to forthcoming meetings, it was noted that the Northern Trains would attend the next Copeland Rail Users Group at 1 pm on Saturday, 28th May 2016 in Seascale Methodist Church Hall. The next 3-tier meeting was likely to take place at Bootle village hall on 28th June. However, the next Calc Copeland meeting was currently scheduled for the same day, so a change might be expected.

Councillors were encouraged to consider the Nugen consultation and to respond personally, and as a Parish Council.

68/16 Planning Matters

It was noted that NDA Properties had received permission to demolish Newton Manor, but that NDA had subsequently issued a statement:

“NDA and its property company have undertaken a UK wide root and branch review of its property holdings from a Health and Safety perspective, and a number of concerns have been reported. There are properties which could be invested in or demolished, Newton Manor only being one. NDA’s Head of Property is keen to engage with Stakeholders who have views, particularly the environmental and estate management considerations, before any final decisions are made, and will be happy to discuss. In relation to the area, including Newton Manor, NDA is considering how better to manage habitats for indigenous species of flora & fauna, so a dialogue is overdue and a more proactive plan implemented.”

Having received the statement, the Parish Council was content to leave the issue meantime, but looked forward to hearing of their plans for future management in due course.

It was noted that approval notices had been received for the Sun Room at 20 Ellerslie Park; the extension at 6 Denton Park Court and the extension at 26 Denton Park, the latter subject to the submission of a method statement to be approved by the LDNPA to protect the water course from disturbance or pollution.

69/16 Public Participation

No members of the public attended.

70/16 Delegations to the Clerk

Resolved –

- 1) that the Clerk be authorised to make payments (to previously agreed limits), which have been approved as part of the budget setting process or otherwise approved at a meeting of the Council.
- 2) where the time limit does not allow for consideration at a Parish Council meeting, that the Clerk be authorised to respond to planning applications having consulted with the Membership of the Council.

71/16 Correspondence

It was reported by the Clerk an e-mail had been received which would suggest that there was some movement in respect of the National Grid proposed pylons.

A police report had been received which had mentioned an incidence of poaching and a request to continue to report any suspiciously parked cars with their registration number. The Clerk has raised parking issues at the A595 crossroads and Cllr Gray had reported this to Cumbria County Council.

72/16 Questions/Issues from Councillors

Cllr Gray reported that he would not be continuing to carry out the maintenance of the car park shrubbery and weed control much longer and the Council may wish to consider this issue moving forward.

Cllr Walton noted that there should have been an invitation issued to the Mayor to attend in June. The Clerk confirmed that an invitation had been issued and accepted. Cllr Walton suggested that there should be some consideration to the kind of questions asked.

Some of the issues raised immediately were:

- Lack of NDA investment in local community (which may arise from proposed voting system).
- Rural Tourism (gateway villages)
- Cumbria devolution deal.

73/16 Items to be held in camera

None received

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm