

# GOSFORTH . PARISH . COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Gosforth Parish Council held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 7.30pm in the Supper Room of Gosforth Public Hall

Present: Cllr T Norman (Chair); Cllr C Walton (Vice Chair); Cllr G Hutson; Cllr G Parker; Cllr M McKinley; Cllr I Rae; Cllr P Turner

Apologies: Cllr D Gray; Cllr D Ancell; Cllr D Hobson; Cllr A Jacob

Also present: J Murray (Clerk)

## **131/16**      **Apologies**

Apologies above were noted. The Clerk drew the Council's attention to an allegation that the meeting was unconstitutional, taking place as it did on the first Monday of the month.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the meetings schedule had been circulated in December 2015 and that the only date published had been the 5 December 2016. In addition, members of the public had received 4 clear working days' notice of the meeting.

The Council were content that the meeting proceed, but asked that the full diary for next year be published on the noticeboard.

## **132/16**      **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Turner: in a parking issue to be raised under correspondence and would withdraw.

## **133/16**      **Minutes**

**Resolved** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

It was noted by the clerk that Cumbria County Council has informed the Council that their budget for dropped kerbs this year was committed, but that they would take the requests into account for the next financial year.

The Clerk had been in touch with BT with respect to re-painting the phone box, but had not yet had a response.

For the record, it was noted that the recent planning application for Lynsey House had been dealt with under delegated authority following consultation with the Parish Council. The change of use had been supported as it was not in the village centre.

**134/16**

**Planning Matters**

It was noted that the formal planning application for the mast at Townend Farm had now been received by Copeland Borough Council. It was no different to that of the pre-planning phase which had been considered in depth and supported at the October meeting. This being the case, the planning letter supporting the application had been sent following discussion with the Chair.

With respect to Talloaks planning application, this was a re-submission with a slightly altered size and it was agreed that the previous comments stood, that provided the garage did not obstruct access to the property from the narrow access road, that it should be supported.

The Clerk had, on the day of the meeting, received the planning application for the extension of Bradbury House and the construction of 18 bungalows. Parish Councillors had taken a keen interest in the project, with attendance at the open days and Cllr Hutson had attended the pre-planning meeting on behalf of the Council.

The Parish Council was supportive of the project, subject to any issues raised by neighbouring properties who would be consulted with the condition that no services to the wider community would be lost directly or indirectly as a result of the development. In particular, there would be concern if dementia day care or respite care was lost to the wider community (potentially as a result of increased demand from the bungalows).

It was agreed that unless there were objections raised by neighbouring properties, in which case the Clerk would inform members of the Parish Council, that the letter should support the application subject to the reservations expressed above.

**135/16**

**National Grid Consultation**

**Resolved –**

that the consultation response be approved subject to a further point to the last paragraph 'and to avoid pylons going to close to the LDNPA boundary'.

As only a very small part of the Parish was affected by the proposals, the response focused mainly on transport and infrastructure issues and the potential for an extended impact of pylons in the LDNPA on the visitor economy of Parish.

**136/16**      **Public Participation**

A member of the public was given the opportunity to participate at a later stage of the agenda.

**137/16**      **Meetings**

Cllrs Norman and Walton had attended the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) liaison meeting. The Estates team had been present. Local representatives at the meeting had questioned the performance of the landlords. With respect to Newton Manor, It would cost £1m to sort out and it was asked whether they could at least look at capping off the façade, given the significance locally of the building. It was also requested that decisions on these buildings be taken by the NDA Board and not the Estates Board.

Some concern was expressed that the CEO of the NDA; the Director of Sellafied Sites and the Chairman of the NDA had gone/were going in a short space of time and acknowledged that there would be a need to rebuild influence.

Cllr Hutson had attended the Stakeholder Group. Reprocessing was going to continue for another two years. This was an extension of existing business, not new business. The pond would be kept going meanwhile and Thorpe would finish in 2018 and Magnox at the end of 2020.

Concern had also been expressed that the movement of people off site was going north, when 20% of the Sellafield workforce lived south of the site. It was noted that representations had been made about securing greater resilience to the road between Gosforth and Calder Bridge.

Cllrs Norman; Walton; Mr Millard, Treasurer of Gosforth Playing Field Association, had met with Electricity North West who were intending to site a sub-station on the playing field and connecting this into the electricity network in the village to achieve greater resilience of supply. Having discussed plans, a site had been located on the field.

However, the intention to go through the car park was amended to the field to the side (with Mr Millard's input) in order not to disturb the existing tarmac. It was noted that road closures would be required in order to achieve the works and this would be notified in due course.

Cllr Walton and Cllr Jacob had attended the Public Hall Annual General Meeting and further recruits had been secured. Financial position was not too bad, although there was little in the way of finances to refurbish and maintain the building, although the Chairman was looking at options for funding. The Clerk added that there was still work to be done on the detail of a solar panel funding bid and this looked like going now to summer 2017 bidding round.

**138/16**      **Financial Reports**

**Resolved**

- 1) That the bank reconciliation to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 be approved and signed.
- 2) That the payments listed be approved, including a late addition of M Gould for What's On from Sep-December 2016.

**139/16**      **Meeting Schedule 2017**

**Resolved** – that the meeting schedule for 2017 be approved. It was noted that there was no meeting scheduled for August and a decision would be taken nearer the time if there was a need.

A finance committee meeting had been arranged for 4 January 2017 at 7.30pm in the supper room of the village hall.

**140/16**      **Questions from Councillors**

None received.

**141/16**      **Correspondence**

Following the late wake up call during the recent Sellafield Sites Emergency Exercise, an offer had made by the Head of Policy, Mr Hallington, and the Head of Public Affairs, Shirley Williams to attend the 11 January meeting and the Parish Council agreed the visit.

*Cllr Turner withdrew from discussions*

The Clerk reported that there had been two complaints received, which had been reported to Cumbria County Council. This was initially over the size of a disabled parking bay, which had recently been installed at Whitecroft and its encroachment on other properties and the need to remove an existing, redundant disabled parking bay. Cumbria County Council had been to reduce the size and remove the existing parking bay. However, the issue remaining was that the property was not centred on the house, causing obstruction to neighbouring access to gates. The member of the public added that it also pushed parked vehicle further down the street causing additional congestion.

The Parish Council expressed a desire that the issue be resolved to the best of everyone's satisfaction and that Cumbria County Council be asked to include the Parish Council on its consultation list.

*Cllr Turner re-joined discussions*

The Clerk reported that the success regime had responded at length to an e-mail about a lack of attention to pre-consultation comments (as previously agreed) and asked two simple questions about transfer times to Carlisle from Gosforth and recommended guidelines. The response had not managed to include the latter issue in their reply.

A recently distributed health statistics survey was received with interest by the Parish Council.

**142/16**

**Items in Camera**

None received.

**The meeting closed at 2040h**