

GOSFORTH . PARISH . COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Gosforth Parish Council held on Tuesday, 12 April 2016 in the Supper Room of the Village Hall

Present: Cllr T Norman (Chair); Cllr C Walton (Vice Chair); Cllr G Hutson; Cllr A Jacob; Cllr P Turner

Apologies: Cllr D Ancell; Cllr D Gray; Cllr D Hobson; Cllr G Parker; Cllr M McKinley; Cllr I Rae

Also present: Ms J Murray (Clerk); two members of the Public

Other apologies: Mrs Joanne Fisher, Principal Waste Officer, Copeland Borough Council.

41/16 Chair's Opening Remarks

It was noted that this meeting had been rearranged to accommodate training, which had affected attendance.

In light of the interests of members of the public present, it was agreed to take Planning and then Library agenda items immediately following the

42/16 Declarations of Interest

None received.

43/16 Minutes

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

44/16 Recycling

The Clerk had received apologies from Joanne Fisher, Copeland Borough Council, owing to family illness. There had been an apology that residents were not kept informed and an undertaking to come to a future meeting. The haste with which changes had been made was due to the need to bring the service back in-house following a tender exercise which would otherwise have seen the cost double, and a subsequent health and safety review.

Following the concerns that were expressed, the situation had been reviewed and the proposal now being put forward was to put back the large skips for cardboard and plastics. These were lighter skips and therefore did not have the same health and safety concerns, and to leave just one small skip for cans, paper and glass.

However, this would mean that residents would really have to make use of doorstep recycling for their own cans, paper and glass. They could have as many black boxes as they wanted on request and lids could be delivered to the village for residents to collect.

Some frustration was expressed that the service had been carried out for years without any health and safety concerns, however others felt that it was a sensible compromise. It was agreed to invite Mrs Fisher to the next meeting.

45/16 Planning

Attention was drawn to the Lake District Consultation on the Local Plan. It was felt that a response be prepared (rather than attend a meeting) which raised the need to retain as many businesses locally as possible and the need to ensure that local knowledge and expertise were duly considered.

The Lake District National Park Authority had considered enforcement issues in the Parish and did not feel that any action should be taken. With respect to Newton Manor, it was felt that concerns should be raised through the planning process.

6 Denton Park Court: the Council had been copied into a letter of support from one of the immediate neighbours. The member of the public attending did not choose to add anything.

Resolved – that the application, for a 2-storey extension to the rear of 6 Denton Park Court, be supported.

A planning application for the conversion of a barn at Parknook had been received. This was for conversion to a holiday letting. The Council requested that the LDNPA be asked to consider access, this being not clear from the plans provided.

Resolved – that the application for conversion of the barn at Parknook be approved, subject to the holiday letting condition.

A further application had been received for a side extension to Gilgrass How, Wellington.

Resolved – that, subject to consultation with neighbours, the application for an extension to the side of Gilgrass How, be supported.

Notice of approval for the Sun Room at Moore Joinery, Wellington was noted.

Cllr Norman had attended the appeal of non-determination with respect to land adjacent to Walkmill Gardens. He had taken the opportunity to speak and to put forward the Council views. It was now a case of waiting for the inspector's decision.

46/16 Library Update

There had still been no response from Copeland Borough Council with respect to rates. Best case and worst case scenarios had been given with respect to costings. The Clerk clarified that she felt that somewhere in the middle would be a best guess, around £2,300.

It was noted that the Public Hall would not issue a charge for the first year. It was clarified whether a trial period would be feasible. It was felt that the minimum would be a year.

It was noted that a charity would be required to be set up to secure further funding.

It was noted that there was £1,000 in contingency and £1,000 from Cllr Clarkson's fund for the first year. This being the case, all Councillors concurred that a link library should proceed for one year.

The member of the public attending did not choose to add anything.

Resolved – that a link library be set up for one year, subject to review.

47/16 Public Toilets

Cllrs Turner and Jacob had met with Copeland Disability Forum and it had been felt that existing facilities were adequate, except that the door should be rehung to face outwards (allowing better access).

Resolved – that the pan and pipe be repaired at £180+VAT; that a quote be secured for the rehung of the door.

The Clerk requested Councillors' consideration of the electricity supply and it was agreed that it should be fixed for two years at 14.95p per kw, a reduction of 4.5p per kw. All other terms and conditions would remain the same.

48/16 Meetings

There were no new issues arising from meetings attended. Forthcoming meetings, where it was felt that location was a barrier, included LDNPA Parish Forum which had now been confirmed as Kendal and Furness Line Action Group in Carnforth. Sellafield Sites Stakeholder meeting would be attended by Cllrs Walton and Norman.

49/16 Public Participation

An opportunity had been given earlier in the meeting for the members of the public present to participate.

50/16 Monthly Finance Matters

Resolved –

that the monthly record of income and expenditure be approved and that the bank statement be recorded as having been received and noted.

The Clerk notified the Council that Gosforth Parish Council was within the 5% of Councils selected for an intermediate audit questionnaire. Arising from research for this, the Clerk had not been able to locate consideration of the risk register for 2015-16. It was felt it had been considered and the Clerk undertook to revisit the minutes. In the interim, however, a revised risk register was tabled and approved.

Resolved – that the risk register for 2016-17 be approved.

A draft asset register was issued for comment and would return for

51/16 Success Regime

It was felt that the Parish Council should issue a response to the consultation. There was without doubt a need to maintain acute services locally, both to ensure appropriate services locally to attract people coming in to the area and to ensure that family support was available to patients. It was felt that some suggestions of helicopter-type services would be vulnerable to future funding issues. The Clerk was asked to provide a response.

52/16 Correspondence

An offer had been made by Copeland Borough Council for a review of Parish Council numbers. Councillors were content with current numbers.

An update on the issue of the National Grid line had been circulated which had seen a more conciliatory approach with respect to the issues at Drigg.

The police report was received and their concern continued to be about badger baiting in the vicinity of Whitecroft and Toft Lane and asked that the registration number of any vehicle be recorded and phoned in.

53/16 Questions from Councillors

None received.

54/16 Confidential Items

None received.

The meeting closed at 2120h.