

KIMBLESWORTH AND PLAWSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held Nettlesworth Community Centre on Thursday 10 December 2015 at 6:30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors A Holden, J Barclay, D Inman, R Harrison, L Walker, M Toms and T Kingston.

97 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Kendall and S Wilson.

98 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2015

Councillor Inman suggested an amendment to minute number 96, proposing that the statement "There were no planning application to report" be stricken from the minutes and replaced with the following:-

"Planning application DM/15/03019/OUT relating to land located within Kimblesworth and Plawsworth parish was discussed and concerns about its effect on neighbouring properties in Sacriston were expressed. However, because no related communications had been received from Sacriston Parish Council or neighbouring residents from either parish, it was decided it would not be appropriate for the Council to object to the application".

RESOLVED: "That the minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 November 2015, as amended, be confirmed as a correct record".

The Chairman proceeded to sign the minutes.

99 MATTERS ARISING

Church Sign – It was reported that the sign had now been ordered.

Standards Training Session – Councillor R Harrison provided an overview of the Standards Training Session which he had recently attended at Durham County Council.

100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Barclay, Walker and Inman declared an interest in a grant application which was to be considered later in the meeting.

101 ISSUES/QUESTIONS – GENERAL PUBLIC

There were no members of the public in attendance.

102 POLICE MATTERS

There were no representatives from the Police in attendance. It was reported that no had turned up at the recent PACT meeting.

103 CO-OPTION TO CURRENT VACANCY

It was agreed that as no firm expressions of interest had been received after several months of advertising the vacancy, that the matter should be revisited at the Annual Meeting and the advert should cease for the present time.

104 BINS – LIITER/DOG/SALT

Councillor Inman had requested the item be placed on the agenda as he was conscious that the Council had previously made enquiries regarding the purchase of general bins and dog bins, however progress in the matter had seemed to have come to a standstill.

It was agreed that an update should be sought from Councillor Wilson and/or Durham County Council.

In relation to salt bins, Councillor Inman advised that a local resident had approached him and had suggested that it may be prudent to have a salt bin positioned near the entrance to the church.

It was agreed that enquiries should be made as to the cost of obtaining and maintaining a salt bin.

105 NOTICEBOARDS

Councillor Kingston advised that he would visit Changing Lives to find out how the production of the first noticeboard was progressing and to ascertain how much each board was actually going to cost.

Councillor Kingston advised that having looked for alternative options, he had found weatherproof noticeboards for sale for approximately £100 and he reported that they were the correct size to suit the needs of the Council.

Seconded by Councillor Walker, Councillor Harrison moved that Councillor Kingston should purchase a weatherproof board and bring it to the next meeting for Council to see. Upon a vote being taken it was;

RESOLVED:- “That Councillor Kingston be authorised to purchase a weatherproof noticeboard up to the value of £140.00”.

106 PRECEPT AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS 2016/17

The Clerk advised that the matter would need to be considered at the January meeting as there had been a delay in the County Council issuing necessary tax base information.

107 CORRESPONDENCE

Durham Cathedral – a request for financial assistance had been received from Durham Cathedral. Any donation would go towards the running costs of the building and Councillor Barclay advised that the Cathedral were struggling not to charge an entry fee to visitors, being one of the few Cathedral’s in the country not to charge entry.

It was agreed that the request should be considered at the February meeting by which time the Council would have set a budget for the following year.

Garden Waste Collections – Correspondence had been received from Durham County Council advertising the Garden Waste Collection Scheme.

108 ACCOUNTS

Grant Application – A Grant Application had been submitted at the beginning of the meeting from the Community Centre. The application sought financial assistance towards the cost of energy bills and ongoing running costs of the building. The total amount sought was £1500.00.

It was agreed that the application should be considered at the January meeting as Members had not had sufficient notice.

Grant Application – Consideration was given to a Grant Application from the Nettlesworth Community Cafe, copies of which had previously been circulated. The grant sought financial assistance of £900.00 to assist with rent and wage costs (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillors Barclay, Inman and Walker left the meeting while the application as considered.

Councillor Kingston felt that a donation would be extremely beneficial, he believed the café was a valuable local asset. Seconded by Councillor Toms, Councillor Kingston moved that £1000.00 be donated and upon a vote being taken it was;

Resolved:- “That a donation of £1000.00 be awarded to the Community Café to be used as stated within the grant application”.

Councillors Barclay, Walker and Inman joined the meeting.

RESOLVED: “That authority be granted for payment of the following accounts:

Clerks Salary & expenses - £684.15
Inland Revenue - £131.47
Councillor T Kingston – reimbursement for pest control - £49.90
Community Cafe – Donation - £1000.00

109 WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Allotments – The Clerk advised that as discussed at the previous meeting, she had made contact with an allotment tenant regarding the issue of flytipping at the allotment site. The Clerk was yet to receive a response.

Councillor Kingston reported that more pest control was required. As such he sought approval for him to purchase the necessary items at a cost of approximately £50.00.

Seconded by Councillor Inman, Councillor Walker moved that the purchase be authorised and upon a vote being taken it was:-

Resolved:- “That Councillor Kingston be authorised to purchase pest control to the value of approximately £50.00”.

The Clerk further advised that she had held a meeting with some allotment tenants ahead of the current meeting, attended also by several Councillors. The tenants seemed interested in establishing an Allotment Association and so the Clerk was to obtain relevant guidance and continue to meet with the tenants. Council would be kept fully briefed of all relevant developments.

110 CDALC

Councillor Harrison provided Members with an update, advising that both meetings were coming up imminently.

111 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

There was no County Councillor in attendance.

112 COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT

Councillor Inman provided an update in relation to the Community Centre. Members were advised that Durham County Council were hosting a training session in January regarding the cessation of annual grants.

113 PARISH NEWSLETTER

Councillor Barclay circulated copies of the recent newsletter which had been published and advised that it would be distributed over the course of the coming weekend.

114 PLANNING

There were no new planning applications to report however Councillor Kingston provided an update regarding his attendance at the recent Area Planning Committee where the Hawthorn Close application had been considered and subsequently approved.

Members were advised that Councillor Inman had assisted local residents with an easement application which had since been submitted to the Land Registry.

Signed _____
Chairman