

Kimbleworth & Plawsworth Parish Council

Minutes of the proceedings at the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Nettlesworth Community Centre on Thursday 13 September 2018 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Councillors G Kendall (Chair), L Gillhespy, P Beard, A Holden, D Inman, D Bruce, A Cole, P Graham and County Councillor Wilson.

53 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Walker, Walker and Anders.

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

55 ISSUES/QUESTIONS – GENERAL PUBLIC

Councillor Inman raised a concern he had received from members of the public regarding the condition of the Kimbleworth village planter and that they were not being properly maintained. He queried whether the planters could therefore either be removed or replanted. There had been an offer from Ms A Cole who was willing to replant and maintain the planter if it could be moved to the Tanmeads area. However Councillor Gillhespy wished for the planter to remain where it was and she would maintain it. Following discussions it was agreed that the Kimbleworth planter remain where it was and be maintained by Councillor Gillhespy. Further it was agreed that Councillor Gillhespy be permitted to use the remaining funds from the gardening competition budget to purchase new plants for the planter and that Councillor Inman would investigate procuring a new planter for the Tanmeads area.

56 DISPENSATION

There were no dispensation requests.

57 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12 JULY 2018

Councillor Inman raised that in relation to minute no. 41, the minutes needed to reflect which Councillor Walker was being referred to. The Clerk confirmed it was Councillor Lillian Walker and the amendment was to the minutes was noted.

RESOLVED: “That the minutes of the proceedings at the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 July 2018, as amended, be confirmed as a correct record.”

The Chairman proceeded to sign the minutes.

58 MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Inman requested that the dispensation request which was submitted and accepted at the previous meeting, be resubmitted with further clarity in the wording to clarify the timescale of the dispensation. This would therefore be prepared and submitted to the next meeting.

59 POLICE MATTERS

A Police representative was in attendance and gave an update on policing issues in the area, the latest PACT report was also circulated. It was agreed that any future parking related complaints would also be forwarded to the PCSO.

60 BUDGET SETTING 2018/19

Consideration was given to budget allocation requirements for the financial year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. Members had previously received a report from the Clerk giving a detailed financial projection and estimated requirements.

As several Working Groups had now been established to deal with many of the potential budget projects, then discussions would be held under Working Group reports. However in relation to the Christmas Tree project, the Clerk confirmed that Lambtons Estate had given permission for a Christmas Tree to be erected in line with Councillor Anders' Previous suggestions. It was therefore agreed that Councillor Anders be requested to report on all costings and plans to the October meeting.

61 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

Consideration was given to 2 expressions of interest from local residents who wished to be considered for co-option onto the Council. The expressions had been submitted by Ms A Cole and Dr P Graham, both of whom met the eligibility criteria to become Parish Councillors. Both were present however left the room to allow Council to consider the item.

Seconded by Councillor Holden, Councillor Gillhespy moved that both be co-opted onto the Council. Both applicants rejoined the meeting and were welcomed to the Council, the Clerk would inform DCC accordingly.

62 CORRESPONDENCE

Litter – A concern had been raised by a member of the public regarding litter in the vicinity of the school and she had queried whether a bin could be positioned. The query would be forwarded to County Councillor Wilson for further investigation.

Allotment Query – A query had been received from an allotment tenant seeking approval from the Council to erect 2xstructures on her allotment plot. Following due consideration it was agreed that the tenant should provide clarification as to the nature of the structures, what they were to be used for, what materials would be used and also whether planning permission would be required. The Council also wished to review the latest allotment tenancy agreement at the next meeting.

Himalayan Balsam – Concerns had been raised by the public regarding the overgrowth of Himalayan Balsam in the area. It was agreed that the item should be considered at the next meeting and in the meantime Councillor Wilson would obtain appropriate information about the plant and how it should be disposed of.

Resident Query on Financial Matters – Over the summer a local resident had made a lengthy request for justification and information from the Council about some of its financial donations and the increase in the precept. Councillor Inman had kindly taken considerable time preparing an appropriate and fly detailed response which had since been circulated to all members for consideration. It was therefore agreed by all those who had read the draft response that it should be sent to the resident once the Clerk had clarified all transaction details mentioned therein.

Nettlesworth Primary – Councillor Anders had sent an email to invite all Members on Saturday 22 September to Nettlesworth Primary School 90th Birthday celebrations at the school.

63 ACCOUNTS AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

Resolved:- “ That the following accounts be paid in full:-

J Lawton - £525.91 – Salary
J Lawton - £35.37 – Travel
J Lawton £87.50 – Home work allowance
Community Association - £120.00 – Rom hire
L Gillhespy - £1481.88 – Defibrillator costs
KS Digital - £152.00 – Newsletter printing
HMRC - £134.71 – PAYE Deductions”.

It was agreed that the Council would consider opening a new account at the next meeting.

64 WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Consideration was given to the work undertaken by all Working Groups since the last meeting.

From the Traffic, Transport, and Highways Working Group updates were as follows

- Parking
 - It was agreed that the Parish Council contact shopkeepers and care home asking their thoughts on parking and ask how they could work with us to encourage sensible parking? Would they be in favour of supporting of marked bays.
- Transport
- Durham Constabulary had been asked for the full report of the speedwatches they have carried out in Nettlesworth. In relation to a Speed Counter, Councillor Wilson agreed to request that a traffic survey be undertaken. Meanwhile The Chairman was to make more enquiries in relation to the Counter and he asked Councillors to forward onto him any clarification they might require.

It was agreed that another Traffic, Transport and Highways Working Group meeting be arranged, predominantly to look at Transport issues.

In relation to Fyndoune Working Group, Councillor Bruce provided an update of the situation since the beginning of the new school year, there had reportedly been some transport related issues and County Councillor Wilson advised that he had a meeting arranged with the Headteacher the following week.

65 CDALC

There was nothing to report.

66 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor Wilson was in attendance and provided an update on County Council issues relevant to the local area. An update was provided in relation to parking issues which Councillor Wilson had taken up with DCC.

In relation to flytipping issues, Councillor Wilson reported that the question of who was responsible for the removal of flytipping came down to land ownership. It was agreed that at the meeting the Council would consider establishing an account with Land Registry.

It was further reported that the Cross Lanes through road would be closing for 6 weeks to allow works to be undertaken on the adjacent development.

67 COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT

Councillor Gillhespy reported that the Ambulance Service would provide free training on the defibrillator and that 3 new classes had joined the Community Centre.

68 NEWSLETTER

The latest edition had just been published and delivered as such there was nothing to report.

69 PLANNING

There was nothing to report.

70 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish meeting would be held at 7pm on Thursday 11 October 2018.

Signed_____

Chairman