



## Bishop Middleham & Mainsforth Parish Council

**Reply to,**  
28 White House Drive,  
Sedgefield,  
Stockton-on-Tees.  
TS21 3BX  
Tel. No. 01740 620042

### Conserving our Past: Building Our Future

**Chairman Cllr. Harvey Neve**

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Minutes of a meeting of Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish Council held  
Wednesday 25th November 2020 via Teams.

**Present:** - Cllrs. H. Neve (Chairman), J. Brownlee, V. Cooke, N. Dexter, M. MacCallam, G. Turner.

Parish Clerk J. Robinson

No members of the public present.

**130.0/20 Apologies:** - Cllr. D.Hardy.

**131/20 Notice of meeting:** - It was moved by Cllr. H. Neve that the meeting be opened.

**132.0/20 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr. J. Brownlee due to membership of Village Hall Committee

**133.0/20 Member Dispensation** – none required

**133.0/20 Public Participation:** -There were no members of the public present.

**134.0/20 Chairman Report:** – He advised he had been contacted by Mr. P. Howell MP advising the Ferryhill Station project had been approved by the Minister of Transport to go forward to stage 2 funding.

**135.0/20 Christmas Light Switch on Event:** -

Members considered the action plan for the event and agreed the following: -

- a. Chairman to undertake an article for Facebook
- b. Chairman to confirm drone footage to be recorded
- c. John Burrows has confirmed church bells
- d. Clerk to arrange Santa's little helpers project via School and Post Office
- e. Cllr. N. Dexter to arrange for Mr. M. Wallace to switch on the lights
- f. Clerk to do a press release linked to Guinness Book of Records, Virtual Light Switch on
- g. Agreed too late to prepare/distribute Christmas newsletter
- h. Chairman to do an article for Past and Future Facebook site

- i. S.E. Landscape to ensure switch is there on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

### **136.0/20 Report of External Auditor**

The Clerk advised the report from Mazars had been an un-qualified audit, the best rating possible. 2 minor issues raised, typo error on the bank reconciliation and need to claim VAT as specified in previous reports. Clerk advised these errors have been rectified and indeed typo in consultation with Mazars, and VAT already claimed, and amount received. Agreed an action plan be presented to Council in December as per Policy even though both areas actioned. It was agreed to publish Notice of Audit Completion as per Policy.

### **137.0/20 Rialtas**

Members considered the Monthly/six monthly reconciliation from the Rialtas system. Report approved and members agreed to receive reconciliations monthly for the future.

**138.0/20 Village Hall Funding Application:** - Cllr. J. Brownlee declared an interest and took no part in the item

Members received a written application for funding from the Bishop Middleham Village Hall Committee. The Committee are about to begin a major refurbishment scheme, including re-pointing walls, cavity wall insulation, toilets, redecorating. The cost is more than £36,000. Applications have been made to various agencies/grant making bodies as well as the Parish Council. All members expressed the view of how valuable the Village Hall is to the Community and the only Community asset.

**Resolved:** - On a proposal by Cllr. H. Neve seconded by Cllr. V.Cooke and unanimously agreed to donate £11,000 from the Thompson Community donation towards the project.

Members unanimously requested that their thanks to both the members of the Committee and Cllr. J. Brownlee be recorded for the sterling work and support the Village Hall and its Committee gives to the Community.

### **139.0/20 Wildlife Garden Project:** -

Cllrs. M. MacCallam and J. Brownlee presented an in-depth report on the progress of the project to date, including costings. An application has been made via Clerk to both Brightwater and Cllr. P. Crathorne Neighbourhood funding. Members were aware of the need not to commence work on the project until DCC funding is confirmed, but there is an urgency to commence the project in January 2021 due to the return of the great crested newts.

**Resolved:** - On a proposal by Cllr. H. Neve and seconded by Cllr. M. MacCallam and unanimously agreed to under right the cost of the project to a cost of £13,000.

### **140.0/20 Castle Lake Project:** -

Cllr. H. Neve reminded members they had agreed to donate an annual grant to this project of £1000, and it was due for payment. Members agreed to pay the grant from Section 137 funding.

**141.0/20 MTFP and 2021 Budget setting: -**

Members agreed to submit any projects/ funding proposal for consideration in the 2021 Budget setting and MTFP to the December meeting and to confirm 2021 Budget and precept at the January 2021 meeting.

The meeting closed 8.17pm

Signed: -

Cllr. H. Neve, Chairman.  
9<sup>th</sup> December 2020