



**Bishop Middleham  
& Mainsforth**

Conserving our Past Building our Future

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Minutes of a meeting of Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish Council held Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in the Village Hall Bishop Middleham.

**60.0/19 Present:** - Cllr. H. Neve (Chairman) M. MacCallam, V. Cooke.

County Councillor P. Crathorne

Acting Parish Clerk

**61.0/19 Apologies:** - Councillor: - D. Hardy, G. Turner, N. Dexter, J. Brownlee

**62.0/19 In attendance:** - 1 member of the public in attendance.

**63.0/19. Notice of meeting:** - It was moved Cllr. H. Neve that the meeting be opened.

**64.0/19 Declaration of Interest:** - Nil

**65.0/19 Members dispensations:** - none required

**66.0/19 Co-option**

Mr. Andrew David Shaw was elected for co-option to the council, proposed Cllr. H. Neve and seconded Cllr. M. MacCallam. he then undertook and signed the declaration of office.

**67.0/19 Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and as usual reminded members of the need to respect other people's views.

**68.0/19 Public Participation.**

A member of the public present asked for an update on highways issues regarding greater access for disabled residents. The Chairman advised he and the Acting Clerk had met with highways raising all the issues previously raised by members and the resident. Slow progress is being made. It is expected the November meeting will have a written update from DCC Highways officers. The member of the public thanked members for their efforts.

**69/19 PACT Report**

Cllr. V. Cooke advised the speed gun had been used in the village and 2 tickets had been issued.

### **70/19 County Councillor Report**

Cllr. Crathorne reported on spending review by Government involves Fair Funding Review 2020 and business rate review. DCC must have saved £234 million before March 2020. She expressed concern that the £5000 allocated for the Parish from her Neighbourhood Budget has still not been applied for and she is unable to carry it forward.

### **71/19 Minutes of the meeting held on 110th 2019.**

**Resolved:** - it was proposed Cllr. H. Neve seconded Cllr. J. Brownlee that in the absence of Cllr. Dexter both September and October minutes be approved at November meeting.

### **72/19 Action log/Matters for Information.**

Members considered the update issues from the Action Log and matters arising as follows: -

- a. Communication Policy remains ongoing
- b. Foot Bridge on Fishburn Cycle route is blocked. It was agreed to contact Paul Black at Brightwater to see why it is blocked off/no longer public right of way and when it features for work under their schedule
- c. It was agreed to advise the public not to pave over front gardens as it contributes to flooding and could potentially affect the permeability of grass and the water table and now contrary to National Planning Policy
- d. Dangerous speeds on Flambard walk. Cllr. H. Neve advised this had been raised at the meeting with Highways Officer who agreed to install speed checks in the area and across the village.
- e. Broken drain cover has been reported by Acting Clerk and members advised it has been repaired
- f. Acting Clerk chasing up S.E. Landscapes to change litter bins in play area. If required, an additional bin to be purchased.
- g. Legionnaire testing Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 10am in changing rooms
- h. Gulley's overflowing in play area car park and behind changing rooms. Acting Clerk to report to DCC for cleaning. It was also reported similar situation on High Road
- i. GDPR Policy to be placed on November Agenda
- j. Dry Lake, members were advised Environment Agency to believe it is necessary to unplug the blockage which they think is by the golf club and 2 bore holes needed. Matter to be monitored
- k. Tree rear of 31 The park, it was agreed to ask DCC and S.E. landscape to assess for the November meeting.
- l. Epicormal growth to trees in the park request S.E. Landscape add to general contract work.

### **73/19 Report from Play Equipment meeting.**

The Chairman reported on a meeting he and the Acting Clerk had held with the representative from Kompan. The issues on both sites were under health and safety awareness and following playground inspection. Kompan are quoting regarding the slide like for like replacement, in the playground behind the Village Hall. Regarding the swing in the park, they are looking at risk assessment and seeking a solution. The basket must be addressed. Kompan have an alternative piece of equipment and are considering how much it would cost to both purchase and install in place of the swing. It is envisaged it will all be completed for the spring. Kompan are also giving prices for extra benches to go into the playground behind the Village Hall.

### **74/19 Ground Maintenance contract**

The Chairman advised he has now scanned in the contract and will circulate it to all members. Matter to be placed on November agenda under exempted information. Members felt it could be necessary to alter/consolidate and add to the contract to ensure it reflects what is required by the parish. It will also need cutting church yard adding. The contract also contains Christmas lights and tree erection and taking down. The recording of work undertaken needs to be also firmed up.

In regard to football there is general wear and tear, agreed S.E. Landscapes be asked for an assessment on how the pitch is coping. The white marking and half pitch appear to be working.

### **75/19 Councillor Vacancy**

It was agreed to re-advertise and target mainsforth for a new Councillor. Acting Clerk has prepared an advert, Chairman to review before being circulated. Vacancy to also be placed on Council Website.

### **77/19 Matters for information sharing by members**

The following issues were raised: -

1. Cllr. M.McCallam raised the issue of the interpretation boards and plinth S.E. Landscapes were repairing/replacing. She advised there are blacksmiths who can assist. Acting Clerk to raise issue with Scott
2. Cllr. Cooke raised the issue of cutting back bushes blocking signage. Cllr. H. Neve advised this had been raised with Highways
3. Cllr. V.Cooke said there were issues regarding the site of the outside pipe/turn off point at the changing rooms? NWA be approached
4. Cllr. H. Neve advised the allotments had asked for advise regarding security and he had passed this on. There have been complaints regarding language and behaviour at football matches. Club Chairman has been approached and acting
5. Cllr. H. Neve is to present the £50 cheque to the Archaeological team as agreed at the September meeting
6. It was agreed to purchase 2 poppy wreaths at a cost of £40. This was agreed unanimously. Cllr. H. Neve agreed to lay the DCC wreath on behalf of Cllr. P. Crathorne

### **78/19 Annual External Audit**

The Chairman reported that the council had received an -unqualified audit and thanked those involved. Acting Clerk to present an action plan for the issues raised at the November meeting. Public notification to be posted.

### **80/19 Correspondence**

Various emails circulated to members for information

### **81/19 Highways meeting**

The Chairman advised the recent meeting with Highways Officers had been positive with wish list presented, help requested and a promised early reply.

### **82/19 Playground.**

Reported earlier in the meeting.

### **83/19 Fireworks Display**

The following was agreed: -

- a. Cllr. H. Neve will produce tickets and ensure they are in the post office
- b. Ticket prices remain as agreed and event commence 6.30pm
- c. Fairground rides have been booked via Sheena, Acting Clerk to confirm
- d. Cllr. Dexter leading on organisation and volunteers recruited
- e. Acting Clerk has risk Register
- f. St Johns Ambulance booked
- g. Price has risen by £240 at request of company to ensure improved finish. Unable to be done to music as not ordered earlier enough.
- h. Volunteers to commence erecting fencing at 1pm, Cllr. Dexter coordinating
- i. Cllr. Dexter named Event Co-Ordinator for Safeguarding issues.

### **84/19 Christmas events**

Members considered arrangements for this year's events, the light switch on event to be 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

- a. S.E. Landscape are erecting the lights themselves
- b. S.E. Landscape are collecting and erecting Christmas tree
- c. Acting Clerk has booked Ferryhill Town Band
- d. Carol Sheets are done
- e. Advertising posters to be done for the event
- f. £100 to be given to the local pub to provide refreshments for after the event for the public
- g. Once again recognition of resident award to be considered and the recipient to switch on lights.

### **85.0/19 Personnel**

Members discussed the current situation regarding staffing. It was noted the outstanding letter has not arrived. Acting Clerk to chase up.

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm