



Bishop Middleham Parish Council

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Conserving our Past: Building Our Future

Chairman Cllr. Harvey Neve

Minutes of a meeting of Bishop Middleham Parish Council held Wednesday 10th
February 2021 via Zoom.

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

County Councillor P. Crathorne.

Parish Clerk J. Robinson

No members of the public present.

179.0/20 Apologies: - Cllrs. D.Hardy, Mr. P. Howell M.P.

180/20 Notice of meeting: - It was moved by Cllr. H. Neve that the meeting be opened.

181.0/20 Declarations of Interest – nil

182.0/20 Member Dispensation – none required.

183.0/20 Public Participation: -There were no members of the public present.

184.0/20 Chairman Report: – He began by welcoming the former Councillor, Ms. N. Dexter, and on behalf of the Council presented her with a bouquet of flowers and Certificate of Appreciation.

He advised members that he had consulted the Police, Clerk and DCC on safety concerns regarding flooding on the main road into the village. This has resulted in the road being and remaining closed. Members endorsed this action.

185.0/20 Police Report

No report.

186.0/20 County Councillor Report: -
Councillor P. Crathorne reported on the following:

- a. COVID rates remain in the County at 207/100,000
- b. DCC continue to support businesses, care homes and vulnerable residents.
- c. All priority 1 to 4 residents will be vaccinated by mid-February.
- d. DCC continue with their commitment to Climate Control.
- e. She was extremely proud of Durham County Council adopting a Parental Leave Policy for elected members.
- f. She confirmed the Council Neighborhood Grant had been approved. The Chairman thanked her for the support given on this item.

187/20 M.P. Report

Mr. Howell informed members he had spoken that day in the House of Commons in the Budget Debate. He also asked it to be placed on record his thanks to DCC Officers for their support in regard to the Leamside Line/Ferryhill Rail Station Project.

188.0/20 Minutes of meetings held on 13th January 2021.

Resolved: - It was agreed on a proposal from Cllr. M.McCallam seconded by Cllr. J. Brownlee to accept the minutes of the meeting and recommendations there in. Cllr. Maccallam asked that the minutes reflect the fact that DCC had requested additional information to ensure the funding requested for the Wildlife Project had been for capital, and this had been provided. This was agreed.

189.0/20 Correspondence: -

Members noted numerous emails circulated since last meeting, no comments made.

- a. CDALC regarding various County Council consultation documents, email circulated.
- b. Social Care and Frontline Workers Day, 5th July 2021. Matter to be an agenda item for the March meeting.
- c. Health and Wellbeing Board Consultation on their current strategy, received.
- d. Grants available for Armed Forces Day
- e. DCC Friends against Scam project
- f. Village Hall Week 2021 agreed to register Cllr. J. Brownlee as Council delegate to session on 11th March
- g. PSGA, Ordnance Survey, agreed Clerk and Cllr. Maccallam investigate and report to March meeting.

190.0/20 Precept: -

DCC advised members an extra £274 is to be added to LCTRS grant for 2021/22. This was noted.

191/20 Co-option

The County Electoral Service have given notice that 3 vacancies exist for the Council. All 3 are able for co-option. Cllr. H. Neve proposed and Cllr. V. Cooke seconded to co-opt Mr. Andrew Shaw, a previous member of the Council. This was carried.

192/20 Community Governance Review

Members considered the possibility of changing the name of the Council to Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish Council, reflecting both Communities. Advice from DCC stated a Parish Poll would be required. It was agreed to note the information but not to proceed at this time due to potential cost and the fact that a new Council will be elected in May.

193/20 Christmas Lights

Members discussed the 2020 light display and identified additional lights required, including 2 extra trees and around the Post Office. Clerk to liaise with S.E. Landscapes and report back to Council. It was agreed to pay Mr. J. Davidson, £50, for the cost of electricity to provide lights in front of Church.

194/20 2021 Elections

Details of the forthcoming Parish Council elections were discussed. Clerk to obtain nomination papers for existing members. Parish Council have a current Electoral Role. Members also considered the advice given by Chloe Smith MP, Minister for Constitution not to doorstep canvas or leafletting during lockdown.

195/20 Neighbourhood Plan

Agreed to obtain information on proceeding with a Plan ready for new Council to consider.

196/20 Playground inspection

The Clerk presented a precis of the reports from both DCC and The Play Inspection Company.

3 areas need cleaning/surface spraying.

4 minor repairs.

It was agreed Clerk instruct DCC to undertake same.

Cllr. J. Brownlee reported on initial discussions at the Village Hall Committee regarding the playground to the rear of the hall being moved, and to turn it into an open space for use of Village Hall groups. The toddler group is no longer a user of the hall. Members also considered the current state and usage of the area. It was agreed Cllr. M. McCallam, J. Brownlee and Clerk investigate the area and report back to a future Council meeting.

197/20 Speed Signs

Members considered correspondence from companies regarding speed signs to be erected across the Parish warning drivers of their speed. It was proposed by Cllr. V. Cooke, seconded by Cllr. G. Turner and carried, to agree to purchasing signs in principle. It was agreed Cllrs. G. Turner, V. Cooke and Clerk prepare a report on the potential purchasing and to liaise with DCC on the topic. Matter to be brought back to a future meeting.

198.0/20 Wildlife Garden Project: -

Cllrs. M. MacCallam and J. Brownlee presented an in-depth report on the progress of the project to date. The company were unable to commence work on the project due to the area being flooded. The start will commence when weather permits. Members noted an email from the AAP advising the Neighbourhood Grant has been approved. An offer letter has still to be received.

199.0/20 Monthly financial Reconciliation: -

Members noted the financial issues to date, including a 9-month reconciliation. Monthly accounts and reports agreed.

200.0/20 Environment Contractor Report: -

Members noted the report for November, which Cllr. M. MacCallam had kindly checked.

201/20 Pitt lane

Clerk advised Saville's acting on behalf of the owners of the land have advised they are moving the gate forward and placing stones to prevent fly tipping. This was noted.

202.0/20 Member Sharing: -

- a. Cllr. J. Brownlee advised the village hall is hoping to re-open in September.
- b. Cllr. V.Cooke advised the gulley's still need cleaning on High Road, the Clerk to once again request DCC undertake same.
- c. Cllr. V.Cooke reported the new Clerk to Sedgefield Charities is called Ann Gladwin.
- d. Cllr. H. Neve advised he has met with the company referred to at the last meeting and he is hopeful broadband into the village and village hall will improve shortly.
- e. It was reported Mr. S. Dexter has stood down as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed to write on behalf of the Council and Parish thanking him for the service he had done.

The meeting closed 8.35pm

Signed: -

Cllr. H. Neve, Chairman.
10th March 2021