



**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 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in the Village Hall Bishop Middleham.

**114.0/19 Present:** - Cllr. H. Neve (Chairman), N. Dexter, M. MacCallam, V. Cooke, A. Shaw, J. Brownlee, D. Hardy.

**115.0/19 Apologies:** - Councillor G. Turner.

In attendance County Councillor P. Crathorne.

Parish Clerk J. Robinson

**116.0/19. Notice of meeting:** - It was moved by Cllr. H. Neve that the meeting be opened.

**117.0/19 Declaration of Interest:** - Nil

**118.0/19 Members dispensations:** - none required

**119.0/19 Co-option**

In the light of the General Election and the Council now in the Purdah period it was agreed to defer this matter to the January meeting.

**120.0/19 Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and as usual reminded members of the need to respect other people's views. He explained to members the importance of abiding by the Purdah rules until after the General Election.

On behalf of the Council he congratulated Cllr. V.Cooke for his 50 years' service to the FA and wished him well for the future.

**121/19 Public Participation.**

No members of the public were present.

**122/19 PACT Report**

Members queried the usage and reporting of the roving covert camera by DCC. Parish Clerk circulated the written report from the Head of Service for Neighborhood Wardens. It was agreed to invite the Warden to the January meeting to discuss the deployment of the camera specifically regarding catching fly tipping which is on the increase along with other issues in the parish.

### **123/19 County Councillor Report**

Cllr. Crathorne reported on the following issues: -

- a. DCC have confirmed that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme will continue 20/21.
- b. Final Financial settlement for coming year from Government has not been set due to general Election
- c. That she is supporting refurbishment projects in the Village Hall

The Chairman on behalf of the Council wished to thank Cllr. Crathorne for her support for the Parish over 2019 and looked forward to working together in 2020.

### **124/19 Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

The minutes were agreed proposed Cllr. H. Neve and seconded Cllr. N. Dexter.

### **125/19 Action log/Matters for Information.**

Members agreed to defer till January meeting, however some items of update to be included in agenda items to follow.

### **126/19 V.E. Weekend**

Members considered the national celebrations being planned for 2020 and the events to be organised within the Parish. Parish Clerk agreed to draft a Programme of the events for the January meeting and to forward a draft letter to go to village organisations asking them to participate to Cllr. N. Dexter after the Christmas holidays. Cllr. J. Brownlee agreed to check if the Village Hall is free over the holiday weekend so the Council may organise an event such as a tea dance. Cllr. M. McCallam agreed to contact the church, Cllr. J. Brownlee also agreed to contact the Brownies.

Members considered the purchase of basic/low cost Civic Chains of Office for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to be used at events such as these. Parish Clerk agreed to investigate costings for the February meeting.

### **127/19 Ground Maintenance contract**

S.E. Landscape had written asking for an extension to the current contract up to March 2020. Members confirmed that the current contract finishes at this time and therefore no extension needed. Cllrs. M. McCallam and A. Shaw agreed to meet and review the current contract reporting back to Council with their suggested amendments.

The following contract review timetable was agreed

- a. Expression of interest to be advertised with a closing date of 17<sup>th</sup> January.
- b. Tender documents to be circulated to those registered 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- c. Return of tenders 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- d. Evaluation and interview Contractors post this date
- e. Contract to be awarded March Full Council

Clerk agreed to place notice for expression of interest in The Northern Echo early January after Christmas break and to inform S.E. Landscapes of process. He also agreed to contact DCC and ask if they would advertise same on their website, as well as Parish Website.

### **128/19 Budget setting 2020/21**

Members agreed to set the forthcoming Civic years precept at the January Full Council meeting.

### **129/19 Christmas Events**

The Chairman reported on the events over the Christmas period and wished to thank all those who had assisted in anyway.

### **130/19 Pear mapping**

Members considered the above and agreed not to proceed and renew further.

### **132/19 Correspondence**

- a. Various emails circulated to members for information
- b. CDALC updated NALC Legal Briefing regarding Parish Councils funding Churches and Church land. Updater received and to await any further information on the same topic.

### **133/19 Highways meeting**

Awaiting update from DCC officers.

### **134/19 Environmental issues**

The following issues were raised by members: -

- a. Members expressed concern over vehicles being left on Pit lane, an area not suitable for this. Matter to be referred to Highways and Neighbourhood Warden.

### **135/19 member sharing of issues**

The following issues were raised by members and actions agreed: -

- a. Concern was expressed regarding speeding along High Road, Woodstock and Westfield. Cllr. V.Cooke agreed to raise at the next PACT meeting, Parish Clerk agreed to raise with the Police. It was also suggested Police expand upon Speed Watch Programme.
- b. Concern was expressed regarding the state of the Eastern entrance to Bishop Middleham past the quarry to the A177 junction. Cllr. P. Crathorne agreed to raise the matter via DCC and Cllr. V.Cooke agreed to raise the issue with the Quarry Manager direct.
- c. Cllr. P. Crathorne and Parish Clerk reported the sign at the A177 junction has been placed on order by DCC
- d. Cllr. M. MacCallam reported on tree planting in the Castle Lake area on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- e. Parish Clerk advised a local joiner is in the process of changing locks to the noticeboards
- f. Cllr. V.Cooke expressed concern at the lack of visibility due to hedges etc. on South View, High Row areas, matter to be referred to DCC
- g. Concern was expressed over the lack of a consistent/reliable bus service in the Parish. Cllr. P. Crathorne agreed to raise the matter with Mr. C. Day relevant officer at DCC
- h. Concern was expressed at parking issues in the Fourmont Corner area of the Parish. Matter to be monitored and Cllr. N. Dexter to raise the matter with the bird club members.

### **136/19 The Park/Play Areas**

Cllr. V.Cooke advised members that football matches on The Park pitch have been recently cancelled. He also reported on the broken door at The Pavilion. It was agreed Cllr. V.Cooke and Parish Clerk have the door repaired and to keep members informed of their actions. Concern was also expressed regarding the state teams are leaving the Pavilion in after matches. Parish Clerk to arrange for the building to be deep cleaned and all teams advised of their agreement with the Council to ensure the building is clean and tidy after use. Members also agreed if necessary, they would inspect the building on a Rota basis after use by teams. Cllr. V.Cooke agreed to monitor and report back in 2020.

Members also referred to issues finding the stop tap, agreed Parish Clerk ask Paul Goodchild Plumbing to locate.

Cllr. N. Dexter advised the area was full of broken glass and increasing dog fouling. It was also suggested that the Neighbourhood Wardens be asked to install the roving cameras in the area to monitor Anti-Social behaviour over first 6 months of 2020.

Parish Clerk to obtain details and costings for a new Noticeboard for The Park entrance for the February 2020 meeting, specifically mentioning the requirements for dogs to be on a lead.

### **137/19 Monthly Accounts**

Please see Appendix 1 for Accounts approved for payment at the meeting.

Cllr. Brownlee raised the issue of providing a grant to the Village Hall for the roof. Members discussed the matter and it was agreed Cllr. Brownlee suggest to the Village Hall the Committee formally apply to the Council for a grant.

### **138/19 Planning**

Nil directly affecting the Parish, however an application to extend a hanger at Fishburn Airport was noted.

### **139/19 Bright Water Project**

Members considered the above, including grant applications. Cllr. N. Dexter advised she is to shortly have further discussions regarding the big dry lake on the 3 mile walk and ascertain when it is in their Programme for action. Members discussed/considered the blockage and need for Brightwater/Wildlife Group/Rivers Authority to deal with the issues. Brightwater are also dealing with Castle Lake. Members believed these issues would be addressed in January by Brightwater and their partners. Issue to be monitored.

The Chairman referred to the Councils allocation of £500 to provide bird boxes/bat boxes etc. for the Wildlife Garden. Members suggested linking in with Brightwater and Durham Wildlife. Cllr. N. Dexter agreed to obtain an application pack for funding from Brightwater to accompany work being undertaken by the Council. Clerk agreed to approach Paul Black of Brightwater for an update also.

Members agreed to contact Mr John Olley from DCC to ask for an update on his maintenance and Management Plan for the area and to include an updated timescale for the plan. Cllr. H. Neve has a copy of the plan and agreed to share with members.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm