



Bishop Middleham Parish Council

Reply to,
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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 14th April 2021 via Zoom.

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

County Councillor P. Crathorne Mr. P. Howell M.P.

Parish Clerk J. Robinson

1 member of the public present.

The Chairman before commencing the meeting referred members to the sad death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. He gave a short eulogy of the work and role of the Prince. Members then stood for a minute's silence in remembrance of HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh.

227.0/20 Apologies: - Cllrs. D.Hardy, A. Shaw

228/20 Notice of meeting: - It was moved by Cllr. H. Neve that the meeting be opened.

229.0/20 Declarations of Interest – nil

230.0/20 Member Dispensation – none required.

231.0/20 Public Participation: -There were no issues raised by the member of the public present.

232.0/20 Chairman Report: – He began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and congratulated those returning members as at close of nominations there had been insufficient nominations submitted. He reminded members the meeting was to take place under purdah rules and no decisions may be made that are binding on the new Council.

233.0/20 Police Report

No report.

234.0/20 County Councillor Report: -

Councillor P. Crathorne reported on the following:

- a. COVID Vaccination rates in the County remain good and infection rate reduced
- b. She referred to the death of HRH Duke of Edinburgh and actions put in place by the County including the National Silence being recognized by the Chairman of the County.

Members raised the following issues with Cllr. P. Crathorne:

- a. Requested she passed on Council thanks to officers for removing the numerous bags of rubbish collected by the Village Litter pick recently.
- b. She agreed to arrange for signs to be placed around Stoneybeck Estate saying Children Playing Kill your Speed.

The Chairman wished to place on record and supported by members their thanks for the support given by Cllr. P. Crathorne to the Council over the period of the last County Council.

235/20 M.P. Report

Mr. Howell gave an up-to-date report on the Ferryhill Railway Station Project and it moving to the next stage off assessment. All members wished the project well and expressed they would give any support they could give in taking the matter forward.

Mr. P. Howell left the meeting at 7.43pm.

236.0/20 Minutes of meetings held on 10th March 2021.

Resolved: - It was agreed on a proposal from Cllr. H. Neve seconded by Cllr. M. MacCallam that the minutes and decisions be agreed.

237.0/20 2021 Parish Council election.

The Clerk advised at the close of nominations, 7 had been submitted, and all elected un-opposed. He advised members the new Council may now proceed to co-opt to the 2 vacancies when they take office on the 10th May 2021. All members of the new Council will be invited to an induction session once in post.

238/20 Date of 2021 Parish meeting

It was agreed to call the meeting on 12th May 2021 at 6.30pm.

239.0/20 Correspondence: -

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

- a. CDALC regarding various County Council consultation documents, email circulated.
- b. Awaiting reply from DCC Highways regarding Footpath to Mainsforth being upgraded
- c. Letter from DCC officers confirming site visit 4pm on 22nd April regarding Speed Visor signs
- d. NALC noting legal challenge over future of remote meetings, High Court decision due April.
- e. Letter from a resident from Mainsforth in regard to Speeding in Mainsforth. Agreed to raise the issue with Local PCSO.

240.0/20 Footpath Bishop Middleham to Sedgefield: -

Cllr. M. MacCallam reported on the state of the above footpath and conversations she had with Brightwater. She had requested the Clerk to write to DCC Rights of Way Officers seeking advice regarding future maintenance of same. A reply is awaited. To be monitored and item placed on May Agenda.

241/20 Play Area rear of Village hall

Cllrs. J. Brownlee and M. MacCallam reported on their discussions to date. The Clerk also advised he had requested fencing be repaired by S.E. Landscapes. It was agreed to confirm the membership of the working group at the May meeting and to give the group the remit of a project/business case for the improvement of this area. Clerk to circulate to members a draft project template.

242/20 Wildlife Garden

Cllr. M. MacCallam gave an update of the project to date. Clerk advised DCC funding has now been received into Council accounts. An Ecological Survey is to be carried out shortly. The Clerk also advised S.E. Landscape are to prepare the requested wildflower areas except for the park area due to flooding in this vicinity.

243/20 Easter Eggs

The Chairman advised 94 children had taken part. The remaining 26 eggs to be given to the local school for them to use.

244/20 Seats at The Park

Cllr. J. Brownlee raised the issue of seats in The Park and suggested additional seats be purchased. Concern was raised regarding Health and Safety regarding the football field. It was agreed Clerk obtain advise from Durham FA and the item be placed on the May Agenda. The Clerk advised the Council had been offered a seat by Endeavour Woodcraft, and the Clerk on behalf of the Council had accepted.

245/20 Playground inspection

The Clerk advised DCC have been asked to undertake the minor repairs highlighted in the previous reports.

Members discussed the issues of the removal of the Seat Swing/issues of safety with junior slides, and general issues regarding the area. It was proposed Cllr. M. MacCallam and seconded Cllr J. Brownlee and carried that the Clerk commission an Independent ROSPA qualified survey of the area and reported back to the new Council for action. The report to give a baseline of current provision and suggestions for future re-development.

246.0/20 Monthly financial Reconciliation: -

Members noted the financial issues to date. Monthly accounts and reports agreed. Annual Precept has been deposited into Council account. Annual Accounts are now being prepared for Audit. Request for quotes to undertake work on the tree at rear of 7 Front Street have been requested, due to be returned for May meeting.

247.0/20 Environment Contractor Report: -

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

248/20 Garages

The Clerk advised S.E. Landscapes to have been asked to repair garage 3 door. A resident on the waiting list had requested an update on the empty garage future. It was agreed to advise them at this time until the garage is repaired, and the new Council has determined its strategy regarding the garages no allocation would be made.

249/20 Water leak The Park.

Members discussed the current situation and the new invoice for further money even though the water has been turned off. Clerk to request an urgent meeting with NWA to discuss same.

250/20 Member Sharing: -

- a. A brief discussion took place in respect of Micklemas Fayre. Matter to be added to a special meeting with the Community to discuss with other Community Evens in May and in the meantime Chairman to raise issue with Brightwater.
- b. Reference was made to the graffiti on the fence adjoining Pit lane, to be raised with DCC.
- c. It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting with PCSO Public Open Space orders.

The meeting closed 8.35pm

Signed: -

Cllr. H. Neve, Chairman.
12th May 2021