

Brancepeth Parish Council

Minutes for the Ordinary meeting on Monday 15th March 2021 at 7.30pm. This was a virtual meeting by video link within the latest Coronavirus Government Regulations/CDALC Guidelines.

Present Councillors: D. Armstrong, J. Brown, C. Jones, J. Dalton, I. Stoker and S. Chapman.

Also present: S. Murray (Member of the public), O. Gunn (County Councillor) and DC Rider (Acting Clerk)

047/21 Council Web Site

A demonstration of the new website was given by Stuart Thompson who is one of the development team. This was followed by a question-and-answer session with members.

048/21 Apologies for absence

None

049/21 Declaration of Interest

None

050/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2021

The draft minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

051/21 Matters Arising

None.

052/21 Representation by Residents

None

053/21 Recreation Ground: -

- Lease and Status: - Still no lease cheques cashed and no further correspondence. Members discussed using Internet Banking for future payments but it was decided to send the next payment by cheque using recorded delivery.
- Grass cutting contract: - After submission of tenders the Parish Council awarded the Grass Cutting Contract to Garden Vision Landscape and Maintenance of 23 Douglas Gardens, Merryoaks, Durham. All members voted to award the contract with the exception of Councillor J. Dalton.

054/21 Road Safety/Speedwatch/Signage

Councillor Jones had no further update on this item.

055/21 Street Lighting – Councillor Armstrong - no further update.

056/21 Safe Access to the Village Hall: -

Councillor Brown reported that she had discussed with the Golf Club the possibility of gaining permission for a path through their land for better access. Possible traffic calming measures were discussed by members.

057/21 A690 Verge Improvement Cllr S. Chapman – No update.

058/21 Village Notice Board Update Cllr S. Chapman – No update.

059/21 Points to Note The action list was amended.

060/21 County Council Reports Cllr O Gunn reported on: -

- The Covid infection rate (declining)
- Mass testing in Schools
- The latest DCC Cabinet meeting
- Free town centre parking
- Housing
- Climate Change

061/21 Village Reports including: -

- **Acting Parish Clerk** – no report
- **Members** – no reports

062/21 Financial Statement and Reports

- Councillor Jones reported that the Bank Balance currently stands at £23,163.37.

042/21 Planning matters: -

Application DM/21/00628/FPA from Brancepeth Castle Golf Club, Golf Club House, Brancepeth, Durham for an outdoor patio area on south west elevation with 2no. ground fixed parasols. Decision no objection.

064/21 Allotments: -

Councillor D. Armstrong reported that no cheques had yet been received for the allotment rents and on the latest information regarding the tree works.

065/21 Correspondence: -

Letter from Brancepeth Community Association regarding the annual grant. Members agreed to facilitate the grant after the start of the next financial year.

066/21 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 19th April 2021 at 7:30pm.

THAT PURSUANT TO SECTION 100 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW ON THE GROUNDS THAT IF THEY ARE PRESENT DURING DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS THERE COULD BE DISCLOSURE TO THEM OF EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 100.

067/21 Staffing Matters – Resignation of Clerk and Appointment of a New Clerk

- Members considered the retirement of Mr Smith and because of his long and distinguished service with the Parish Council discussed presenting him and his wife with mementoes of his time with the Parish Council.
- Members discussed the recent interview of Kirsty Charlton for the post of Parish Clerk and resolved to offer her the position of Parish Clerk pending a successful probationary period of three months with a start date of April 1st.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.28 pm.