

Brancepeth Parish Council

Minutes for the Ordinary meeting on Monday 15th February 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: F. Coffield (Member of the public) and DC Rider (Acting Clerk)

025/21 Apologies for absence

County Councillor O. Gunn

026/21 Declaration of Interest

None

027/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2021

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

028/21 Matters Arising

Discussion of potholes on Castle road as per minute 018/21 Members Reports item C in the January Minutes. Councillor Chapman detailed her efforts to make contact with an official from Castle Estates in relation to this matter. Councillor Brown suggested writing letters to the Castle and the Church.

029/21 Representation by Residents None

030/21 Recreation Ground: -

- Lease and Status: - Still no lease cheques cashed and no further correspondence from Solicitors. Members discussed sending the next cheque by recorded delivery. Members after some discussion of a suggestion by F. Coffield, resolved to write to Castle Estates, this to be actioned by the Chair and Acting Clerk and to be sent by recorded delivery.
- Grass cutting contract: - Councillor Brown reported that a number of invitations to contractors to bid for this had been sent out by herself and the Acting Clerk.

031/21 Road Safety/Speedwatch/Signage

Councillor Jones had no further update on this item.

032/21 Neighbourhood Planning

After some discussion and in light of difficulties locating paperwork already prepared and sent to DCC members decided not to pursue this matter any further for the time being.

033/21 Street Lighting – Councillor Armstrong - no further update.

034/21 Safe Access to the Village Hall: -

Councillor Brown reported that she was waiting for a reply from the Golf Club regarding a request for permission to use some of their land to construct a path for improved access.

035/21 A690 Verge Improvement Cllr S. Chapman – No update.

036/21 Village Notice Board Update Cllr S. Chapman – No update.

037/21 Council's Web Site

Cllr S. Chapman reported that work on the new website was still progressing well and expected the site would be ready for testing by the end of February. Councillor Chapman also reported that the new site would include a contacts page and would allow increased public participation via a comments section. Members discussed designs for a new logo that will appear on the site.

038/21 Points to Note The action list was amended.

039/21 County Council Reports – No Reports

040/21 Village Reports including: -

- **Acting Parish Clerk** – no report
- **Members:**
 - A. **May Local Elections** Councillor J. Dalton asked about proper procedures for the upcoming Council Elections. Councillor Armstrong to contact Steve Ragg of CDALC to clarify matters.
 - B. **Easter Egg Donation** – Councillors J. Brown and C. Jones expressed concern about a recent donation to the local Church to provide Easter Eggs for youngsters from the village.

041/21 Financial Statement and Reports

- Councillor Jones reported that the Bank Balance currently stands at £25289.30 with some outstanding bills still to pay
- Councillor D Armstrong reported that the AGAR has been approved.

042/21 Planning matters: -

Application DM/21/00341/TPO from Mrs Sheena Murray of 28 Goodwell Lea, Brancepeth, Durham To fell mature Chestnut (T1). Decision no objection.

043/21 Allotments: -

Issuing of new contracts for 2021 Councillor D. Armstrong reported that this was now complete.

044/21 Correspondence – None

045/21 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 15th March 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.

046/21 Staffing Matters

Resignation of the Clerk and Appointment of a New Clerk

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.