

## Brancepeth Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Brancepeth Parish Council held on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019** in the Village Hall, Brancepeth commencing at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillors C. Jones (Chair), J. Brown, J. Dalton, M. Lowe and J. Merrington.

**Also Present:** County Councillor O. Gunn, Mr M. Brown (Resident) and G. F. Smith (Clerk).

- 001/19 Apologies**  
Councillor D. Armstrong
- 002/19 Declaration of Interest**  
Councillor J. Brown and J. Merrington declared an interest in agenda item 19 – allotments (tree works).
- 003/19 Friends of the Field Group - Presentation**  
Deferred to February Parish Council meeting.
- 004/19 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018**  
The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 005/19 Matters Arising**
- Clerk to update Points to Note/Action List
  - Agreed to appoint a Vice Chairman at the next meeting (place on agenda)
- 006/19 Setting the Precept for 2019/2020**  
Members agreed to no increase in the Tax Base for 2019/2020 therefore:-  
The Precept for 2019/20 will be   £15,757.00  
LCTRS Grant (DCC)                   £243.00  
Total Amount                           £16,000.00  
The Chair and Clerk to sign the necessary forms required by Durham County Council.
- 007/19 Councillor Vacancy**  
Clerk reported receipt of three applications for the vacancy. Chair/Clerk to arrange a special Parish Council meeting (date to be agreed) to interview the applicants. It was also agreed that the Parish Council's co-option procedures will be to interview all applicants at a special Parish Council meeting and voting will be an undisclosed process.
- 008/19 Speed Reduction Measures – Report of Sub Committee**  
The report was circulated by Councillor Merrington prior to the meeting. Members agreed with the recommendations subject to obtaining costings from Michelle Shearer, DCC Traffic Assets (Councillor Gunn to arrange this for reporting to the next Parish Council meeting).

- 009/19 Recreation Ground Lease**  
No further progress (legal).
- 010/19 Environmental Works**  
No further update.
- 011/19 Community Speedwatch**  
No sessions arranged for January/February. New schedule (to include lunchtime and weekend sessions) from March 2019.
- 012/19 Defibrillator and First Aid - Village Hall**  
Qualified person to look at installation and confirm that it is satisfactory (ready to use). Training on operation of unit to be arranged as soon as possible. Councillor Gunn agreed to check with Greater Willington Town Council and report back to Councillor Armstrong.
- 013/19 Neighbourhood Planning**  
Clerk to discuss with DCC Officer (ASAP).
- 014/19 Representation by Residents - None**
- 015/19 County Council and other County Committee Reports**
- A) County Councillor Gunn reported on the following:-
- Thanks to County Councillor John Turnbull for reporting matter to DCC on behalf of Brancepeth
  - County Plan consultation period 25<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed to invite a member of the planning team to present the plan to the next Parish Council meeting (Councillor Gunn to arrange)
  - Western Bypass/Housing Strategy – to be included in the above
  - Homeless Strategy
  - History Building (Mount Oswald) – plan to include Archives Department/Register Office/DLI Collection
  - Retail Units/Shops
  - Year of Culture
  - Funding Streams.
- B) AAP - Next meeting?
- C) PCC – Councillor Brown reported on the meeting of the committee which included an update on CCTV Cameras/Path Encroaching (Martin Briscoe)/Bulb Planting.
- D) SCF – Next meeting?

**016/19****Village Reports****A) Parish/Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that a letter has been received from Barclays PLC regarding the closure of the accounts (due to no transactions for some time) on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Clerk to contact the Bank to keep the accounts open.

**B) State of the Village/Recreation Ground**

- New litter bin at the railtrack area (dog bin removed)

**C) Road Safety/Traffic Issues – No further updates****D) Members Report**

- The Chair referred to the email from Councillor Armstrong

**017/19****Financial Report****A) Accounts – vouchers 1139 to 1142 to be approved for payment****B) Cheque authorisations – still ongoing (Chair completed a complaints form)****C) Expenditure report 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018:-**

Sub Total	£14,416.09
VAT	£971.73
Total	£15,387.82

Clerk to produce a detailed expenditure report and updated bank balances prior to the next Council meeting

**018/19****Planning Matters - None****019/19****Allotments - Tree Works**

No update.

**020/19****Correspondence**

- Clerks and Councils Direct magazine; January 2019

**021/19****Date and Time of next meeting**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019

The meeting finished at **8.30 pm**