

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 11th April 2016.

Members Present

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs C Pattinson, Mrs R Robinson,
Mr R Gallacher, Mrs S Smallwood, Mr B Bell, Mrs K Hodgson.

Also Present

Sgt Mitch Franks, PCSO Hollie Dennis.

Apologies.

Cllrs. Mr B Pattinson, Mrs M Smart, Mrs P Nelson.
Cllr Mrs G Troughton (Cumbria County and Copeland Borough Councils).

Membership.

The Clerk reported that Mrs J Williams had contacted him to pass on her resignation from the Parish Council adding that she would be putting it in writing, nothing had been received but her resignation was noted and it was reported that as a result there were now four vacancies on the Parish Council, but as Copeland Borough Council were reviewing the number of members each Parish Council should have, no action need be taken.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chair, after noting that Mrs K Hodgson was not present at the meeting.

Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Mrs J Bowman declared an interest in all planning matters. Otherwise none of the other members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

Sgt Mitch Franks accompanied PCSO Hollie Dennis to the meeting to give some clarification to the matter of PCSOs and CCTV cameras. He went on to explain that PCSOs could not read or download information from cameras but were allowed to collect the information and transport it to where it could be read by a police constable. He went on to explain in more detail as to the reasoning behind this decision and members were given the opportunity to question him about those reasons but it was agreed that one member of the Parish council would be responsible for downloading any information which was required by the police whenever a qualified officer was not available and that member was provided with the information they needed to carry out that duty. Copeland BC enforcement officer had also been supplied with a key in order that he could observe the cameras in assisting with his duties for prevention of dog fouling.

Tower Mint Ltd.

The clerk reported that he had called to see the head teacher at the school to check if they None of the members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda. were intending purchasing copies of the Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday Commemorative Medal for the children so as not to duplicating the Parish Council's decision to purchase sufficient medals for all the children of primary school age in the parish to receive a medal each. The head teacher confirmed that the school had not already ordered medals and it was agreed by the members that 200 medals should be purchased at £1.99 each.

Pica Community Group.

Feedback on recent activity by the group was provided by the members present at the meeting and the clerk had previously been provided with estimates for the purchase of a new mower which the members of the group acquired as a result of the previous agreement by the Parish Council to provide the funds for. It was agreed that the groups preferred option, the quote provided by J Norman of £599 should be accepted, and the mower ordered to be supplied.

Pica Play Area.

The clerk reported that no further information had been received from the Council's solicitor on this matter.

Land Adjacent to Green Hut.

A letter had been received from the owners of the land adjacent to the green hut on Main Street confirming ownership but as yet they were not sure as to their future plans for the land. The letter stated that they did not own or know who owns the green hut.

CCTV.

Members of the Parish Council who are also members of the Big Local steering group were to take back to the Big Local meeting the information which had been given by Sgt Franks and to discuss the way forward.

Community Centre Proposals.

Plans showing the Community Centre Management Committees proposals for an extension to the building and the members agreed that permission for a planning application be submitted to Copeland BC should be granted. No specific comments about the proposal were to be made by the members at this point in time so as not to compromise the position when the application came to them to be consulted on, and more details provided.

Distington Mower Costs.

The clerk referred to the accounts as information to the cost of operating and maintaining the new mower and also to a copy of the agreement which was signed by the Chairs of the Parish Council and the Big Local stating that these costs would be shared according to each party's usage. It was agreed that the information should be provided to the next Big Local meeting to discuss and agree.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Councillors Questions.

Members raised several issues of concern, a motor cycle was being ridden along the footpaths etc. on Barfs Road with the rider not even wearing a safety helmet. A drain is overflowing on Barfs Road whenever there is heavy rain and a footpath at Dyonside was becoming overgrown and un-usable, both of these were highways matters and would be reported.

Concerns were raised about the method of access to the proposed infilling of the old railway cutting between Pica and the Frizington turnoff.

Correspondence.

There were no items of correspondence received which had not been dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

Planning applications.

There were no planning applications received for this meeting.

Financial Matters.

End of year accounts.

Copies of the final accounts had been supplied to the members in advance of the meeting and the Clerk give an explanation of the various income and expenditures contained in them and requested any questions be put which members would like answered. It was agreed that the Accounts should be accepted and signed by the chair as a fair record of the Parish Councils financial affairs.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

Tyson Burridge (fuel) £39.48. E.ON (electricity) £25.05.

JS Holliday (salary, travel, telephone) £661.00. J Bowman (memory sticks) £15.00.

(digger hire) £100.00. Bluefin Insurance (motor insurance) £269.00.

As there were several members who submitted their apologies for the next meeting to be held on 9th May 2016, and was scheduled to be the AGM & PARISH MEETING, it was agreed that the Parish Meeting and an ordinary meeting should go ahead as planned but that the AGM should be put back to June.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 11th April 2016.

Members Present.

Cllrs Mr Mrs C Pattinson, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs K Hodgson,
Mrs M Smart, Mrs S Smallwood, Mrs M Nelson, Mr R Bell.

Also present.

PCSO Hollie Dennis.

Apologies.

Cllrs J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mr B Pattinson, Mrs R Robinson.
Cllr Mrs G Troughton, Cumbria County Council & Copeland Borough Council,

Membership.

The Clerk reported that Mrs J Williams had handed in a letter confirming her resignation from the Parish Council, and it was reported that as a result there were now four vacancies on the Parish Council, but as Copeland Borough Council were reviewing the number of members each Parish Council should have, no action need be taken.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chair.

Declaration of Interests.

None of the members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

The meeting was recommenced after the Annual Meeting.

Police Matters.

PCSO Hollie Dennis read out the monthly report which she had forwarded to the clerk earlier and went into details on each of the cases which had been brought to the attention of the police over the previous month.

Tower Mint Ltd.

The clerk reported that he had ordered copies of the Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday Commemorative Medal for all the children of primary school age in the parish to receive a medal each.

Pica Community Group.

Feedback on recent activity by the group was provided by the members present at the meeting and the new mower had been supplied and was proving to be a great success. There were concerns raised by members with regard to a section of footway alongside number 70 Pica Cottages, with regards to the ownership and the condition of the surface.

Pica Play Area.

The clerk reported that no further information had been received from the Council's solicitor on this matter.

Councillors Questions.

Members raised several issues of concern, the Fairy Path was becoming of concern and it was reported that the steps at Bank Side were uneven and a lady had had a very nasty accident when she tripped and fell down the steps, both of these were highways matters and would be reported.

Dog fouling was an issue which several members were concerned about naming the Community Centre field around 3.30 pm and Main Street (nr the Reading Rooms) around 7.30 am as places where the Wardens should be made aware of.

Correspondence.

There were no items of correspondence received which had not been dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

Planning applications.

Application to erect an extension to rear of 37 Pinewoods, Gilgarran, application number 4/16/2129/0F1.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to this proposal.

Financial Matters.

Annual Audit.

Copy of the final audit document was produced for the information of the members to agree and the chair sign in advance of the document being passed to the external auditors for checking.

It was agreed that the Audit should be accepted and signed by the chair.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

E.ON (electricity) £17.20. J Norman (mower) £599.00. Cumbrian Newspapers (advert) £173.04. CALC (subs) £282.00. Zurich (insurance) £811.85. Club for Young People (rent) £90.00. Club for Young People (donation) £250.00. Club for Young People (donation) £1,000.00. Distington in Bloom (donation) £750.00. JS Holliday (salary) £168.00. J Bennett (planting) £700.00. Metro Rod (drain) £780.00.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish meeting held in the Club for Young People, Distington, 9th May
2016.

Members Present.

Cllrs Mr Mrs C Pattinson, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs K Hodgson,
Mrs M Smart, Mrs S Smallwood, Mrs M Nelson, Mr R Bell.

Also present.

PCSO Hollie Dennis.

Apologies.

Cllrs J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mr B Pattinson, Mrs R Robinson.
Cllr Mrs G Troughton, Cumbria County Council & Copeland Borough Council,

There were no residents from the area in attendance.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held in the Club for Young People, Distington, 13th June 2016.

Members Present.

Cllrs J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mr R Gallacher,
Mrs M Smart, Mrs R Robinson Mrs S Smallwood, Mr R Bell.

Apologies.

Cllrs Mrs C Pattinson, Mr B Pattinson, Mrs K Hodgson, Mrs M Nelson.
Cllr Mrs G Troughton, Cumbria County Council & Copeland Borough Council,
PCSO Hollie Dennis.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Council and the Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Election of Chairman

Mr J Bowman was nominated to serve as Chairman for the year 2016-17.

As there were no other nominations Mr Bowman was elected as Chair of the Parish Council for 2016-17.

Mr Bowman signed the acceptance of office form.

Election of Vice Chair.

Mrs C Pattinson was nominated to serve as Vice Chair for the year 2016-17.

As there were no other nominations Mrs C Pattinson was elected as Vice Chair of the Parish Council for 2016-17.

Chairman's Report.

Cllr Mr Bowman presented a report on the past year to the members, recollecting the work of the council over the year and especially for the work carried out by the Clerk and Carl Cooper behind the scenes, and also thanking the Distington and Pica in Bloom groups for keeping the community looking great. He also thanked the councillors for their continuation of their hard work in the parish and pointed out that there are a small number of vacancies which can be filled by co-option if anyone comes forward.

The Chairman also pointed out the some work to upgrade the CCTV had been carried out and money allocated in the precept to improve the system even further. He went on to remind members that the Distington Big Local is now in its fourth year of the ten year period, with the projects being decided by the community.

Agree dates for Monthly Meetings.

It was agreed that Parish Council meetings should be held on the second Monday of each month, except during August when no meeting will be held. Each meeting will be held in the Club for Young People and commence at 7.00pm.

Membership.

Members were informed that there had been some moves to reduce numbers of members needed for each Parish Council. It was pointed out that there were no legal reasons enforcing such changes and after a discussion where it was pointed out that Distington Parish Council until this year had always had a full compliment of fifteen members and although there are now only eleven members with the resignation of Mrs Williams, it was agreed to leave matters as they are and look for suggestions as to possible new members.

Police Matters.

There were no police present at the meeting and a discussion took place about several matters of concern. It was pointed out that some rules as to use of the CCTV had been resolved and incidents had been recorded over the last month which assisted the police with their enquiries.

Queens 90th Birthday Medals.

It was reported that medals had been distributed to all the children who attended the Distington Primary School and a number of medals were left for the children who were not present and also the staff at the school. A list was being compiled of the children of Primary School age who attend other schools outside the parish, in order that they should also receive a medal. It was suggested by the clerk that each member of the parish council should be given one as a memento of the occasion.

Mower Damage Costs.

The clerk reported that he had received tow invoices from Lloyd Ltd for repairs to the new mower, which amounted to £867.00 and on enquiring with Lloyd Ltd staff he was informed that both of the invoices were as a result of damage. After a discussion around the large costs which were occurring since the purchase of this machine it was stated that it had been agreed that the Parish Council should submit an invoice to the Big Local to cover 50% of all costs pertaining to the machine.

It was agreed that the clerk should submit an invoice at regular intervals, possibly three months at a time.

War Memorial Position.

The Chairman stated that there had been suggestions made by some members of the public that the War Memorial should be moved to a position on the land vacated by the Royal British Legion. The matter was put to the members for their opinions and after a full discussion it was agreed that the memorial should remain where it is with the general opinion being that the elevated and remoteness of the present site was ideal for the purpose.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Councillors Questions.

Concerns were raised with regards to the unsafe condition of what is left of the equipment on the play area at Pica. It was stated that there had been an agreement that an inspection of the equipment would jointly be made at the point of any take over taking place but as the process had taken so long and nothing being updated it was probably best if what is there is removed altogether. The Chair said that he had been to the site and had already had discussions with Copeland on the issue and would follow it up further, and also concerns about tree cutting in the area.

A request was made for the Parish Council to take over the area near to Hinnings Road and develop it as a play area as with the one at Pica. It was pointed out that the Big Local Group are already discussing the possibility of taking it over.

Concerns were raised about the overgrown hedge at Holly House on Main Street. This is an issue that crops up every year around this time and the highways would be contacted to look into again, there is also a similar problem reported at 25 Swallow Hill. Highways are to also be contacted about the overgrown footpath at Dyan, on the Pica Road.

Correspondence.

There were no correspondence received on any subject which had nor already been dealt with in the agenda.

Planning Applications.

Application to erect a two storey, 4 bedroom dwelling, on the former Miners Welfare site, Pica, application number 4/16/2187/001. After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to this proposal.

Financial Matters.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

Brocklebank Solicitors (legal fees) £350.00. Lloyd Ltd (mower repairs) £425.56.
Lloyd Ltd (mower repairs) £441.40. Tower Mint Ltd (90th Medals) £486.60.
Tyson H Burridge (fuel) £58.80. E.ON (electricity) £8.60.
JS Holliday (salary, postage) £221.00. Post Offices Ltd (income tax) £125.00.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 11th July 2016.

Members Present.

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mr Mrs C Pattinson, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs K Hodgson, Mrs R Robinson, Mrs M Smart, Mrs S Smallwood, Mrs M Nelson, Mr R Bell.

Apologies.

Cllr Mr B Pattinson.
Cllr Mrs G Troughton, Cumbria County Council & Copeland Borough Council,
PCSO Hollie Dennis.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chair.

Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Mrs J Bowman declared an interest in all planning matters. Otherwise none of the other members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

PCSO Hollie Dennis had submitted her apologies for this meeting and had sent a copy of the monthly report which detailed on each of the cases which had been brought to the attention of the police over the previous month. The report was read out to the members by the chair.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

Feedback on recent activity by the group was provided by the members present at the meeting and the new mower had been supplied and was proving to be a great success, and very powerful for work required. There were still concerns raised by members with regard to a section of footway alongside number 70 Pica Cottages, with regards to the ownership and the condition of the surface, contact had been made with County Highways who had promised to send an officer to check and observe.

Pica Play Area.

The clerk reported that no further information had been received from the Council's solicitor on this matter.

Clock Tower.

The clerk reported that he had been informed that all efforts to fix the clock had come to no success and that a complete overhaul of the winding mechanism was required. This

deterioration was caused by the clock being out of action for a very long time and to put things right was to cost approximately £1200. A grant of £500 towards the repair was received from the Big Local.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Correspondence

An estimate had been received from Border Road Markings for the cost of reinstating the yellow lines at the Community Centre car park. It was pointed out by the clerk that under the lease agreement the cost of the upkeep of the Community Centre, which included replenishing of these road markings, lay with the Community Centre Management Committee not the Parish Council. The Parish Council could decide to make a contribution towards the cost but he also reminded members that an annual contribution to the Community Centre in that the Parish Council cover the cost of the insurance each year.

It was stated that another estimate had been received from a second contractor and it was not sure that the Committee were expecting the cost to be covered by the Parish Council.

Planning applications

Application to erect a detached Double Storey Building, Woodlands, Hayescastle Road, Distington, application number 4/16/2187/001. After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to this proposal.

Financial Matters.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

J Bennett (plants) £892.20. E.ON (electricity) £20.71. Tyson H Burr ridge (fuel) £66.36.
JS Holliday (salary) £168.00.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 12th September 2016.

Members Present.

Cllrs Mr Mrs C Pattinson, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs K Hodgson,
Mrs R Robinson, Mrs M Smart, Mrs S Smallwood, Mrs M Nelson, Mr R Bell.

Apologies.

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mr B Pattinson.
Cllr Mrs G Troughton, Cumbria County Council & Copeland Borough Council,
PCSO Hollie Dennis.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chair.

Declaration of Interests.

None of the members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

PCSO Hollie Dennis had submitted her apologies for this meeting and had sent a copy of the monthly report which detailed on each of the cases which had been brought to the attention of the police over the previous month. The report was read out to the members by the chair.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

Feedback on recent activity by the group was provided by the members present at the meeting.

There were still concerns with regard to the section of footway alongside number 70 Pica Cottages, with regards to the ownership and the condition of the surface. Although contact had been made with County Highways their promise to send an officer to check and observe had not materialised.

Pica Play Area.

The clerk reported that the latest information had received from the Council's solicitor on this matter was through a phone call to them he made a few days earlier. The solicitor who was now dealing with the matter stated that she was still awaiting a response from Mr Clinton Boyce (Copeland BC) and that as soon as he has responded she would be in a position to make progress with the transfer.

Clock Tower.

The clerk reported that he had been in contact with the Cumbria Clock Company and had been given the 10th October as a start date for the complete overhaul to commence.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Councillors Questions.

Members were concerned about the location of the Parish Council's Speed Indicator Device. It was understood to be in the police station at Whitehaven but was not being used. The clerk reported that he had attended a meeting (as a Councillor) when it was stated by the police officer chairing the meeting that these older devices were too heavy to be moved by an individual person under the present regulations. It was suggested that this could be resolved by having it permanently mounted on a small trailer. PCSO Hollie Dennis was to be contacted for her views on this matter.

Concerns were raised about the condition of the bus shelters within the parish with regard to graffiti, and it was stated that the Big Local team were preparing to carry out works on all the shelters around the parish.

The members were asked to approve the cost of repairing a wall where the new fence had been erected by the Big Local workers. The members agreed to pay the £60 cost of the repair.

The condition of the Queens Head was getting worse and it was suggested that the Copeland Mayor, Mr Mike Starkie, be contacted to ask if something could be done under a scheme he was fronting to get rid of dereliction around the Borough.

Proposals for the Big Local Committee to take over the ownership of the mower were put forward and discussed at length. It was agreed in principal that this was the way forward with the Parish Council putting out their grass cutting out to tender and the Big Local could put in a bid for the works.

There was also a proposal put on the table for the upgrade and addition to the CCTV cameras with a shared cost between the Big Local sharing the cost which was to be agreed.

As these items were not on the agenda the clerk was to place both of these proposals on the agenda for the October meeting when they could be officially agreed.

Correspondence.

The Parish Council were informed of British Telecoms intention to remove the equipment from several phone boxes around the Copeland Borough including two in Distington. Those were at Hinnings Road and Common End and it was stated by members that there should be no objection to these proposals as the evidence presented suggested that there was very little use of the phones over the last 12 months. It was suggested that BT

should be required to remove the Kiosks completely not only the equipment as they were an eyesore when no longer serviced by BT.

Planning applications.

Proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house, Home Farm, Gilgarran, application number CH/4/16/2247/OF1.

Detached Single Storey Games Room to side of main house, Woodlands, Hayescastle Road, Distington, application number CH/4/16/2288/OF1.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to these proposals.

Financial Matters.

BDO - Annual Audit:-

Audit Return.

The Clerk stated that he had now received the audit back from the auditors clear of any adverse comments.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

E.ON (electricity) £27.54. JS Holliday (salary, travel, phone) £849.00. Egremont Town Band (parade) £200.00. Big Local (wall) £60.00. BDO LLP (audit) £240.00. Tyson Burrige (fuel) £76.44.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 10th October 2016.

Members Present.

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mr Mrs C Pattinson, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs K Hodgson,
Mrs R Robinson, Mrs M Smart, Mrs M Nelson, Mr R Bell.

Also present.

Cllr Mrs G Troughton, Cumbria County Council & Copeland Borough Council.

Apologies.

Cllrs Mrs J Bowman, Mrs S Smallwood, Mr B Pattinson.
PCSO Hollie Dennis.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were not agreed as some discussions were omitted, these are to be added and presented at the next meeting for the minutes to be agreed and signed by the Chair.

Declaration of Interests.

Cllr K Hodgson declared an interest in the CCTV item as she had connections to the Sports Club otherwise none of the other members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

PCSO Hollie Dennis had submitted her apologies for this meeting and had sent a copy of the monthly report which detailed on each of the cases which had been brought to the attention of the police over the previous month. The report was presented in a new format which was deemed by the Chairman as difficult to read and understand, and it was agreed that Inspector Lory should be invited to a meeting to discuss several issues regarding policing of the parish.

The location of the SID device was requested and it was suggested that if the police were not using it the parish council should have it returned.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

Feedback on recent activity by the group was provided by the member present at the meeting. He reported that the group had been successful in obtaining a cabin for storage of their equipment and it was now in place and being used.

Pica Play Area.

The Clerk reported that there was no more news on the matter as it was difficult to establish which solicitor was holding the transfer up as they appear to be both waiting for the other to respond.

Clock Tower.

The Clerk reported that he had been given a firm date for the repairs to be carried out which was 17th October.

Big Local Proposals.

These matters had been discussed in full at the September meeting but as they had not been listed as agenda items the decision could not be agreed until this meeting.

The Mower

The proposal put forward by the Big Local Committee was that they take over ownership of the mower and reimburse the Parish Council the £2,000 value of the previous mower and that the Big Local would bid for all the grass cutting which the Parish Council carry out by the in house mower and by their contractor.

The members agreed to the proposal put forward.

The Clerk was to contact the secretary of the Big Local to agree a date of transfer of ownership.

Expansion of CCTV system.

The cost of the additional CCTV cameras and the control in the clock tower would be shared by the Parish Council with the PC contribution being £5,000 and the PC would recover any VAT incurred.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Councillors Questions.

The presence of rats being seen on the Distington Royal British Legion car park was raised by several members. It was pointed out that this was private land and that Copeland Borough Council did not have the authority to clear away the fly tipping be carried out on the site.

A member asked if there were any of the Queens commemoration medals left over as he wished to acquire some for children who attended the school until a short while ago.

A discussion took place around the final arrangements for the Remembrance Day Parade and the catering being provided.

Concerns were raised about the poor quality of the new street lights, pointing out that some areas were very dark especially where lamp posts were well apart, but in all the light given out by the new system left a lot to be desired.

Correspondence.

A letter had been received from the Pensions Regulator with regards to the new law in which any employees of the council must be offered a pension and in the case of Distington Parish council that means the Clerks, as the only employee must be offered a pension even if it is very small according to his salary.

The Clerk stated that he did not want to have a pension at this time and had made enquiries as to what was the way forward and would report at the next meeting.

Planning applications.

There were no planning applications received for this meeting.

Financial Matters.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

E.ON (electricity) £21.26. Tyson H Burrige (fuel) £71.40. Post Offices (income tax) £125.00. JS Holliday (salary) £166.00. J Bennett (planting) £700.00.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 14th November 2016.

Members Present.

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs C Pattinson, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs K Hodgson,
Mrs R Robinson, Mrs M Nelson, Mr R Bell.

Also present.

Cllr Mrs G Troughton, Cumbria County Council & Copeland Borough Council.

Apologies.

Cllrs Mrs M Smart, Mrs S Smallwood, Mr B Pattinson.
PCSO Hollie Dennis.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last two meeting of the Council were agreed as the discussions which had been omitted from the September meeting had now been added and presented. The minutes for September and October were agreed and signed by the Chair.

Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Mrs J Bowman declared an interest in any planning matters as she is a member of the planning committee. Otherwise none of the other members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

PCSO Hollie Dennis had submitted her apologies and had sent an e-mail to the chair explaining a new system of reporting the monthly crime figures. Members were unhappy with the new system which entailed individuals seeking them out from a long list on the internet as this meant that some members of the community were unable to access the information.

It was agreed that Inspector Lory should be contacted and a meeting arranged to discuss some of the issues which have developed over the last year or so.

Members were pleased to see Inspector Lory laying a wreath on the memorial during the Remembrance Day Parade. Members could not recall a police officer doing that in the past and it was very nice to see.

Concerns were raised at the report that someone was going into houses around the parish uninvited on the pretext of carrying out a survey of properties in the area. It was said that they were going into all areas of the houses including those upstairs. No-one seemed to be sure who the people represented.

Concerns were also raised about the number of individuals who were parking on yellow lines and on footways causing difficulty for people with prams and also those who have difficulty in walking causing them to have to leave the footway and go round the obstruction onto the road with the risk of meeting a road user in a car or other form of transport.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

Feedback on recent activity by the group was provided by the member present at the meeting. He stated that things were generally quiet at this time of the year with just a bit of clearing litter etc. being carried out and a bonfire evening with fireworks. The group members were keen to get started on works with the play area as soon as possible.

Pica Play Area.

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with the Council's solicitor dealing with the transfer of the play area and Cllr Bowman had had a discussion with Mr Boyce at Copeland and both stated their intentions to progress the matter as quickly as possible.

Clock Tower.

The Clerk reported that the clock had been repaired and at last it appeared to be successful and was keeping good time and an invoice for the work received, a copy of which was to be passed onto the Big Local for their records as they had assisted with part of the cost.

Big Local Proposals.

The Clerk stated that he had met Alan at the big local office to discuss the transfer of the mower to their keeping and it had been agreed that the timing should coincide with the renewal of the insurance in order not to complicate matters if there were need for a claim.

It was reported that progress was being made with regards to sites for additional CCTV cameras and that costs were being finalised.

Pensions Regulator (Clerks Pension).

The Clerk reported that he had received advice from CALC on this matter and that although he did not require a pension from the Parish Council and successive clerk may wish to go down that way so the Parish Council had to register with a scheme in order to be in a position to join within six weeks of the new clerk being in position. The clerk will be enrolling the council into a scheme over the next few weeks.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Councillors Questions.

Concerns were expressed as to the poor quality of the new street lights in various places in the villages. It was stated the Hinnings Road and Barfs Road areas in particular were very poor and that people were finding it very difficult to go about their business during the hours of darkness and some were scared to come out of their houses.

Cllr Troughton stated that any particularly dark areas should be reported to the highways and that improvements will be made if found wanting.

It was reported that the Pica Village Hall site had been sold on again but no progress on developing the site had been made.

Concerns were raised about the Community School Hall not being available for community events. It was stated that as the building was constructed with funds from community grants it was always thought that it should be available for the community to hire for special occasions. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the chair of governors to obtain the position with regards to use by the community.

Correspondence.

Great North Air Ambulance sent a request for assistance with their funding efforts and after a full discussion it was agreed that a sum of £500 should be awarded.

Lloyd Ltd sent a reminder about the need for annual mower service to be arranged as it would effect the warranty if it was not carried out. A councillor who is also a member of the big local stated that the Big Local was making alternative arrangements for the machine to be serviced as it could be carried out nearer to the base for the machine at less cost.

National Grid – North West Coast Connections provided the Parish Council with various documents explaining the works which they are proposing to carry out. It was reported that the clerk and one other councillor had attended a presentation in Whitehaven Civic Hall on the subject and it was agreed that it was better that if any member had any particular concerns they should make them known through the consultation process.

A report on the events on Remembrance Sunday were reported on by members involved and everyone agreed that it had gone very well in deed and was a credit to all involved. It was stated that some form of rack to place the wreaths on would be helpful in keeping them in place when the weather was not ideal and also work was required near the gates where a possible trip hazard was in evidence. Both of these matters would be given some thought over the next few weeks.

Planning applications.

Proposed Entrance Porch, Croftlands, Dyonside, Distington, application number CH/4/16/2354/OF1.

Erection of portal structure to provide roof over training area, Lawsons Training Ltd, Whinbank Farm, Distington, application number CH/4/16/2377/OF1.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to these proposals.

Financial Matters.

Precept for 2017-18.

After a long discussion it was agreed that the precept for 2017-18 should be raised to £20,000, in recognition of the proposals for this years increased responsibilities.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

Tyson H Burrige (fuel) £74.76. E.ON (electricity) £18.74. Cumbria Clock Company (clock repair) £1,380. J Bennett (plants) £603.00. Poppy Appeal (wreaths) £125.00. R Robinson (refreshments) £134.74. JS Holliday (salary, meeting, paper) £228.50. Egremont Town Band (remembrance day parade) £200.00. Great North Air Ambulance (donation) £500.00.

Distington Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the Distington Club for Young People, 12th December 2016.

Members Present.

Cllrs Mrs C Pattinson, Mrs M Nelson, Mr R Gallacher, Mrs S Smallwood, Mrs K Hodgson,
Mrs R Robinson, Mr R Bell.

Also present.

Cllr Mrs G Troughton, Cumbria County Council & Copeland Borough Council.

Apologies.

Cllrs Mr J Bowman, Mrs J Bowman, Mrs M Smart, Mr B Pattinson.
PCSO Hollie Dennis.

Minutes of last Meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were agreed and signed by the Chair.

Declaration of Interests.

None of the members had any interests to declare on any specific item on the agenda.

Police Matters.

It was reported that Inspector Craig Lory had been contacted and a meeting had taken place to discuss some of the issues which have developed over the last year or so. The meeting was described positive and worthwhile. Inspector Lory agreed to attend a meeting of the Parish Council when his time permitted and he would try to arrange for Hollie to have the time to attend. He pointed out that the new system of reporting incidents was not altogether satisfactory but with the reduction of manpower it was not possible to go back to when an officer sorted through all the reports to single out a particular parish.

The meeting was attended by members of Distington Parish Council, John Bowman, Rhoda Robinson and the clerk Joe Holliday plus the clerk of Lowca Parish Council.

Pica Community Group – Feedback.

It was reported that the village bonfire night celebrations had gone well with no adverse comments by the public everyone enjoyed the fireworks display but at the following meeting there had been some very negative remarks made by some of the members.

After this meeting Sue Smallwood had decided to write out and deliver her resignation from the group adding that some members were taking it on of themselves to change previously agreed arrangements. Dates of events were being changed even after posters etc. had been printed and Sue decided that she no longer wanted to be a member but

staying on as a member of the Parish council. She was assured that this was quite in order as the membership of the group, although the group was affiliated to the PC, membership of each was a separate issue.

At this point Bob Bell stated that he was considering leaving the group for the same reasons as Sue and would possibly be writing out his resignation also.

Pica Play Area.

No further progress was reported on the transfer of the play area to the Parish Council but it was in the hands of Mr Boyce of Copeland Borough Council and as a result of Sue's resignation it was discussed as to the way forward as she stated that she wished to still be involved in the development of the play area as she had worked hard along with the PC to bring the project to fruition. It was agreed that, when the land is transferred, discussions would need to be had with the possible forming of a separate group with the play area as its sole function.

Clock Tower.

Now that the clock is finally working again the fixing of the plaque to a suitable position on the tower wall should be arranged. It had always been understood that this would take place as some sort of special occasion with all involved being invited along but the delay in the completion of the road surface and then the problems with the clock makes it a little pointless now. It was agreed that the clerk should arrange for the plaque to be fixed to a suitable position on the tower.

Pensions Regulator (Clerks Pension).

The clerk produced a paper explaining the details of the Parish Council's requirement to enrol eligible employees into a qualifying pension scheme and set out guidance on the next steps that the PC needs to take with regards to choosing a pension scheme for employees.

Under this legislation Distington Parish Council have a duty to provide a pension scheme for eligible jobholders and to offer a pension scheme to non-eligible workers who may wish to opt into or join a pension scheme. It is suggested that Distington Parish Council should fulfil this obligation by registering with the National Employers Savings Trust (NEST) which is open to all employers regardless of the size of the workforce. NEST is a qualifying pension scheme established by the Government to support the introduction of auto-enrolment, and the main features of NEST are a defined contribution scheme, flexible contributions and low charges.

Distington Parish council only employs one member of staff and because that member of staff earns less than the salary threshold of £5,824 there is no requirement for the council to pay contributions, however, the council must still provide a pension scheme should the member of staff wish to join. The Council must write to the employee following the staging date (1st April 2017) to inform the member of staff that they have the right to join a pension scheme, and if the member of staff does not want to join a pension scheme the council can choose not to put a pension scheme in place. If this is the case the council must write to the Pensions Regulator and explain that at the present time the council will not be setting up a

pension scheme because the council does not have any employees that wish to join a pension scheme.

The council must still decide which pension scheme to use in the future as should the current member of staff leave and the new member of employee wish to join a scheme the council will only have six weeks from the date of the request to put a pension in place or the council will not be compliant with the legislation.

Recommendations

- That Distington Parish Council will use the Government default pension scheme NEST as its pension provider to meet the requirements of auto-enrolment under the Pensions Act, whether required now or in the future.
- That the use of NEST will only commence when the council has an employee that wishes to join the pension scheme.
- The council will write to the Clerk following the staging date to ask the clerk if he wishes to join the pension scheme.
- If the Clerk does not want to join a pension scheme the Clerk will inform the Pensions Regulator that Distington Parish Council will not be putting a pension scheme in place at the present time and will complete the declaration of compliance.

These recommendations were agreed by the members.

Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present who expressed a wish to address the meeting.

Councillors Questions.

Concerns were raised again about the number of lights which are unlit on the Millennium Green which are the responsibility of Home Group.

The clerk was requested to write to the Head Teacher of the school to invite her to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss issues around the community aspect of the school hall. A letter to the Chair of Governors was also requested.

Correspondence.

A letter of thanks was received from the Great North Air Ambulance for the donation to their fund raising efforts.

Revitalise, a charity group set up to accommodate homeless people wrote a request for assistance with their funding efforts. After a discussion it was agreed that as this organisation was not local to the area it was thought unlikely that anyone from the parish would benefit from the service they provide it was not possible under legislation for the parish council to provide assistance from their precept, so no action was to be taken.

Planning applications.

Erection of General Purpose Building High House Farm, Pica.

After consideration, it was agreed that the Parish Council should have no objections to these proposals.

Financial Matters.

The Following accounts were passed for payment:-

Co-op (food parcels) £579.44. JS Holliday (salary, meeting) £216.00. E.On (electricity) £8.78. Copeland BC (grass cutting) £1664.11. Post Office (income tax) £125.00.