

MELKRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 24 February 2020 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr T Lewis (Chairman) Cllr M Oliver, Cllr C Drake, Cllr S Hingston
Cllr K Stronach

In attendance: Mrs K Little – Clerk

County Councillor A Sharp

1 Member of the Public

266/20 Apologies - None

267/20 Minutes of meeting held on 9 December 2019 and 8 January 2020 to agree

Proposal for Minutes of Meeting held on 9 December 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Prop: Cllr Hingston Sec: Cllr Lewis - Agreed

Proposal for Minutes of Meeting held on 8 January 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Prop: Cllr Stronach Sec: Cllr Lewis - Agreed

268/20 Updates

- 268/20.1 To receive update on blocked gutter at bus stop
It was reported the gutter still blocked
- 268/20.2 To receive progress of pot holes at the Village junction
Cllr Sharp advised the repair to the pot holes in the Village would not be done until the new financial year
- 268/20.3 Complaint from resident regarding state of roads around Cawburn/edges Green – Cllr Sharp advised a lot of this work had been completed, with the exception of repairs still to do at the cattle grid.
- 268/20.4 Update on proposed closure of BT phone box
Councillors expressed an interest in adopting the phone box or adopting the source of electricity – Proposed for clerk to contact
Prop: Cllr Stronach - Agreed

269/20 Declarations of Interest

In accordance with Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011, members to declare any interests in items on this agenda - None

270/20 Planning

Description: Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale relating to planning permission 15/02292/OUT for the construction of 6 dwellings and associated parking

To consider amended/additional information

Location: Land south of East Melkridge Farm, Greengate Lane, Melkridge

Applicant: Mr Nick Sayer
Confirmed that Northumberland County Council granted permission
The application had been granted by NCC, and had granted access via Greengate Lane, but they had back tracked on the condition of traffic having access via the courtyard as this could not be enforced. Planners to look at the rooflines and precise measurements to be taken before development starts. Passing places were approved but no footpath.

271/20 Flooding on A69 and stones, mud debris on Moor View Road– to consider action

Parishioners were concerned with regard to the mud and debris pouring through the gate way from the field and down Moor View, and blocking the cundies.

Cllr Sharp explained it is the responsibility of the land owner to deal with excess water from the field. Cllr Sharp to find out the date for the gulley sucker to come and clean out the cundies and sweep the road so residents can be informed.

Flooding on A69 from Low House Farm – it was reported water had been pouring from the entrance to Low House Farm and from 2 farm field gates, causing severe flooding on the A69 resulting in part of the A69 being closed by the police. The culvert was also blocked. Cllr Sharp again advised it is the responsibility of the land owner to deal with excess water but would contact Road Link about the problems on A69

272/21 Report of non-functioning lights on turn off at A69 junction to Melkridge

A parishioner had reported the lights were not working and had been reported to Cllr Sharp. It was noted the lights were still not working

273/20 To consider donation to GNAA in memory of Jen James who had served on the parish council for many years

It was proposed to donate £50.00

Prop: Cllr Stronach Sec: Cllr Lewis Agreed

(8pm – Cllr Sharp left the meeting)

274/20 H&DJBC

To consider recent budget request and previous years currently unresolved – budget request had been received from the Acting Clerk for the H&DJBC although the stated amount is factually incorrect as the previous budgets have not yet been agreed and until such time as it is determined, there is no outstanding amount.

The clerk has requested the budget request (which had been overtyped in red and is disrespectful to members and the parishioners of Melkridge) to be resent in the correct format for this to be placed before members.

Consider response to discounts given to other constituent parishes Methodology of discounts given to parishes are inconsistent – no explanation could be given for the methodology for discounts

Consider response regarding the change in calculation method - (Band D equivalent) – MPC had not agreed to change in calculation to “Band D

Equivalents” nor agreed to the apparent discount for Plenmeller with Whitfield. To consider whether to consult parishioners on whether MPC should remain part of the joint arrangement - Advice from Liam Henry, NCC advises MPC have a statutory duty to be part of the joint arrangement and does not suggest a mechanism for leaving. Clerk to contact Liam Henry who was dealing with the budget issue as this has not been resolved
MPC have serious concerns with regard to the governance and accountability of the H&DJBC committee. A letter to be sent to all members of the H&DJBC from MPC

275/20 To received grass cutting quotations for consideration
Tenders were received from Ian Charlton and MacDonald Maintenance Services, H&DJC had been asked to submit a tender but had declined as it was too onerous for their staff.

Ian Charlton	£1,100 for the season
MacDonald Services	£120 per cut based on 8 cuts –

March to October

The tenders were discussed and it was proposed to accept the tender from MacDonald Services subject to receiving 2 satisfactory references and receipt of Public Liability Insurance. 50% contribution to be paid by Village Green Committee.

Prop: Cllr Oliver Sec: Cllr Lewis Agreed
Clerk to write to Ian Charlton in appreciation of all his hard work over the years

276/20 Correspondence
NCC – Public Spaces Protection Orders - noted

277/20 Clerks Report/Accounts
277/20.1 Financial Risk Assessment to agree – deferred from previous meeting - Agreed
277/20.2 Accounts for approval and payment: -
Prop: Cllr Drake Sec: Cllr Hingston Agreed

24.02.20	100442	K Little	£249.39	£1,109.73
24.02.20	100443	HMRC	£58.00	£1,051.73

278/20 Any Other Business –
Request for 2 dog fouling signs
To note a thanks to MPC from the villagers for their support during the recent planning application

279/20 Date and Time of next meeting - TBC

**SIGNED AND ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE
MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2020**

Chairperson.....

Date.....