

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 18th May 2021 – Greenacres Garden

Present:

Peter Levett--- Chairman
Julie Parkes – Vice Chairman
Nigel Parkes – Councillor
Shaun Hanson – Councillor
Joanne Harper - Councillor
Amanda Wilson – Clerk

Apologies:

None

Annual Meeting – Election of New Committee

The new councillors were duly elected into the following Parish Council positions;

Chairman:- Peter Levett Proposed by Nigel Parkes, Seconded by Shaun Hanson

Vice Chairman:- Julie Parkes Proposed by Peter Levett, Seconded by Joanne Harper

Responsible Financial Officer:- Nigel Parkes Proposed by Julie Parkes, Seconded by Shaun Hanson

Declaration of Interest – all forms duly completed to be returned directly to Durham County Council by elected Councillors

Declaration of Acceptance of Office – all forms duly completed, signed, witnessed and handed to the Clerk for safe keeping on record

Outgoing Chairman Report – Nigel Parkes summarised the last year's challenges, successes and points of interest; Challenges of continuing to hold the necessary Parish Meetings and comply with all statutory requirements of running a Parish Council whilst also managing the Covid19 Pandemic situation in a safe and controlled manner; Success in restricting the proposed developments in the field behind the village hall and progress made to date in achieving conservation status for the village and point of interest, thanking Peter Levett for organising the VE Celebrations. Particular thanks were extended to Shaun Hanson for both his advice and leadership with both the planning applications and conservation status process, both of which are on-going.

Review of Standing Orders and regulations – Agreed and still current.

Frequency of Future Council Meetings – Quarterly – Proposed by Peter Levett and agreed unanimously.

Any Other Business; Peter Levett incoming chairman thanked Nigel Parkes for all his hard work as Chairman since elected on 22nd May 2017. He went on to welcome and thank Joanne Harper for volunteering to join the Parish Council and being elected as Councillor.

The minutes of the last meeting on 17th March 2021 were approved and subsequently signed by Peter Levett Chairman.

All present as above.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Matters Arising:

i) **Broadband** – FACTO working in conjunction with Durham County Council and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, have now submitted their proposal to Whitehall for sign off. FACTO appear to have secured enough funding for this to go ahead subject to agreement. Dave Bottoms from Hutton Magna remains lead on this on behalf of Ovington, Hutton Magna, Wycliffe villages etc.

ii) **Maintenance of trees on village Green** – Nigel Parkes has now made contact with Steve Johnson of Durham County Council whom has confirmed DCC have been checking the trees and will, in future, forward a copy of their report to the Parish Council for its records. **Action - none**

iii) Conservation Area Classification – Shaun Hanson has today heard from Brian Harris ((BH) (DCC) by email suggesting the following way forward as Covid19 restrictions continue to provide a challenge and cause delay; a) BH to write to all residents providing a summary of the proposed Conservation Area Plan and inviting them to take part in an on-line consultation b) BH suggested that they provide an email address for comments from local residents but OPC is unsure if that will be direct with DCC (preferable) or via OPC. c) If the above process is agreed it is anticipated this could go ahead within four weeks **ACTION POINTS** for OPC i) Clarification of where/who the email comments are directed ii) Coordinate a timescale with DCC iii) Agree an alternative procedure for those residents who are not on line to comment. iv) Produce a newsletter to explain the above procedure whilst coordinating with DCC timelines **Action – Shaun Hanson**

iv) Village Green Access Road – Progress to date; Peter Levett has been in touch with DCC via email and phone, DCC confirm they have no record of having deeds to the village green. Local residents will be asked to look at their own deeds if they have them to see if they can establish ownership of the access road. Peter Levett to phone the Land registry as there is a significant charge to do an online search and the concern is that without a postcode, which the Village Green does not have, it will result in no progress. Julie Parkes has managed to find a mention that in 1946 the Village Green was reported as an asset of the value £3.00 but no more information was unearthed. After initial enquiries it is estimated that the cost for the current repairs to the access road from Maypole Cottage to the road will cost approximately £300. Concern remains about the condition of the road outside Maypole Cottage on the Village Green. Deep potholes have formed and the overall condition is continuing to deteriorate. It was proposed that the Parish Council should pay for the repairs however it was agreed that some investigation is required prior to this to establish who is liable for the upkeep of this road and report back to the Parish Council prior to any repairs being undertaken at the cost of OPC. It was also agreed that an approach should be made to the owner of Maypole Cottage to have a chat about the situation. **Action – Nigel Parkes, Shaun Hanson (contact with Maypole Cottage) and Peter Levett (ownership/upkeep liability investigation) ADW to contact Maureen Begg (previous Chairman) to see if she knows anything of the history of the ownership/boundaries of the Village Green**

Consideration of any current Planning Application

- **Update – Land North of Moor View Cottage**, it has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council a number of actions of concern regarding the current construction of one of the houses on this land; the unauthorised infill of the historical HaHa adjoining the boundary of Ovington Edge, the lack of edge and hedge protection whilst construction is underway, the layout of the foundations are not in accordance with the planning application and have subsequently been infilled **Action – Monitoring on-going ALL**

Financial Report:

Julie Parkes as the current Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been zero bills paid since the last meeting.

Receipts – Current Account – None Savings Account – 03/07/2020 £1.72 Interest, 23/12/2020 £419.50 VAT Refund, 14/01/2021 £1.75 Interest

As of Tuesday 18th May 2021 the Parish Council had £356.69 in the current account and £3,865.23 in the savings account.

Invoices to pay – £19.50 NADL

0 No. Invoices were agreed and authorised to pay by the Councillors.

Future expenditure – Display Board rental - £50,

Future income - £None

Correspondence:

a) None

Any other Business

- A)** Dog mess up Cliffords Lane is becoming an issue and concern. Over the years dog ownership has increased significantly in the village and there are now several holiday homes which allow dogs to join their owners. It has been suggested that an item is included in the next newsletter highlighting the problem and encouraging owners to do the right thing. It was also agreed that OPC would purchase 2 signs for placement along the lane. **Action - All**

Next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 14th September 2021 18:30 Village Hall - Booked

DRAFT