

**Cresswell Parish Council
Meeting Wednesday 25th November 2020**

Via Zoom 7PM

Minutes of the Meeting

20.30 Present

Councillors: M. Wright (Chair), D Laing, S Haywood, C Tyrie, L Wright

In attendance:

I.Robson (Clerk)

and four members of the public

20.31 Apologies for absence

Cllr G Phillips

20.32 Declaration of Interests, and grant of any dispensations

Cllr M Wright – Declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 12 - Pele Tower

20.33 Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public

20.34 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 12th August 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed and dated by the Chair.

20.35 Matters Arising from the Minutes

20.35.01 (20.20.02) -Lynemouth Bay - The Chair summarised an update from Mr. McNeil at NCC - Noted. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr McNeil for a further update ahead of the Parish Council meeting in February.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr. McNeil.

20.35.02 (20.24.04) - Boundary Signs - The Chair summarised correspondence from Mr. Butler relating to the location of the village boundary on the C110

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from the south. The location was again discussed and Parish Councillors agreed that the sign, in its current location, marked the southern boundary of the settlement of Cresswell and was in a suitable location. Cllrs dismissed the idea that the boundary sign should be on the Parish boundary as this would create confusion.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr Butler to confirm the Parish Council's policy.

20.35.03 (20.28) - Christmas Tree - Cllr Laing confirmed that he would collect the Christmas Tree on 4th December and that he had purchased a new set of larger lights for it at a cost of £70 which was approved.

20.36 Financial Matters

20.36.01 Financial Report

The Clerk tabled the financial report for the period up to 23rd November 2020 - **Noted**

20.36.02 - Asset register

The Chair reported that he and Cllr Laing had undertaken the annual 'walk about' and had revised the asset register with the addition of one seat. **Noted**

20.36.03 - 2021-2022 Budget

The Clerk tabled a draft budget. Cllrs discussed and agreed with the budget with the following amendments:

Clerk salary to increase by 20% in recognition of increased workload

Cleaner salary to increase by 20% in recognition of unforeseen increased workload.

Agreed: to approve the 2021-2022 Budget

20.36.03 - 2021-2022 Precept

It was agreed to increase the 2021-2022 Precept to £5635 from £5100.

Action: Clerk to request a precept of £5635 from NCC for 2021-2022

20.36.04 Payments to authorize

Mr I Robson - 5 x months of Zoom @£14.39 - £71.95 - **Authorised**

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The Chair suggested that Councillors authorise Mr Robson to claim for Zoom monthly at the same time as his salary until further notice - **Agreed.**

20.37 Garden Plots

Cllr Wright reported that a meeting of interested parties had taken place on 15th July in Morpeth and that he had finally had sight of a note of the meeting

It was suggested that the Parish Council could arrange for the known vacant plots to be fenced to deter illegal occupation and resulting anti-social behaviour. It was agreed to defer this decision until February once the legal position had been clarified. It was suggested that the Clerk write to Mr Rickett at NALC to ascertain whether this was something a Parish Council could legally do.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr Rickett to gain clarification of the legal situation.

20.37 Toilets

Cllr Laing confirmed that in line with Government advice, the toilets had been closed during the latest period of lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic but would re-open on 2nd December subject to further advice.

Cllr Laing also reported that he would seek quotes for the redecoration of the toilets and that further toilet-paper theft had occurred from the store room. Cllr Laing agreed to look into the locking of the store and was authorised to appoint a joiner to carry out repairs if required.

20.38 Correspondence

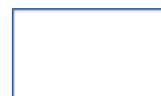
20.38.01 - Bin at Home Farm road ends - Mrs Hamilton had requested that a bin be placed at the end of the junction of the road to Cresswell Home Farm and the C110. Cllrs discussed the request and were concerned that the provision of a bin at that location could actually worsen the litter situation as it would attract fly-tipping. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to NCC for their advice.

Action: Clerk to write to NCC for advice.

20.38.02 - Graffiti in bus shelters - Mr Roe had suggested that the Parish Council should address this. It was agreed that Cllrs M. Wright and Laing would inspect the shelter in January and report back to the February meeting.

Action: Cllrs M. Wright and Laing to inspect the bus shelter.

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20.38.03 - CPRE Newsletter - **Noted**

20.39 Highways Issues

20.39.01 Local Transport Plan

The Clerk confirmed that the three priorities submitted to NCC for the Local Transport Plan for 2021-2022 were:

1. Provision of additional visitor parking
2. Improved Beach Access for disabled people
3. Improvements to parking outside St. Bartholomew's Church

20.39.02 Highways Update

The clerk read out a response from Mr. McKenzie at NCC - **Noted**

Cllr Wright asked about progress with a height-restriction barrier at the Snab Point Car Park and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to NCC.

Agreed: Clerk to write to NCC about height-restriction barrier.

20.40 Planning

20.40.01 - 20/03269/FUL | Improved access road and creation of 15no. parking spaces | Land East Of The Retreat - The Parish Council had submitted a neutral response. - **Noted**

20.40.02 - 20/00303/FUL Land South East Of The Drift. The Clerk reported that this application had recently been updated to reduce the overall size and scope of the application, notably the removal of the B&B units and the proposed restaurant restricted to just a take-away unit.

Cllrs raised concerns about the take-away unit including parking, opening hours and litter. The Clerk informed Cllrs that their previous response had suggested conditions to mitigate parking and litter issues.

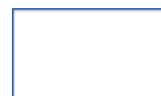
As this revised application had been received just before the meeting, it was agreed that the clerk should recirculate it by email for comments.

Action: Clerk to circulate 20/00303/FUL by email for comment

20.41 Pele Tower Update

Cllr Wright reported that an extension to the project had been agreed due to delays caused by the COVID-19 virus with completion of construction expected

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on 4th December.

20.42 Date of next meetings

February 17th 2021. It was agreed that this meeting should be via Zoom due to probable ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. The Clerk was authorised to maintain the subscription to Zoom until further notice.

The meeting closed at 20:15

Signed..... Cllr Michael Wright (Chair)

Date.....

