

LOW CONISCLIFFE & MERRYBENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 13 April 2016
St Edwin's Church Hall, High Coniscliffe, 7pm

ATTENDANCE: Cllrs: L Steel (Chair), P Ellerton, T Stuckey, S Gatenby, A Craggs, C McLay, M Bailey (Clerk).

1 Apologies: Cllr M Ellerton, WC G Lee, WC P Crudass

2 Declarations of Interest: None.

3 Public Forum: None.

4 Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes from the meeting held on the 16 March 2016 were signed.

5 Matters Arising From the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

5.1 Code of Conduct: Printed copies are required.

Action: M Bailey to distribute to all at next meeting.

5.2 Elm Ridge planting: Quote for plants and services accepted.

Action Cllr M Ellerton to arrange for 12 month trial.

5.3 Bus shelter improvement: Options are for PC to buy for nominal sum and take on maintenance, or have repaired, or replaced. The replacement option would be of all metal construction and painted green as in accompanying photo. Decision to be taken at next meeting.

5.4 Personal Alarm and high visibility jacket: Now available for use by papergirls.

5.5 Future Parish events: Volunteers in place to run an event on 12 June to celebrate the 90th birthday of HM the Queen.

Action: Organising committee to seek letter of permission from owner of field, and contact John Steele to arrange loan of electricity generator (to be checked for output suitability and PAT status).

5.6 Big Spring Clean: Volunteers completed a litter pick on 21 March. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the event.

ACTION: M Bailey to Inform DBC of number of participants and volume collected.

5.7 National Planning Framework: Cllr P Ellerton read out draft letter regarding concerns on this topic. Comments have been requested from the chair of Association of Parish Councils (AOPC) before submitting to Clive Betts (Chair, Community and Local Dev Committee).

ACTION: Cllr P Ellerton to consider comments then submit to Clive Betts.

6 Finance/Accounts:

6.1 Expenses approved: Plants from Sam Turner, £15.00 (cheque payable to Cllr L Steel)

6.2 Balance at bank £10149.13 and £100.00 in petty cash

6.3 Estimated bank balance at the start of the new financial year of £15173.61

7 Planning Proposals: None.

8 Planning Decisions: None.

9 Highway Matters:

9.1 Speed visor: Cllr P Ellerton raised some additional questions with regard to the purchase of a speed visor to be jointly funded by High Coniscliffe PC. The purchase was agreed in principle at a previous meeting and further information is necessary to ensure a successful outcome.

Action: M Bailey to arrange an Extraordinary meeting after supplier has provided information in response to points raised by Cllr P Ellerton. Meeting to include WC P Crudass and High Coniscliffe PC members.

9.2 Black boxes on lamp posts: Cllr A Craggs asked about the purpose of black boxes recently attached to 3 lamp posts on south side of main road through Merrybent.

Action: M Bailey to contact DBC to find out purpose.

10 Parish Matters:

10.1 High speed Broadband: It was reported this will be available by September 2016.

10.2 Closure of mobile libraries: Cllr P Ellerton raised the possibility of working with other PCs to create fund to support on-going availability of mobile library services. Other ideas are welcome.

Action: Cllr P Ellerton to forward e-mail requesting ideas to Cllr T Stuckey

11 Items for Future Consideration: None.

12 Correspondence:

Information received from Steve Ragg regarding future process for external audit of annual return. This is required for 2015/16 and 2016/17 annual returns then becomes optional for PCs with income / expenditure of £25K. In addition PCs are required to publish accounts and other information defined in a new Transparency Code to be implemented in July 2016.

13 Feedback from Meetings Attended: None

14 Date for AGM and Parish Assembly: Provisionally 18 May 2016, 7.00pm

M Ellerton
18/5/16