

LOW CONISCLIFFE & MERRYBENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of The Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th March 2016 At St Edwins Church Hall, High Coniscliffe, 7pm.

ATTENDANCE: Cllrs: M Ellerton (Chair), P Ellerton (attended at approx. 8pm), T Stuckey, S Gatenby, A Craggs, L Steel, R Mackay (Clerk) & WC Lee & WC Crudass.

1 Apologies: Cllr: P Ellerton (prior arrangement & Cllr C McLay

2 Declarations of Interest: None.

3 Public Forum Issues: None.

PARISH BUSINESS

4 Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes from the meeting held on the 8th February 2016 were signed and approved.

5 Matters Arising From the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- a) Matters Arising Item 5a - Code of Conduct: copies sent to Councillors via email, Cllr Steel given a printed copy and a printed copy still to be given to Cllr Craggs.
- b) Parish Matters Item 10d – Elm Ridge Planting: Cllr M Ellerton confirmed that a quote had been received.
- c) Parish Matters, Item 10e – Flower Tub Location: A number of suggestions were made including under the Merrybent sign or alternatively a flower bed.
- d) Parish Matters Item 10f – Bus Shelters: Cllr M Ellerton confirmed that she had spoken to Mr Chapman in Building Services at DBC, and had now been put into contact with A Casey who is currently on leave.
- e) Parish Matters, Item 10h – Personal Alarm: WC Lee stated that he would donate a Hi Viz jacket for the papergirls use.
- f) Item For Future Consideration, 11 – it was confirmed that there would be a meeting at Cllr Gatenbys house on Sat 19th March to discuss what events to hold.
- g) Correspondence, Item 12a – Clerk to chase up poover information and Cllr M Ellerton confirmed that a litter pick was going to take place on Monday 21st March. Cllr Ellerton will be informing Mr Burgess.

For info WC Crudass left the meeting at approx. 7.20pm

6 Finance/Accounts:

- a) Invoices approved included Clerks Salary March £83.33, Clerks PAYE £20.83, £8.85 Printing of the NPPF (chq payable to M Ellerton), £4.19 for Binding of NPPF (chq payable to M Ellerton), £74.09 Cheque to top up Petty Cash which was currently £25.91.
- b) Balance at bank £10,149.13
- c) Cllr M Ellerton ran through an estimated forecast for the coming financial year and informed the meeting that at the end of this financial year the balance should be approximately £9,595.60. The precept for 2016-17 is then to be added to this amount giving an estimated balance at the start of the new financial year of £15,125.60.

7 Planning Proposals: None

8 Planning Decisions: None.

9 Highway Matters: None.

10 Parish Matters:

- a) Matters to be reported – none.
- b) Elm Ridge – Planting/Maintenance: a quote for £1209 was received. This covers the supply/planting/maintenance of summer/winter pansies, compost & summer bedding plants at various locations in Low Coniscliffe & Merrybent. As funds had already been set aside for this project, it is estimated that the cost will be £709. It is to be noted that various organisations including Sam Turners and Wilkinsons had been approached to give quotes but stated that they did not provide the service required. DW Maintenance was also unable to undertake the work. A vote was taken on having Elm Ridge provide the service and it was unanimously agreed to accept the quote provided by Elm Ridge and review after one year.

11 Items For Future Consideration: None.

12 Correspondence:

- a) The meeting discussed providing every child in the Parish with a specially commissioned coin to celebrate HM The Queens 90th Birthday. Resolved no action at present.
- b) Council Tax Support Grant – it was reported that the grant of £274 will be lost but that provision for this loss had already been accounted for in the precept.
- c) A letter from the Chief Constable of Durham Police was read out to the meeting. The letter was in reference to the force being voted the best in the country.
- d) WC Lee informed the meeting of various crimes that had been reported in the area, following a PACT meeting he had attended. It was reported that Darlington were experiencing a spate of garage burglaries. The next PACT meeting is on 20th April at Oakwood.

13 Feedback from Meeting Attended: Cllr P Ellerton provided an update on the meeting he attended earlier this evening at the Association of Parish Councils and ran through a number of items that were discussed including : Planning Issues, Precept Increases Year on Year. Cllr P Ellerton is to write a letter to Mr Clive Betts in relation to the National Planning Framework. Cllr Ellerton suggested to the meeting (AOPC) that each PC should perhaps put an amount of money away to be used towards fighting contentious planning applications.

14 Date of Next Meeting: To be confirmed with the new clerk, but provisionally Wed 13th April.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.52pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Ellerton', written over a horizontal line.