

LOW CONISCLIFFE & MERRYBENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of The Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th February 2016
At St Edwins Church Hall, High Coniscliffe, 7pm.

ATTENDANCE: Cllrs: M Ellerton (Chair), P Ellerton, T Stuckey, S Gatenby, L Steel, R Mackay
(Clerk attended at approx 2000hrs), WC Lee & 2 Parishioners C McLay & M Bailey.

1 Apologies: Cllr: WC Crudass, A Craggs.

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 11th November 2015 were signed and approved.

5 Matters Arising From the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

a) Code of Conduct – copy to be given to Councillors.

6 Finance/Accounts:

- a) Invoices approved included Clerks Salary Jan & Feb 16 £166.66, Clerks PAYE Jan & Feb 16 £41.66, Plants £10.80 Whinfield Farm Nurseries, Plants £83.84 B&Q but paid to Cllr Steel to reimburse, £1.98 for Cups from Boyes, £70 Cockerton Brass Band for Carol Service, £286 DW Maintenance Oct/Nov 15 Invoice, £94.60 Sainsburys Xmas Carol Service for Mince Pies etc.
- b) Balances of current account £1604.43 and business reserve account £8544.41 were read out.
- c) Precept: Cllr M Ellerton ran through a financial forecast for 2016-17, and for the remainder of 2015-16. A discussion took place on the possible withdrawal of already provided Borough Council services ie grasscutting and a proposal was put forward to increase the precept by 10%. Agreed by 5 to raise the precept by 10%, with 1 voting against the rise. Resolved precept to be requested £5530.

7 Planning Proposals: None

8 Planning Decisions: None.

9 Highway Matters: None.

10 Parish Matters:

- a) Matters to be reported – WC Lee informed the meeting that if people were to see individuals carrying guns and with lurcher dogs, that they were to report the matter to the Police via 999. WC Lee also informed the meeting about the new 'Safer Homes' project which was going to be ran in collaboration between the Police & Fire Service.
- b) Clerks Resignation – Adverts had been placed on the Parish noticeboards as well as being placed in the Post Office at Mowden.

- c) It was reported that high speed broadband was due to be installed in Aug/Sept 2016. WC Lee informed the meeting that the borough council have agreed to donate funds. Cllr M Ellerton will email Mr Burgess with an update. *in relation to this*
- d) Elm Ridge Planting – Cllr P Ellerton will chase up the quote from Elm Ridge and will also explore other options.
- e) Flower Tub Location – It was suggest that a tub could be sited at the entrance to Low Coniscliffe and that it could be fixed to the tree stump, with some planting taking place around the roots of the tree. It was resolved to incorporate costs into the financial forecast for Elm Ridge to maintain.
- f) A brief discussion took place on the state of the bus shelters within the parish. It was resolved that Cllr M Ellerton will speak to James Ivil at the council in relation to the issue of having them replaced.
- g) C McLay was co-opted as a Parish Councillor.
- h) Cllr P Ellerton expressed his concerns over the papergirl making deliveries during hours of darkness and suggested that the PC should buy a personal alarm for the papergirls use.
- i) Cllr M Ellerton thanked the Clerk for her service and presented the Clerk with a small gift.

11 Items For Future Consideration:

- a) It was resolved to hold a meeting at Cllr Gatenbys house, in 7-14 days time, to discuss what events to hold.

12 Correspondence:

- a) The Clerk informed the meeting that the litter picking equipment was available for collection. The meeting was also informed that if the parish wished to carry out a litter pick, that all safety equipment would be supplied. Cllr Steel will put something on the newsletter in relation to the Big Spring Clean. Cllr M Ellerton informed the meeting that only 5 items of litter had been picked up from Low Coniscliffe. Cllr Ellerton will also contact Phillipa Scrafton. Clerk to approach Gainford PC and obtain details on how the Poover works.

13 Feedback from Meeting Attended: It was reported that Cllr P Ellerton would be attending the Association of Parish Councils meeting on Wednesday evening and will provide an update.

14 Date of Next Meeting: Provisionally 2nd Wednesday in March.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.20pm

M Ellerton
16/3/16