

SACRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Fulforth Centre on Wednesday 13 January 2016 at 6:30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs B Gibson, F Morrell, R Harrison, Mrs SJ Harrison, Mrs H Liddle, D Robson, S Wilson, B Mulvey, P McLoughlin, D Shotton, Mrs R Shotton, Mrs B Smith and Miss E Waldock

137 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor L Claughan.

138 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2015

RESOLVED: "That the minutes of the proceedings at the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 2 December 2015, be confirmed as a correct record".

The Chairman proceeded to sign the minutes.

139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

140 ISSUES/QUESTIONS – GENERAL PUBLIC

There were no members of the public in attendance.

141 POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk presented a report from the Neighbourhood Policing Team which focused specifically on the Sacriston area.

142 PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS 2016/17

Consideration was given to precept requirements for the financial year 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 and a report from the Clerk giving a detailed financial projection and estimated requirements was submitted, copies of which had previously been circulated.

It was agreed that the Council would agree detailed budget allocations at the February 2016 meeting. Ahead of that meeting, Members would give thought to any projects they might wish to see funds directed towards during the coming financial year and Councillor Liddle gave an outline of one such project, Mutual

Gain. Further consideration would be given to that proposal and any others which were put forward at the next meeting.

Members were keen not to incur any additional charge for local taxpayers and as such resolved not to increase the precept levy for 2016/17.

As such it was **RESOLVED:**

That the precept for 2016/17 be agreed at £51,796.50

143 CO-OPTION TO CURRENT VACANCY

The Clerk advised that, as resolved at the last meeting, an advert had been placed in the Parish Noticeboard, advertising the current Councillor vacancy on the Parish Council. One expression of interest had been received from Mr H Dixon and copies of his personal statement and expression of interest had been circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting.

Following due consideration, Councillor Morrell moved that Mr Dixon be co-opted onto the Parish Council. The motion was seconded by Councillor Robson and upon a vote being taken it was:-

RESOLVED:- "That Mr H Dixon be co-opted to the Parish Council, with his appointment to commence with immediate effect".

Mr Dixon joined the meeting and was welcomed to the Parish Council.

144 HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES PANEL

As per agreement at the previous meeting, the Clerk had prepared papers for a ballot to be held to appoint 5 Members to the new Human & Financial Resources Panel.

For the benefit of Councillors D & R Shotton, Members gave an overview of what had been agreed at the previous meeting and the reasoning behind establishing the Panel.

Councillors D & R Shotton did not wish to participate in the ballot as they did not believe that a Panel was necessary.

The ballot was undertaken and upon checking the votes cast, the Clerk announced that the following Members were to be appointed to the Panel:-

Councillors D Robson, F Morrell, P McLoughlin, E Waldock and S Wilson.

Councillor Claughan would automatically act as Chairman of the Panel given that he was currently Chairman of the Council and the Membership of the Panel would be reviewed at every subsequent Annual Meeting.

It was agreed that the Panel would be placed as a regular item on all subsequent agendas and that it would hold its first meeting on 27th January 2016 to begin drafting Terms of Reference.

Following each meeting of the Panel, a report would be taken back to the next available meeting of the Council.

145 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Liddle provided an overview of the works which had been carried out in relation to Christmas Lighting for the 2015/16 season. It was reported that the works had ended up being undertaken by Gateshead Borough Council as Durham County Council had been unable to fit the works in. If the Parish Council wished for Durham County Council to undertake works for the 2016/17 season, then the lights would be erected in October 2016, which Members agreed was too early.

Following discussions, Members agreed that quotes should be sought from Gateshead Borough Council and from the Durham County Council Events Team for works in 2016/17. It was noted that DCC Events Team would not use DCC to erect the lights and an arms length arrangement would be entered into.

146 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A request for financial assistance had been received from St Bedes Catholic Club Darts & Domino Club. It was agreed that the Club should be invited to submit a formal Grant Application form in accordance with the Council's Grant Awarding Policy.

147 DEVELOPMENT GROUP

There was nothing to report.

148 FULFORTH CENTRE

Although there had not recently been a meeting, Councillor Robson presented a report which had been prepared by Mrs G O'Brien (for copy see file of Minutes).

Within the report, Mrs O'Brien advised that Durham County Council were prepared to undertake a feasibility study regarding the possible installation of a lighting column to illuminate the entrance of the Welfare Park. A £200 design fee

would be required in order to pursue the project and so it was queried as to whether the Parish Council would be open to paying the fee.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would make a donation of £200.00, the Clerk would liaise with Mrs O'Brien to ascertain who the payment should be made payable to, payment could then be made at a subsequent meeting.

149 ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

In relation to the fence repairs required at Cross Lanes Allotments, the Clerk had sought quotes to be obtained by the Allotment Association and Councillor Morrell had obtained one quote which would be considered when all other quotes were received.

150 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Liddle provided an update in relation to the Growing Sacriston Together Project, a copy of which was circulated to all Members (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Liddle reported that Sacriston now had a dedicated Frail and Elderly Scheme Nurse who, since taking up appointment in August 2015, had worked closely with over 85 local elderly and frail residents in the village.

Councillor Liddle reported that Councillor Surgeries were to take on a slightly different format, in future the new approach would see various representatives from local groups and organisations coming together to address any local issues in one place, thus making it easier for local residents.

It was reported that an Age UK Coffee Morning would be held in the Fulforth Centre from 10am on Monday 18 January 2016.

151 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: "That authority be granted for payment of the following accounts:

Sacriston Community Association - £312.71 – Extravaganza Expenses
NPower - £62.45 – Energy Bill
J Lawton - £412.60 – Salary
HMRC - £103.15 – PAYE Deductions
Stefanie Wright - £84.00 – Replacement Cheque for Extravaganza Expenses
Lewis Metcalfe - £160.00 – Replacement Cheque for Extravaganza Expenses
Royal British Legion - £30.00 - Donation
Cestria - £1248.00 – Grasscutting and maintenance at St Peter's Churchyard

Communicorp – £75.00 – Local Councils Update publication annual subscription”.

152 PLANNING

There were no planning applications to consider.

Signed _____ Chairman