

Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of Pitlington Parish Council held in the Village Hall, High Pitlington on Tuesday 18 March 2014

Present: Councillors, Mr GB Fenwick, Mr D Hall, R Newlove, Mr A Sowerby, Mr J Steer, Mr D Turnbull and Mr A White

Also in attendance: Mr S Woods Representative from DCC
Miss A Sutherland (Parish Clerk)
18 Members of the public
County Councillor Guy

174/13 Apologies

Cllr D Hall and Cllr G Patton

175/13 Declarations of Interests

Item 182 -Councillor Sowerby declared an interest – Chairman of West Rainton Parish Council

176/13 Public Participation

Cllr Sowerby suspended Standing Orders regarding public participation to allow extra time for questions to DCC representative.

With regards to buses

Residents complained about:

No buses on Sundays and bank holidays.

There is no service after 1950hours during the week and Saturday.

Buses not turning up

Buses are old and break down

The Service 64 has changed route – no access to vets in Gilesgate

The bus timetable - buses a few minutes apart and then no bus for another hour

Mr Woods said that if buses do not turn up and you do not get a satisfactory response from Go-Northeast contact DCC Sustainable Transport Group and they could review CCTV footage on Go-Northeast buses for visual evidence. You can also contact DCC Sustainable Transport Group and if there is a pattern or it is happening on a regular basis they can investigate further. Mr Woods also said if buses break down and are out of service the bus company does not get paid and could face penalties.

County Cllr Guy said subsidies for public transport is not a priority for the Council and cabinet could reduce services further.

Mr Woods gave a brief description of the work carried out by the Sustainable Transport, Regeneration and Economic Department in relation to bus services.

DCC have not subsidised Mon – Fri daytime services since 2011 but do support Saturday services and some early/late journeys. Durham County Council cannot change timetables

In the recent public consultation there was a headline budget for supported passenger transport of £27m. The public consultation identified that budget as an area for above average cuts. Not all the budget is discretionary however eg £11m concessionary bus passes, £12m home to school. No decisions have been made yet and while the Council have said that they will study the consultation outcomes they are not bound by them.

Parish Council thanked Mr Woods for attending meeting

Other issues from public participation

Resident commented that the lamp posts that are being replaced around Southbrooke House and Church Vale light up the road and not the houses. The lights are not as bright as the old lamp posts and there is damage to the pavement where lamp posts have been replaced.

County Cllr Guy commented that he has reported the brightness issue to DCC and that the local authority has to light the road not residential properties.

The company installing the replacement lamp posts should rectify the damage to the pavements.

Mrs Hope informed the Parish there was a litter pick a week on Thursday.

Resident informed Council that she had emailed DCC, Rights of Way Officer regarding footpath 1 and had had a response to say that DCC were satisfied with changes. Resident said there was no path identified. Cllr Sowerby offered to take photographs of the area and send to Kevin Telford.

Mrs Hope commented that the walk is well published and the map is in the World Heritage centre.

Resolved: Clerk to contact K Telford, Rights of Way officer at DCC

Resident asked why Council tax had been increased by 48% Councillor Sowerby informed residents that the increase had mainly been due to the donation given to the Village Hall. It was a tough decision and the Parish Council wants to support local community. Councillor Sowerby went on to say the donation for the Village hall was a yearly donation and will be reviewed in 3 years.

177/13 Minutes

Resolved minutes of meeting from 18 February 2014 were a true record and signed as correct.

178/13 Matters arising from previous minutes

Path and gully on bend Low Pittington had been repaired.

179/13 Updates

Clerk informed the Council that there had been an incident regarding fly tipping (grass cuttings, plastic plant pots and branches) at the cemetery on two occasions. Handyman has removed and disposed of fly tipping items.

Cllr Newlove informed Council that there had been an issue with Lamping on private land at Low Pittington.

Council expressed vote of thanks to Cllr Metcalfe for his service.

Cllr Sowerby informed Council there had been an issue on footpath 3 - males riding off road bikes and being verbally abusive. Police were called to deal with matter.

180/13 Police Report

Police report was read out by the clerk.

There were no reports of theft or criminal damage. There were four reports of ASB: two incidents were off road bikes and the other two were youth related: One in Priors Grange and the other towards Sherburn Hill from Littleton. There was one report of burglary: air rifle stolen – under investigation, one male suspect, ongoing enquiries.

181/13 Planning

DM/14/00218/FPA 1 Newby Lane High Pittington – Erection of two storey front and rear extension

DM/14/00222/FPA 24 Manor View, High Pittington – First floor side extension

Resolved: No objection

DM/14/00154/OUT Mystic Cottage, Plantation Ave, Littletown – Detached dormer bungalow
 Application has been rejected before. Cllr Fenwick did not object to application.
 Resolved: Council objected to application

182/13 Parish Boundary

Clerk gave update on the procedure from DCC.

Resolved: Clerk to write a letter to WRPC with proposal for a response before proceeding on matter.

183/13 Finance

Council agreed Clerks monthly finance report

Current Account

		Balance 13.02.2014	£4,867.84
Debits	Cheque	Payments Cleared	
£50.00	201275	Mayors Charity – Treetops UHND	
£50.00	201276	County Durham Stroke Club	
£676.58		Wages	
£9.67	201280	Northumbria Water – C/V Allotments	
Credits/Transfer			
£811.30		HMRC VAT refund 2012/2013	
		Balance 10.03.2014	£4,892.89

Savings Account

	Balance 13.02.2014	£10,482.17
	Balance 10.03.2014	£10,482.17

Payments to Authorise

£176.40 Mower Insurance

£125.40 Duty of Care Covers (cemetery waste)

Council did not authorise payment for Duty of Care Covers

Resolved: Clerk to obtain more quotes.

184/13 Extra Ordinary Meeting

Council agreed date (02.04.2014) to hold an extra ordinary meeting to discuss allotments, environmental issues and finance for above.

185/13 Cemetery

Council agreed and adopted reviewed cemetery policy

Clerk recommended Council agree to DCC carrying out a headstone inspection on graves identified by handyman as being unsafe until handyman has attended memorial headstone inspection course and is able to complete assessments when qualified. Resolved: Clerk to contact DCC to carry out inspection on headstone identified.

Clerk informed Council of interment of Mr Pritchard

186/13 Beautiful Durham

Resolved: Council to enter the 3 villages, (High Pittington, Littleton and Low Pittington) into the competition.

187/13 Northumbria in Bloom

Council agreed to move the budget for plants to the extra ordinary meeting.

Clerk informed Council and resident's judges would be coming to view area on:

4 April – High Pittington

8 April – Low Pittington and Littleton

188/13 Durham AAP Parish Council Board Member

Resolved to nominate Cllr Sowerby as Parish Councillor Representative on the Durham AAP Board

189/13 Correspondences

Date	From	Re:	Email/Post
01.03.2013	Co-op Bank	General letter – Thanks for standing by us during difficult time.	Post
17.02.2013	County Durham Stroke Club	Thank you letter for donation	Post
05.03.2014	Toma Fund	Thank you letter for donation	Post
03.03.2014	DCC	Durham City Homes Update	Post
01.03.2014	Campaign to Protect Rural England	North East Newsletter	Post
01.03.2014	HMRC	Finishing old tax year 13/14	Post
27.02.2014	S Ragg	Neighbourhood Plan	Email
28.02.2014	S Ragg	Durham AAP Council Member	Email
07.03.2014	S Cribbs, DCC	Consultation on fixed play provisions	Email
05.03.2014	E Crow, DCC	3P's funding	Email
21.02.2013	Durham County Brass Band Association	Donation request	Post
10.03.2013	East Durham Leader	Consultation meeting for Funding	Email

Exclusion of the Press and Public
Members moved the following motion:-

That in accordance with the provision of S1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by S100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the council excluded the press and public for the remaining item of the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to public interest

190/13 Clerks Hours

Council discussed Clerks Hours

Resolved: Clerks hours to be permanently increased to 12hpw.

Cllr A Sowerby
Chairman