

**Minutes of the proceedings of Pittington Parish Council held in the Village Hall, High Pittington on Tuesday 18 February 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: Miss A Sutherland (Parish Clerk)  
11 Members of the public

**155/13 Apologies**

Cllr G Patton and Cllr S Metcalfe

**156/13 Declarations of Interests**

None received

**157/13 Public Participation**

Resident asked about the Complaints Policy and if one was in place for the Parish Council. Resident informed that the Council does have a policy but that an updated policy was to be agreed at the meeting.

Resident asked if the Litter pick equipment had been purchased. Resident informed the litter pick equipment had all been received and was ready to use.

**158/13 Minutes**

Resolved minutes of meetings from 21 January 2014 were a true record and signed as correct.

**159/13 Matters arising from minutes**

Cllr Newlove updated Council and Members of the Public that the Hargreaves planning applications was not on the DCC Planning Committee list for March and was unsure if it would be on the list for April.

Clerk informed Council that Real College had not replied to letter sent Re: Donation request

**160/13 Police Report**

Police report was read out by the clerk.

No reported burglaries, thefts or criminal damage. There were 5 reports of Anti-Social Behaviour. These incidents were off road bikes at Littleton, the fly tipping towards Easington Lane and 2 youth related incidents causing a nuisance.

**161/13 Planning**

No planning applications received.

**162/13 Allotments**

Cllr Sowerby informed Council that a tenant from Coalford Lane informed the Clerk in 2005 that his allotment had asbestos buried under the soil. Unfortunately this was not reported/ actioned by the Council. There had also been an incident with fly tipping at the allotments. The fly tipping has been reported to Street Scene Neighbourhood Wardens for further investigation. Council were given quotes for removal of rubbish, asbestos and drainage. Council to look at all costs at a whole and enquire about at Public Works Loan. **Clerk to look at Public Works Loan and obtain more quotes including skip hire for next meeting**

Tenancy agreement/Policy was approved with amendments that were sent by Cllr Hall to Cllr Sowerby.

## 163/13 Finance

Council agreed Clerks monthly finance report

### Current Account

		Balance 05.01.2014	£1,131.41
Debits	Cheque	Payments Cleared	
£90.00	201256	Village Hall Dog Walkers Event	
£100.00	201266	Village Hall Donation	
£12.05	201271	Northumbria Water (Coalford Lane)	
£676.58		Wages	
£262.80		Tax	
£197.14	201278	Litterpick £159.24 Top Up £20.00 Postage £17.90	
Credits/Transfer			
£5000		Transferred from Savings account	
£75.00		Cemetery	
		Balance 13.02.2014	£4,867.84

### Savings Account

	Balance 05.01.2014	£15,479.53
Transfer		
£5.000	Transferred to Current Account	
Credit		
£2.64	Interest	
	Balance 13.02.2014	£10,482.17

### Payments Authorised by Council

£9.67 – Northumbrian Water – Church Vale Allotments

## 164/13 Cemetery

Clerk informed Council that it would cost approximately £7000 for the headstone to be inspected by a qualified person. Clerk also gave Council quotes for headstone maintenance from £20.83 - £293.00 depending on state of headstone and if Council wanted to repair headstone (if no NOK to contact) or to lay flat. Clerk informed Council that another option would be for Handyman to attend a course on Headstone Inspections to be able to carry out the inspections at the cemetery. £150 +costs

Council agreed to purchase noticeboard from Greenbarnes to replace the board at Low Pittington and to relocate the current noticeboard to the cemetery.

## 165/13 Footpaths

8A – Councillor Sowerby informed Council that he had spoken to Mr Telford at DCC regarding the kissing gate and the fencing that was going to be carried out by the tenant has never been carried out. (Standing Orders were suspended for tenant, Mrs Smith who was present, to respond) Mrs Smith informed Council that she too has been talking to Mr Telford and that the work she needed to carry out could not be started until DCC had carried out the work they are responsible for and Mrs Smith and Mr Telford are working together to resolve the issue.

Lady's Piece Lane – Councillor Hall wanted to know what Council thought of the path linkage between High Pittington and Sherburn via Lady's Piece Lane. Councillor Hall

explained that the costs could be shared between Pittington Parish Council, Sherburn Parish Council and County Council money to have the surfacing work carried out. Quotes could be obtained for a contractor to carry out the work and the County Council to sign off the work. Councillor Hall wanted to look in future of costs. Councillor Sowerby was concerned that some of the paths are in a bad state between the villages within the Parish and that the PC should look at repairing those paths before looking at paths that lead out of the Parish.

#### **166/13 Parish Boundary**

Councillor Hall asked for his item as he thought the parish boundary ended at the A690 junction at the end of Low Pittington. The Parish boundary stops before the end of Low Pittington and borders West Rainton and Leamside Parish Council. As it seems a natural boundary to end at the A690 Councillor Hall asked the Council for their thoughts. Council agreed to look into the matter and obtain further information and advice from Democratic Services. **Clerk to contact DCC**

#### **167/13 Parish Meeting Documents**

Resolved that Parish council Meeting documents (agenda's, minutes and supporting information) be sent via email.

#### **168/13 Parish Meetings**

Resolved that monthly meetings be kept to 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month except August.

#### **169/13 Stamps**

As Council have agreed to documents being sent by emails there would be no need to buy stamps in bulk. **Clerk to look into prices for printing off own stamps, franking machines etc.**

#### **170/13 Policies/Procedures**

Council agreed to adopt Complaints Procedure and publication scheme. Public Participation Policy was agreed with an amendment.

#### **171/13 Donation Request**

Haswell and District Mencap Society – Marked as received  
£50 donation to Toma Fund (Children's Cancer charity)

#### **172/13 Correspondence Received**

J Lawton, DCC- Email confirming Code of Conduct training

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 do now exclude the press and public for the remaining items of the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to public interest'

#### **173/13 Handyman Contract**

Council discussed Handyman's contract.

---

Cllr A Sowerby  
Chairman