

**Notes of the Dunston Parish Council Annual Meeting
Held on Monday 3rd May 2021.**

PRESENT: P.Cllrs R. McLuckie (RM)(Chair), P. Moore (PM)(Vice Chair), L. Phillipson (LP), P. Duncan (PD), G. Armstrong (GA), W. Haggerty (WH), D. Cllrs N. Bryant and Clerk R. Boden (RB)

The High Court has ruled that from the 7th of May 2021 Parish Councils cannot just hold zoom meetings but return to the formal Parish Council Meetings where the public are invited to attend face to face.

In the month of May the Annual Parish Council Meeting needs to be held, to elect the Chair and other roles within the Council. With this High Court ruling it means that either an additional meeting would have to be called and held in the Village Hall or else have an amendment to the Agenda to have it appended to the front of the Parish Council meeting.

A discussion was had and whilst it is not ideal to hold the two meetings together, it was within the rules. It was felt that if anyone was unhappy and decided to challenge this decision, then the council officers could be re-appointed.

A proposal to hold the meetings together was put forward by LP and seconded by PD. A consensus was carried but it is to be minuted that PM had expressed her concern. 169/21

1. Election of Chairman

RM was proposed by PM and seconded by GA. Accepted. **170/21**

2. Election of Vice Chairman

PA was proposed by PD and seconded by GA. Accepted. **171/21**

3. Appointment of Village Hall representative.

PM was proposed by GA and seconded by PM. Accepted. **172/21**

4. Acceptance of the Auditor.

R Gawne was proposed by GA and seconded by PM. **173/21**

5. Acceptance of Current Standing Orders.

It was explained that standing orders are the Parish Councils terms of reference/ guidance that are used. **ACTION: RM** to deliver a copy to each councillor, hard copies will be available to anyone who wants one. **174/21**

6. APOLOGIES: C.Cllr R. Kendrick and Cllr R Churchwood. **175/21**

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None. **176/21**

8. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: The minutes were held to be a true and accurate record for the previous meeting held on the 19th of April. **177/21**

9. REPORTS:

COUNTY COUNCILLOR R. Kendrick – Not attending

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR Nick Byatt:

- Restart grants have been available since the 1st of April and they have not been suspended at the present time.
- When attending the Polling Station on the 6th May face masks must be worn and it is advised that you take your own pen. Polling cards are not required. **178/21**

10. DUNSTON PC REQUIREMENTS:**a. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Russ McLuckie:**

RM has met with Roger Hall (Chairman of Dunston Village Hall Management Committee) and they inspected the Village Hall and its grounds and together to agree a five-year maintenance plan. The document was sent out prior to the meeting. If councillors read through the document and any issues can then be discussed at the next meeting. Mr Redshaw is to be asked to consult with councillors to give guidance on costings and priority of work to be carried out. **179/21**

The paperwork that was received from Tinn Criddle Solicitors in connection to the S106 agreement for planning application 19/1482/OUT has been signed but it will only be activated if planning is approved. **180/21**

b. CLERK'S REPORT:

The Grit Bin on Back Lane will be reinstated within the next couple of months. **181/21**

HMRC has explained the procedure that needs to be carried out to correct the tax and it will be done shortly. **182/21**

11. HIGHWAYS:

Nothing to report.

12. PLANNING:

Application 21/0667/TCA – Cherry Blossom Tree at Otters Holt. Approved. **183/21**

13. ENVIRONMENT ISSUES:**a. Progress on Benches.**

The bases have been completed and the benches are in the process of being erected/ sited depending on the weather and the setting rate of the concrete. **184/21**

b. Progress of external work on the Village Hall.

Steve Hill is to begin the external work on the hall on the 17th of May 2021. **185/21**

c. Habitat Improvement Work.

It was agreed that little information has been shared with councillors, and an invite be sent to the trust to give an outline of plans and expenditure (money held by the PC) for the next meeting.

ACTION: RB to email. 186/21

14. PLAYING FIELD:

Costings of a new bin has been received and information passed onwards to the Councillors. **187/21**

RM has received a cheque for £500 from the Bowls Club, as part of the agreement previously signed for the refurbishment of the Club House. **188/21**

15. VILLAGE HALL:**a. Management Committee requests from meeting on 26th April.**

Information has been received and circulated from the Chairman of the Village Hall Roger Hall to ask about PC support for their proposed future constitution, or if an alternative approach was recommended. The VH financial management is currently separate from that of the PC and accounts are audited separately. If the charitable status was ended and the hall run by a sub-committee of the PC then the accounts would have to be presented at the same time as the PC accounts. There was general agreement to support the VH Committee on their chosen course of action. **ACTION: RM to talk to RH. 189/21**

b. Footpath and Right of Way.

The right of way and footpath is not shown on the planning application, though the owner of the land is of the opinion that it would still be in place. **ACTION: RM** with the help of NB to speak to planning as the PC need to know regarding car parking and lights. **190/21**

16. FINANCE:

a. AGAR.

The accounts and paperwork for 2019/20 are complete and the AGAR has been signed off by both the internal auditor and by RM. It has been brought to the meeting so that it can be minuted and the paperwork sent on to Littlejohn. **191/21**

The accounts for 2020/21 will hopefully be finished for June.

b. Accounts

Current Statement	
Treasurers Account (statement dated 19.04.2021)	£ 32,910.64
Bus Instant Access Account (statement 01.04.2021)	£ 15,370.54
Income (to be banked)	£ 500.00
Outstanding Expenses	
Village Keeper	£ 136.96
Clerk Salary (Overtime and Expenses)	£ 390.66
Bright Pay (to be paid to Rowena)	£ 58.80
Concrete bench bases	£ 1000.00
Chafer Bug application	£ 380.00
Total	£ 1966.42
Totals after expenses:	
Treasurers Account	£32,824.22
Bus Bank Instant	£15,370.54

The precept was banked on the 1st of April 2021.

The Parish Council also curate an account holding funds allocated to preservation work on behalf of the Trout Project. The current balance is £9,300.45. **192/21**

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 7th June at 7.30pm in the Lamyman Room of the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm