

Evenwood & Barony Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2019

COUNCILLORS: B. Nicholson (Chair) J. Sewell
M. Prince B. Maude
R. Spraggon P. Townsend
R. Webb A. Lyons
Clerk: Martin Clark

Visitors: 6 representatives/tenants of Copeland Allotments
Martin Paul, Teesdale Mercury

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

No member of the public present wished to speak at this time. The Chair gave permission for the allotment holders present to speak on item 6

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

No apologies were received from Cllr English and Cllr Donovan

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None declared

3. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2019:

RESOLVED: The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 12 February 2019 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Spraggon and seconded by Cllr Webb

4. PROGRESS REPORT:

The Clerk confirmed his report issued with the agenda.

RESOLVED: The Progress report was noted.

5. LOCAL MAINTENANCE:

A blocked drain opposite the church. **Action:** Clerk to report.

6. COPELAND ROAD ALLOTMENT SITE:

Cllr Nicholson explained what had gone on over the last 4 weeks with regard the future of the Copeland Row allotment site, and that the council had now received a Notice to Quit.

This is a moral issue; this piece of land has been allotments for 100 years

Cllr Nicholson would like to see the land secured for allotments forever. It is not right the allotments should be removed and we should all stick together.

Owners should consider:

- Gifting the land to the parish council

- sort out a new lease at a reasonable rent
- allow time for the council to purchase, or
- find an alternative site

The Clerk then updated the meeting on the current position

- 2 emails were sent to H&H to put the offer in writing and to find out what the position was with that offer - £5000 and possibly cover legal fees. At the time of the earlier meeting the agent felt this was a reasonable offer to take back. No acknowledgements were received.

Monday 4th March contacted H & H by phone to chase things. Informed the owners were likely to sell the land but if the council cooperates it might get 20% of the sale. No mention was made of the amount taken back from the informal chat.

2 days later (6th) the Notice to Quit from March 2020 was received.

In the last few days we have started to explore what options the council might have. The Clerk went on to advise members of the types of allotment land there is in law – temporary and statutory. Copeland falls under the temporary category as the allotments were not set up by a local authority. The free legal advice received did indicate that it may be possible to look at Copeland now as a statutory site given it has been in existence for 100 years. Statutory sites are afforded more protection and only the Secretary of State can authorise a sale. This is still being explored.

The council will be looking into the land being designated as an area of Community Asset, which affords a small amount of protection and time.

Members agreed unanimously to look at all options to save the allotments.

It was made clear to the tenants it was the parish council that has been issued with the Notice.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Lyons that Copeland Row tenants will not be required to pay their rent for 2019/20. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Spraggon

RESOLVED: It was further proposed by Cllr Lyons and seconded by Cllr Prince the parish council is not going to issue the tenants on Copeland Row allotments a notice to quit at this time.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

7.1 DCC – Notification of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places. Noted

7.2 DCC – Notification of 19/20 Discretionary Rate Relief for Welfare Ground. Noted

7.3 DCC – Velo North cycle race(s) 2019. Noted

8. FINANCE:

8.1 March Financial Report

The Clerk informed members of 1 additional invoice requiring approval:

Land Registry search fees	£6.00
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RESOLVED: The March Financial Report was proposed as a true record by Cllr Spraggon and seconded by Cllr Maude

9. PLANNING:

None

10. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING & AGENDA ITEMS:

Tuesday 9th April 2019, 7.00pm, Venue: Randolph Community Centre, Evenwood

DCC: Durham County Council

Signed.....

Dated.....

