

Evenwood & Barony Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held Tuesday, 18th May 2021 at 7.00 pm,
Randolph Community Centre, Stones End, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland DL14 9RE

Present : Cllr B Nicholson, Chairwoman
Cllr A Deakin
Cllr M Prince, Vice Chairwoman
Cllr R Spraggan
Cllr R Webb

Chairwoman's Report & Annual Public Meeting

21.01 The attached report was read out by the Chairwoman, giving special mention to previous members who have passed away recently.

Annual General and Public Meeting Agenda

21.02 Election of Chairperson and signature of Acceptance of Office & Code of Conduct for coming year

Cllr Barbara Nicholson was nominated and agreed to take the position of Chairwoman for the coming year.

21.03 Acceptance of Office & Code of Conduct for Parish Councillors

Those present agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct and signed the Acceptance of Office accordingly.

21.04 Election of vice Chairperson

Cllr Mary Prince was nominated and agreed to fill the position of vice-Chairwoman for the coming year.

21.05 To agree annual subscriptions

It was resolved that annual subscriptions are approved for the following:

- County Durham Association of Local Clerks (CDALC)
- Information Commission Office (ICO)

21.06 TO REVIEW/AMEND STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

There were no amendments requested.

21.07 TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF POWER OF COMPETENCE AND AGREE STATEMENT OF INTENT.

The Power of Competence was adopted as required.

Chair's Signature..... Date.....

Parish Council's Ordinary Meeting

21.08 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr B Maude and Cllr A Lyons.

21.09 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Tuesday, 15th December 2020 meeting were approved and signed accordingly.

21.10 CLERK'S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed for invoices as follows:

Details of Transaction	Receipts	Payments
Balance BD		
DCC Precept & LCTSS Grant	£58,645.71	
Allotment rents	£2,450.00	
Welfare Ground Play area fittings		£25.41
Randolph Community Centre		£30.00
T Webb - litter picking		£135.00
Northern Grid	£180.88	
DCC LCTSS Grant additional grant	£63.67	
Randolph Community Centre		£39,754.00
Lands Village Hall		£2,000.00
HMRC VAT Reimbursed	£1,233.84	
ROSPA Report - Welfare Ground		£275.00
HMRC - PAYE		£86.40
CE & CM Walker – grass cutting		£184.80
CE & CM Walker – grass cutting		£595.20
Royal British Legion		£100.00
Broad Band - annual contribution		£120.00
Welfare Ground Play area fittings	£25.41	
ROSPA Report - Welfare Ground	£275.00	
CDALC Subscriptions		£325.06

It was resolved that Broadband contributions will be made for the whole year to avoid issuing monthly £10 cheques.

It was resolved that a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion for the 100th year celebration.

- To review and approve Financial Year End 2020-2021 bank income/expenditure

The 2020-2021 year-end accounts were approved and it was confirmed that the internal audit process has been completed; the accounts will now be externally audited by MAZARS.

Chair's Signature..... Date.....

21.11 LOCAL MAINTENANCE - ANY LOCAL ISSUES REQUIRING ATTENTION

- i. **Village in Bloom** – it was advised that a local group have approached the Parish Council requesting permission to paint the planters and plant flowers and bulbs throughout the village. The initial proposal is to use available funding to plant existing tubs and the triangular green area with bedding plants. It was advised that Dr Said has agreed to produce a seat sculpture which would be installed in due course. Consideration was given as to what shrubs or plants would be appropriate for planting in the area and Cllr Nicholson will feedback comments received to the group.

The Bank Top Randolph Miners' Monument area is also identified as a site for possible planting. It was highlighted that there are electricity and water utility pipes in this area and following consideration, and in view of the utilities, it was proposed that this area would not benefit from planting. It was also decided that the monument is sufficient in that area and planting would detract from it as a focal point.

It was suggested that other areas throughout the village should also be considered in due course.

Maintenance Issues Raised

- **Bench on Lands crossroad** – bench reported as rotten and requires replacing
- **Broken gutter** – at the rear of 43 Highlands.
- **Concrete posts and railings** along the side of 57 Highland need replacing.
- **Damaged Drain** - Brookside footpath drain is badly damaged and regularly floods
- **Dog bin** – required at Low Lands at the end of the railway walk.
- **Hazardous Parking** - Vehicles parked at the junction of Evenwood Gate is a hazard and it was requested that this be reported again to the police.
- **Litter bin** – required outside cricket club entrance at High Lands.
- **Litter Bin(s)** – it was advised that an additional litter bin is required in Evenwood; this will be considered at the next meeting.
- **Oaks Bank footpath** – damaged near cemetery gates; reported as dangerously uneven.
- **Ramshaw Congested Parking** – the number of cars parking on the roadside near the bridge is creating hazardous passing for oncoming motorists.
- **Ramshaw Gordon Lane** – trees and shrubs are hanging over the road.

It was advised that BT have installed signs advising that Broadband improvements are being trialled.

- ii. To receive update on progress with resolving dog fouling problems

It was advised that following a notice being placed on the Parish Council Facebook page two residents are repeatedly allowing dogs to foul without cleaning it up. It was proposed that Neighbourhood Wardens be asked to visit the area. ACTION: Clerk to request.

21.12 TO RECEIVE ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

It was confirmed allotment rents have been collected and all allotments are being utilised; it was suggested that a rent increase needs to be considered in due course; this will be raised at the October Budget Setting meeting.

Chair's Signature..... Date.....

21.13 TO RECEIVE WELFARE GROUND COMMITTEE UPDATE

i. To receive update on upgrading play area equipment

It was advised that the outcome of a recent formal inspection has led to the play area being temporarily closed until essential works are carried out and old equipment removed. Clerk to contact Scott Ellwood and request quote for works at the earliest convenience.

It was reported that a risk assessment has been carried out at the Welfare Ground Pavilion with the following issues highlighted:

- The freezer requires a deep clean
- Equipment on the floor is smelling.
- It was suggested that the kitchen requires attention if it is to be used for catering.
- The First Aid kit was being stored out of sight.
- Signs are required on the approach to the showers

It was advised that the Pavilion is ready and available for use and can be opened providing those using the facility adhere to COVID restrictions.

There was discussion between the Cricket Club representative, Mr Bannister and the Parish Council regarding the running of the ground. Confirmation of availability of male and female toilets was requested as toilet facilities are required for family members. The Rental Agreement was issued with a request for it be signed and returned with the annual rents.

Concerns were raised by the Parish Council about recent drainage works being undertaken without the Parish Council being notified. This was acknowledged with an apology from Mr Bannister on behalf of the Cricket Club.

Permission was sought for Parish Council support for a grant application to be submitted for permanent practice nets where the mound of earth it currently. It was resolved that the Parish Council will support the application.

A cricket ground representative requested Parish Council consideration for the Cricket Club to be leased for a specified number of years as there is an opportunity for them to obtain £50,000 to provide the drainage and resurfacing for the cricket ground. It was advised that due to the way the Charity Commission is set up, the ground cannot be Leased to the Cricket Club. For the project to proceed, the Parish Council, as Trustees for the Welfare Ground would need to be the direct contact rather than the Cricket Club Committee. Mr Bannister agreed to seek guidance on this suggestion and feedback in due course.

21.14 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no plans for discussion.

21.15 To receive any items for meeting to be held Tuesday, 8th June 2021, 7.00 pm at Randolph Community Centre.

- To consider purchase of additional litter bin.

Chair's Signature..... Date.....

May 18th 2021

Chair's Report

Can we take a moment to remember Rosemary Adams, Jean Donovan, Les Brabbam, Donald Stelling and Stephen Hugill. Rosemary was a Councillor for only two meetings before she died. Jean, a lovely lady who did not stand for any nonsense, said it and meant it. Les a lovely gentleman who was part of our council for many years. The last two to represent the Witton Way ward and were also former Chairmen of this council were Donald Stelling and Stephen Hugill. Donald was always keen to get stuck in to any job and was very supportive of the Barony wards. Stephen died just before the recent election. Stephen was an E&BPC for twelve years, he made me feel very welcome when I first joined. He went on to become one of the first unitary councillors. Very much respected and always willing to help. We will miss them all.

The Chair's report usually outlines and promotes the activities and achievements of the last year. 2020 will never be forgotten. However, our village should feel very proud. Those who went the extra mile to give a hand to those in need. Either by making sure they had enough food, or providing a hot meal, or maybe just a knock on the door or a phone call. Thank you to you all.

We know many who have been ill and unfortunately, many did not recover. They will not be forgotten.

The Parish Council's plans like so many others were put on hold. Our meetings were down to four, however business was carried out as best we could. I thank members for your support in what has been a difficult year.

The much planned VJ activities were knocked back, however the Remembrance Service for the schools went ahead as usual with Rev. Sandy. It was 2011 when we had the very first service. Not a popular choice for some, but we road the storm and we should be very proud it has been so successful.

Also that year, the Parish Council discharged 90 red balloons into the air, in celebration of the Royal British Legion's birthday. I am hoping members can support them again with a contribution. The Parish Council secured ownership of Copeland Road allotments. A piece of history was made and they are there for future generations. We did not borrow, we did not seek funding, we took a gamble and it paid off.

All three allotment sites are now Parish Council owned, once again thank you members for your determination to see this through. Five years ago we also took a gamble, to take on the Randolph Community Centre. Again we rode the storm! Never say it can't be done or we shouldn't do it. If something benefits our villages then let us always try to get it done.

There have been some positives. We have seen all allotment plots taken. Last year so many people just wanted to get out and be doing something. Delaware has been transformed. Well done to them. The Welfare Committee have secured funding to update the play area. These plans will be discussed.

The litters pickers have been proactive in the village, and their work has not gone unnoticed. A big thank you to all involved. A Village in Bloom group have been formed with the view of enhancing our village. More information will be discussed. I have saved the best positive till

Chair's Signature..... Date.....

last. We have a new clerk. Sharon (Proud) has been with us since November and has had to hit the ground running. I can't thank her enough for just getting on with the job with a no nonsense approach. Our members are delighted we have her on board.

For all the positives we have achieved during my time on the Parish Council, one issue over many years has never reached an amicable working relationship. I am asking members to take the time, this year, to sit down and finally decide the way forward. Members will be aware of who I mean.

Let us ride this storm once and for all.

Cllr Barbara Nicholson, Chairwoman

Chair's Signature..... Date.....