

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 June 2024 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,
Lanchester

Present: Vivien Self (Acting Chair), Jane Cain, Ann Bell, Gavin Jarvis, County Councillor
Mike McGaun, Paul McAdam (Clerk),

Apologies : Sandra McDonagh (Chair), Dorothy Parry (Vice Chair), County Councillor Doug
Oliver

**In the absence of both Sandra and Dorothy it was agreed that Vivien Self would chair the
meeting.**

91/24 Declarations of Interest

None.

92/24 Public Participation

None.

93/24 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 28 May 2024 be **AGREED**
as a correct record.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28 May 2024 be **AGREED** as a
correct record

94/24 Planning and Road works

DCC reports had been circulated.

95/24 County Councillor Update

Countywide

- Durham County Council has had a Flag Raising ceremony in support of the Armed Forces during Armed Forces Week.
- Seaham Food Festival scheduled for 3rd and 4th August which is a big visitor attraction currently being publicised
- Durham City Run Festival taking place from 18th – 20th July
- Repairs to Wolsingham Bridge, and consequential long road diversions, have been deferred
- A new attraction – The Story – has opened at Mount Oswald which offers a gateway to the history of County Durham and its people
- Councillor Liz Brown has been appointed as the new mayor for Durham

Parish

- The planning application for the solar farm has been re-submitted (see Minute Ref 101/24)

96/24 Clerk Update

Noticeboard – To be installed on Wednesday 26th June.

Damaged Seat

Still waiting for feedback from gardeners insurers – further request had been made.

It was **AGREED** that Paul should send a more formal letter now rather than just email asking for an update.

AGAR

The Exercise of Public Rights was currently underway and has been displayed on the website and noticeboard. There has been no contact made by anybody regarding this.

Standing Orders

Template Standing Orders had been provided by CDALC and Paul will review these over the next few weeks and personalise for Greencroft Parish Council.

Asset Register

To be updated following installation of noticeboard

Hours Worked – 13 hours worked in June, making 40 hours for the quarter and it was **AGREED** for these to be paid.

97/24 Budget

2024/25 budget position circulated prior to meeting – not a lot of activity to date and no questions.

98/24 Accounts for Payment

Zurich Insurance £206.08

Paul McAdam – Clerk Salary - £415.31

It was **AGREED** for both payments to be made.

99/24 Disqualification of Councillor

Following non-attendance at meetings for 6 months, CllrJamieson has been disqualified under the six month rule referred to in section 85 of the 1972 Local Government Act.

100/24 Traffic Issues in Village

Continuing frustration over the lack of progress with the speed visors and a fear that visors would just be installed without any further consultation with Parish Council.

County Councillors meeting Durham County Council week commencing 1st July and will raise the matter and update following the meeting.

101/24 Solar Farm Planning Application

Discussion following updated planning application by Lightsource SPV 215 Limited for a Solar Farm.

Plans have been amended to detail correct sizes following the Judicial Review and the withdrawal of the previous application but it is not easy to understand what has changed and the implications of the application amongst all of the documents.

County Councillor Mike McGaun is hoping to meet the Strategic Planning Team from DCC to get details in laymans terms to be then able to explain to members of the public. He will then contact the Chairs and Clerks of Parish Councils when he has this detail.

There was also a query regarding the number of sales of land in the area and whether there was any particular reason for this.

Further discussion then followed in respect of a number of concerns about the proposal of the solar farms in the area in general

- The current application is huge and it's understood that a second site is planned adjacent to site 1 on Edge Lane. Although no formal application has been made yet, should the second site go ahead, it will result in the largest solar farm in Europe.
- The land may not be ideal for crops but could be used as agricultural grazing land, of which there is a shortage in this country
- The effect that the proposals will have on wildlife in the area – particularly when fencing is introduced
- The validity about capacity of the solar panels – are the claimed outputs from the panels an average output and is this a reasonable expectation in the north east of England
- Other alternatives available for solar panels – brown belt land, new house roofs, factory roofs

102/24 Neighbourhood Plan

Discussion about the possibility of introducing a Neighbourhood Plan and the advantages this would bring such as protection in planning issues.

Information circulated with agenda had been read and it was acknowledged that there could be a lot of work involved in developing such a plan.

It was noted that Lanchester Parish Council had implemented such a plan and it was **AGREED** that Paul would contact the clerk at Lanchester PC for information on their plan such as how they developed the plan and the problems they encountered in the process

103/24 Seat and Fence Inspections

Jane Cain had carried out the monthly check and identified no further changes in conditions since last month.

104/24 Questions from Members

None received.

105/24 Chair Announcements

None.

106/24 Any Other Business

None

107/24 Next Meeting

Tuesday 30th July at 6.00pm at Lynwood House.