

Greencroft Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 November 2024 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House,
Lanchester

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

Apologies :, Sandra McDonagh, County Councillor Doug Oliver

160/24 Declarations of Interest

None

161/24 Public Participation

None.

162/24 Minutes of the last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 29 October 2024 be **AGREED** as a correct record

163/24 Planning

DCC reports had been circulated.

164/24 County Councillor Update

Councillor Mike McGaun updated on a number of countywide issues.

Survey is currently underway in respect of housing needs in the county – both currently and in the future.

There was upto £25m funding available to transform towns and villages – likely to be used on initiatives to attract tourists.

Crackdown on vapes and smoking was continuing in 3 more areas.

Litter picking initiatives were ongoing.

Carers were being encouraged to seek advice to check they were in receipt of benefits they are entitled to.

Durham Town Hall was closing for a refurbishment.

Festive pantomime being publicised at Durham Gala Theatre.

165/24 Clerk Update

Christmas Lights – Information had been sourced regarding process – which appeared lengthy. It was **AGREED** that work would begin to look at this in early 2025.

Standing Orders – had been finalised.

Park Area – Contact name at DCC had been found and Paul would make contact to ask for any assistance and guidance.

Hours Worked – Anticipated to be 14 for November and it was **AGREED** for these to be paid at the end of the quarter.

166/24 Budget

2024/25 budget position circulated prior to meeting – no questions.

Discussion around budget for 2025/26 and, although still awaiting final confirmation from Durham County Council, it was **AGREED** that if DCC Cabinet agrees the proposed precept arrangements then Greencroft Parish Council would not be requesting any increase in contribution from Council Tax payers.

The increase in tax base alongside the reduction in the LCTRS grant would see the annual budget increase by approximately £40.

It was **AGREED** that Paul would re-circulate the main variances to the budget in 2024/25 to consider the make up of the budget for 2025/26.

167/24 Accounts for Payment

None

168/24 Traffic Issues in Village

Discussion about the Vehicle Activated Signage planned for the village following queries over the location of them which has been queried.

Councillor McGaun had received correspondence from Durham County Council suggesting that the location at the play park had been agreed with Greencroft Parish Council and that the location at the other end of the village was agreed with Durham Constabulary to ensure maximum effectiveness.

It was **AGREED** that Paul should write to DCC urgently to object to the locations and ask them to stop any further progress.

Councillor McGaun will also send similar correspondence to DCC.

The complaint from a local resident about heavy goods vehicles that was discussed previously was discussed again and that it was quite anecdotal without any real evidence and it was discussed that the road concerned is an 'A' road and it may not be possible to restrict traffic.

It was felt though that the road service should be addressed and Councillor McGaun will ask Highways when it was last checked and if they can inspect the road and remedy any issues.

169/24 Solar Farm Planning Application

No further update available although a discussion did raise the fact that there had been recent news reports about an increase in solar farm fires.

170/24 Seat and Fence Inspections

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

The working group looking at the seats and tables would continue their work regarding replacement and repair plans.

It was **AGREED** that Vivien would contact Nathan and enquire if he was in a position to repair the damaged seat and also any other work that may arise.

171/24 Questions from Members

None received.

172/24 Chair Announcements

None.

173/24 Any Other Business

None

174/24 Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 6.00pm at Lynwood House.