

WALDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held via the Zoom online platform on Tuesday 9th March 2021

- 1 Present**
Cllr Morrison (Chair)
Cllr Foster
Cllr Sexton
Cllr Mc Crystal
Cllr Lewcock
Cllr Graham
Ian Heaviside (Clerk)
1 member of the public
- 2 Welcome**
The chair welcomed all present to the meeting
- 3 Apologies**
Apologies were received from Cllr Moist and Cllr Howie which were accepted by those present
- 4 Declarations of Interest**
No member of the Council declared an interest on any agenda item
- 5 Police Liaison Report**
No police Report was submitted
- 6 Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2021 were accepted as a true record
- 7 Financial Matters**
The Following items of income and expenditure were noted

Method	Expenditures	£
Bank Transfer	Salaries	1015.94
Bank Transfer	Expense Payments	157.91
Bank Transfer	Broadband (2 months)	85.18
Direct Debit	Boiler Maintenance Cover	25.63
Direct Debit	Defibrillator Hire	53.88
Direct Debit	Gas and Electricity	75.00
Bank Transfer	Three Telephone Contract	22.00
Bank Transfer	Flowers (Cllr McCrystal)	44.00
Bank Transfer	Safety Signs for Millennium Green	17.92
Bank Transfer	Roofing Repairs to Parish Rooms	190.00
	Income	£
Bank Transfer	DCC Covid Grants January 21	2096.00

- 8 Motions**
The Following Motions were put before the Council

Motion 1 – Cllr Sexton
It was proposed that the Council agree a process for the discussion / debating of agenda items and motions.

The motion was that the proposer and seconder would speak first on their motion then each Councillor in turn would have an opportunity to speak on the matter if they wish, prior to a right of reply by the proposer (or seconder) prior to proceeding to voting

Outcome: This motion was accepted unanimously by those present

Motion 2 – Cllr Sexton

To discuss the available options for the Parish Council to use an outside provider to carry out our payroll and pension functions:

Annual Quotations for this service were as follows

Robson Laidler Accountants (Chester le Street) - £350.00
Abacus Payroll (Hebburn) - £360.00
Jones Boyd Accountants (Durham) - £400.00
Durham County Council - £194.40

The Motion was that the Council agree to outsource payroll services and to appoint one of the quoting firms from 1st April 2021

Outcome: It was agreed unanimously to appoint Durham County Council to provide this service from 1st April 2021

Motion 3 – Cllr Sexton

Broadband Full Fibre – Cllr Sexton updated the Council on the current progress of the project to improve broadband services to Waldrige Village

The Motions was to agree to sign up to Rymote FFBB (ceiling amount £360.00pa) as soon as it becomes available and to terminate the existing broadband contract with XLN Telecom

Outcome: This motion was agreed unanimously by those present

Motion 4 – Cllr Sexton

Password, Data Security & Archiving – to review the impact of data loss and lack of availability during periods of prolonged staff absence and the potential impact on the Council being unable to communicate with residents and & pay their bills during an absence period.

The motion was to agree that the Chair & Vice Chair (or other nominated Councillor) have master access to all passwords and data owned by the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk will look at ways to achieve this and report back to the Parish Council

Outcome: This motion was agreed unanimously by those present

Motion 5 – Cllr Graham

Play Area at Millennium Green

A written report had been circulated to support this matter to all Councillors prior to the meeting

The motion was that the Council should agree to fund one of the quoted improvement options to the Millennium Green Play Area. Multiple quotations had been requested however only two had been returned. The cheapest of these was from Kompan (Scotland) Limited which was as follows (prices excluding VAT):

Option 1. £15162.00 To install all weather safety surfacing to the play area and gym equipment

Option 2. £13848.00 to install all weather safety surfacing to the play area only and install 1 additional play area piece including surfacing

It was noted that the gym equipment is nearing the end of its useable life and as such it would be wasteful to renew the surfacing under this area until funding could be secured to replace this equipment and surfacing together

Outcome: Option 2 of this motion was agreed unanimously by those present

Motion 6 – Cllr Howie

Book bags for under 5's – This motion was deferred until the next meeting as Cllr Howie was unable to attend

Motion 7 – Cllr Moist

Motion - To amend the Councils Standing Order Nos 9 (b) and 9(d) to render them compliant with previous resolutions. – This motion was deferred until the next meeting as Cllr Moist was unable to attend

9 Action Log Update and Ongoing Matters

The Woodland Trust: Project Update – It was noted that having consulted with DCC rangers and looked at potential sites of Parish Land we would be unable to go ahead with this project as we didn't have a suitable site ourselves and DCC were planning an intensive planting project themselves

Official E Mail address and Domain: Project Update – this item has been held in abeyance until the question of our web provider has been resolved

Parish Rooms Refurbishment: Project Update – Architect to attend this week to measure up for building control application now that restrictions have slightly eased

Help for the vulnerable: Project Update – No applications for assistance have been received in the past month

Parish Savings Account: Project Update – Now that the parish main account has been opened and is running, the clerk will research and open the best savings account available

Events Calendar:

Easter Event – This will go ahead with the Easter Bunny visiting households in the Parish to deliver eggs and craft packs. Advertising via social media to encourage uptake

Spring Clean Event – This event has been postponed until restrictions make it more viable

Beating the Bounds Event – This event may need to be postponed depending on national restrictions

Summer Fayre – To be discussed at next meeting

Waldridge Weekender – Cllr Lewcock had received quotations for the mobile cinema however to ensure that our booking was firm a deposit was required. It was resolved to pay a deposit to secure the date and booking. Details to be passed to Parish Clerk for payment.

EV Charging: Project Update – Cllr Lewcock gave an update on the project to bring public charging infrastructure to the Parish area. Further updates will be available as the project progresses

**10 Parish Matters and
Matters for Discussion**

County Councillors Report – The County Councillors present noted that DCC would be suspending parking charges in Chester le Street from 2pm each day, ongoing.

Planning Applications - made since the last meeting:

T1 Beech- crown reduce and reshape by 5-6m. (CLS-17; The Hermitage)
114 Warkworth Drive DH2 3TW Ref. No: DM/21/00489/TPO

Oak (T1) - To carry out a 1.5 metre Crown Reduction, reducing the overall height of the tree and allowing more light through the canopy. (CLS-47) 30 Chillingham Drive DH2 3TJ Ref. No: DM/21/00344/TPO

Post Agenda Planning Applications – There were none to report

Correspondence received - circulated prior to the meeting

Post Agenda Correspondence – Correspondence from the DCC Civic Pride Team confirming the grant of £500 of match funding to be applied against the proposed community garden adjacent to the Allotments in Waldridge Village:

Parish Clerk – The Chair welcomed the newly appointed Parish Clerk