

GLANTON PARISH COUNCIL

GLANTON PARISH COUNCIL met on 26 September 2016 at 7.00pm in The Memorial Hall, Glanton.

Present:

Parish Councillors Jerry Dronsfield, Joe Easton, John Guiry, John Lang, Jon Radgick (Chairman in the Chair) and Mrs Susan Rogers

SE Rickitt – Clerk

Stephanie Linnell (George F White) was present for the first part of the meeting

Two members of the public were present for part of the meeting

1: Introduction

1.1 Welcome, apologies for absence and declarations of interest/grant of any dispensations and possible co-option

(1) Councillors Angus Collingwood-Cameron, Mrs Susan Collingwood-Cameron and Iain Hedley had presented their apologies.

(2) No declarations were made at this point – *See also para. 2.5 below*

2.3 Planning – potential development

(1) The Chairman took this item early and asked Ms Linnell to give her presentation to the Council. It was made clear that any views expressed by Councillors did not bind the Council to any particular response should a formal planning application be made.

(2) Ms Linnell thanked the Council for allowing her to address them and set out preliminary and indicative proposals for a development of 8 dwellings on the vacant site south of the bus shelter on The Causeway. The County Council was to be asked for their pre-application comments.

(3) In discussions, Councillors raised the following points:

- a) The need for further housing, given the number of properties currently on the market within the village
- b) The need to protect the public right of way running south through the site
- c) The potential for a play area within the site
- d) Drainage issues as there is a natural spring within the site which affects the public right of way

- e) Concerns over the vehicular access arrangements onto The Causeway, especially sightlines
- f) Whether the existing wall along The Causeway is listed
- g) The clear need for the bus shelter which serves the stops on both sides of the road
- h) The need to consider the height of any new buildings
- i) The opportunity for a mix of housing types.

(4) Ms Linnell thanked Councillors for their comments and left the meeting at this point.

1.2 Public Questions

There were no questions

1.3 Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 July 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1.4 An update on matters arising from the minutes of 25 July 2016

(1) Councillor Mrs Rogers reported on her continuing contacts with the Rights of Way Officer regarding the obstructed footpath to Whittingham and that no application has been received for the formal diversion as yet. The Chairman will write to the landowner to ensure that the path was not ploughed. **Action JR**

(2) Councillors were pleased that the Highways Dept. had speedily dealt with the grass at the A697 Junction following the previous meeting.

(3) The Chairman reported on the successful of the Annual Village Clean-Up with many parishioners assisting.

2: Items for discussion and potential decisions

2.1 Reports from the County Councillor and the Police

No reports had been received.

2.2 The Millennium Oak Avenue

Councillor Radgick reported that he is still seeking costs for the work on the Oak Avenue as those approached initially had declined to tender because of the scale of the work. Further information will be brought to the November meeting.

Action JR

2.3 Planning

(1) Please see above.

(2) The Chairman reported that the Planning Authority had approved Application 16/02353/FUL -Land South West of 6 Whittingham Road - Proposed construction of a new dwelling.

(3) There were no new applications for the Council to consider.

2.4 Bank Planting

The Council approved the actions set out in the report in Appendix One. Councillors were pleased to note that some of the flowers were already coming through.

2.5 Estate Agents' Signs

The Council discussed the issue as signs had been erected in the highway verge at the A697 junction. Whilst all agreed that signs should not be placed in positions which obstruct visibility, there was no consensus on a possible policy. Some Councillors recognised the need for some parishioners to sell their properties, whilst others doubted the need for signs at the junction. Given the differing views, the Council decided not to pursue a policy.

Councillor Dronsfield took no part in this discussion as his property was for sale.

2.6 Bus Shelter

The Chairman reported he had received two quotations to repair the roof. The Council agreed the work should be undertaken as soon as possible and resolved to instruct Richard Frater to carry out the work as he had provided the lowest quotation. **Action JR**

2.7 A Village Fund

The Chairman drew attention to the slowly depleting *Millennium Fund*, which continues to be a valuable resource for one-off projects. He wondered if the Council should seek to top-up the Fund. Councillors discussed the issue and noted the likely difficulty in raising funds other than for specific projects at the current time. Councillors decided not to establish a Fund at the present time but would be considering the possible need for an increase in the precept at the next meeting.

2.8 State of the Pavements within the Village

An elderly parishioner had recently suffered a fall when tripping over a hole in one of the pavements. Councillors were concerned about the poor state of the pavements generally. The clerk suggested that Councillors report defects on an

individual basis through the system on the County Council's website as anecdotally this seemed to result in swift repairs. **Action All Councillors**

2.9 Extra Grass Cuts

The Council decided not to take up the County Council's offer of three extra cuts for £162.82.

3: Items for Information

3.1 Forthcoming Village activities

(1) Councillor Easton reported that the coffee mornings on the second Wednesday and the lunch clubs on the last Wednesday each month were continuing. There are also regular keep fit sessions on Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings, the latter being open to all ages.

(2) Mr Verrill will be organising an event in the Hall, but details remain to be finalised.

3.2 Details of any meetings attended by Councillors or the clerk

No meetings were reported but the clerk drew attention to

- 1 October – The NALC AGM
- 6 October – The Cluster Meeting to be attended by the Leader of the County Council
- 13 October – The third Town & Parish Council Conference at County Hall

3.3 Correspondence received

(1) The clerk circulated a list of emails received and provided other material for Councillors to take away.

(2) Attention was drawn to the changes in Civic Amenity Site Opening Hours and the proposed consolidation of the Dog Control Orders.

4: Administration

4.1 Audit of the 2015/2016 Accounts

The clerk reported that the external audit had been completed with no issues being brought to the attention of the Council. The Council resolved to approve and accept the Annual Return, including the External Auditor's certificate. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Council to the Clerk whose advice and guidance was a significant factor in achieving a clear audit report.

4.2 To note the current accounts for 2016/2017 and to authorise any payments

The current accounts were noted (a copy is attached to the signed minutes) and approval given for the following payments

- > HMRC – PAYE Q2 - £30.00 (by BACS)
- > J Radgick – Reimbursement website hosting and printer inks - £105.84 (by BACS)

4.3 Internal Auditor

Sandra Nattrass was reappointed as the internal auditor.

4.4 Staff Pensions

The Council considered the report concerning a pension for the clerk as set out in Appendix Two. The Council resolved to note that it had a power to offer a pension but declined to exercise that power at the present time for the reason in the report.

4.5 Details of Items Councillors wish to raise at the next meeting

None

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 28 November 2016

Confirmed as a true record

and signed by the Chairman

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Date

Appendix One - Bank Working Group

Jerry Dronsfield, Susan Williams, Sue Rogers and Jon Radgick met on 25th August at 6pm

The summary of what was agreed was:

- The wildflower seeds that were planted have taken.
- The amount of weed growth around the central shrubs had been worse than anticipated.
- The plan going forward should be as follows:
 1. Jon to contact the County to understand what their maintenance schedule is.
 2. The two grassy areas to either side of the shrubbery should be mown twice a year in late July and September.
 3. The area around the shrubs should be sprayed with a selective weed killer soon, and probably done again in the spring when the snowdrops are up so as to avoid them and before the later bulbs come out. There may need to be a third spraying to be assessed when we see how effective the earlier ones are.
 4. When that area is brought more under control we can sow more wildflowers, bluebells, campion etc. between the bushes, there is no point doing that yet.
 5. We have more seeds to sow on the Powburn side next spring, and we can add primula and other flowers over time as we see how the wildflowers develop.
 6. There is one large gap near the dog poo bin which would benefit from planting another shrub to fill in, this to wait until after the second spraying.

Since the meeting I have had a conversation with Bill Pringle who manages the grass cutting etc. in Glanton for NCC and he has agreed the following:

1 NCC used to do an early cut of the grass on the bank post-daffodil flowering, but this year that didn't happen because the bank was deemed too steep for the tractor. They will now not do that in any event as this would mow down the wild flowers.

2 We will continue with our current arrangement having the grass cut twice a year as outlined above.

3 NCC do not normally strim around the bushes, it happened recently by chance as they had a two man team doing the routine grass cutting so they utilised the second man. I have explained our plan to spray the weeds which they are happy with.

4 They normally trim the bushes once a year during the winter months and we have agreed that they should continue to do this.

5 They will continue their regular mowing of the verge and the bottom most part of the bank.

6 NCC are very happy to work with us and vary their routines to fit in with our plans, they seemed pleased at the actions we are proposing.

Jon Radgick, Aug 16

Appendix 2 – Pension for the Clerk

1. Councillors may be aware that auto-enrolment of staff in pension schemes means that employers will have to offer schemes to their staff.
2. There is a minimum salary threshold of £10,000 per year which means the Council is not obliged to offer a scheme to me. There is, however, a power to offer one if the Council show wishes.
3. Future clerks may wish to consider a pension as part of their salary, but given the nature of the work, my age and the current salary, I do not personally consider that any benefits outweigh the disadvantages for me.
4. I therefore recommend that the Council notes that it has a power to offer a pension but declines to exercise that power at the present time.