

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on

At 19:00 on Thursday 15 October 2020

(Remote Meeting Via Zoom Technology –

Permissible under Sec 78 of the Corona Virus Act 2020)

Present: Councillors I Diggory, I Haddick (Chairman), P Lowrie & A Wallage

In attendance:

M Ramshaw, Parish Clerk

NOTE The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1) Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Kellett (unable to access via technology) and Cllr Morson (family commitment).

Parish Council resolved to approve these absences.

Cllr Boettcher, Cllr Gilbank and Cllr Storey were not in attendance and had not submitted any apologies. **Parish Council resolved** to not approve these absences.

2) Declarations of interest

It was agreed that declarations of interest would be dealt with as and when the need arose.

3) Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

4) Proposed Football Centre – former Leamside Equestrian Centre

Emma Hepplewhite, a principal development planner from an organisation called Fairhurst joined the meeting and outlined proposals for the development of the former Equestrian Centre to relocate the existing Russell Foster Football League Centre from Newbottle Washington. The Centre hosts matches for teams from Northumberland to Teeside and matches take place on a Saturday and Sunday. There will be indoor facilities which will be available for local use.

Councillors queried the volume of people accessing the site and the vehicular access arrangements.

Emma informed the meeting that they are considering the transport networks and actual access to the property is being looked at in conjunction with DCC. Emma didn't have the detail around the number of vehicles anticipated to access the site to hand but would be happy to share this data at a future meeting.

Councillors advised that on-road parking would be dangerous, with many complaints already being received around speeding and parking in that area.

Emma advised the meeting that they are about to carry out a resident leaflet drop as a part of public consultation.

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Timescales for the project were discussed with a planning application being submitted pre-Christmas and work to commence on-site towards October 2021.

Emma agreed to update Parish Council on any developments via email.

Cllr Haddick summed up the concerns around a lack of footpaths in the area, no transport links, the volume of traffic, potential noise and the fact that the land is in a green belt. Cllr Haddick thanked Emma for attending the Meeting.

5) Durham Area Youth

A Report had been received from DAY outlining what had been happening since the beginning of the pandemic. The Report lacked any detail relating to the financial support from the Parish Council and any data around young people from West Rainton & Leamside who were accessing the service.

Cllr Wallage queried what the impact of the pandemic would be on 2021. The Parish Clerk was asked to seek further detail from DAY.

6) Minutes

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

7) Finance Report

The Parish Clerk referred members to the previously circulated Finance Report and explained

the various payments. There were no questions. **Parish Council resolved** to approve the Report.

8) 2020/21 Budget –Q2 Report

The Parish Clerk referred members to the previously circulated budget update for Quarter 2. Spending is as predicted, and the Parish remains in a secure financial position. **Parish Council resolved** to approve the Report.

9) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20

The AGAR was circulated. The Parish Clerk advised that the Accounts had been audited by the external Auditor Mazars, and there were no actions from the Audit. **Parish Council resolved** to note the findings.

10) Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to be considered.

11) Highways Act 1980, s119. Proposed diversion of footpath no. 18 West Rainton Parish. Finchale View West Rainton DH4 6SD

Cllr Haddick advised the meeting he had spoken to Cllr Hall about this issue. The proposal links to continued anti-social behaviour in the area and subsequent complaints from members of the public.

Parish Council discussed access to the railway lines if the diversion is to go ahead. Cllr Haddick advised that he would clarify if access will be still available.

12) Replacement Fencing / Hedge for current Boulders on land opposite the petrol station

Cllr Haddick advised members that he had received the quotation for the fencing. This was £17900 +VAT without hedge planting. An additional £600 +VAT would be required to remove the existing fence. DCC have agreed that they will remove the boulders if the works are to proceed. It is estimated that hedging could be around £5000.

Cllr Haddick advised that he has approached DCC to see if there is any funding available to support the Project.

Cllr Wallage suggested that the Project could be considered when building the budget for 2021/22.

13) Closure of Permissive Footpath (The Dene)

Cllr Wallage advised that she had been approached by a local resident who expressed concerns regarding the closure of the permissive path. The path is closed as the owner has a felling licence up until 2027. There is no indication of how long the path closure is for.

Parish Council resolved to agree to Cllr Wallage drafting a letter to enquire regarding the timescales for the path closure.

14) Village Maintenance

Cllr Wallage advised that the village signs, the Heritage Garden and the existing planters have been maintained. Leamside Nurseries are holding winter bedding plants for the Parish Council for when the new planters arrive. Topsoil and gravel will be ordered for the new planters when they arrive.

15) Installation of Christmas Tree

Parish Council is required to obtain an electricity meter and enter into a contract with an electricity supplier. **Parish Council resolved** to approve a spend of up to £500 regarding the new meter. **Parish Council also resolved** to approve that any decisions with regards to the meter installation and subsequent supply is delegated to the Parish Clerk and Cllrs Haddick and Wallage.

16) Cemetery – Overhanging Trees

A further quotation had been received to remove two trees and tidy up the bushes close to the property but within the cemetery. **Parish Council resolved** to approve the quotation of £1700 + VAT to include the grinding of the tree stumps to ensure the trees don't grow back.

17) Parish Councillor Vacancies

The Parish Clerk advised there has been no interest in the current vacancies. **Parish Council resolved** to approve a further advert for the vacancies.

18) West Rainton & Leamside Village Partnership

Cllr Wallage advised there had not been a partnership meeting. She advised that funding towards the installation of the Christmas Tree is not available.

19) General Correspondence

An email had been received from the leader of the Brownies who asked that in the event of the pantomime not going ahead could they change their application to an online pantomime

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which is available to view. The request was for £50. Parish Council resolved to approve this change to the original submission.

20) Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council noted the next Parish Meeting to be held 19th November 2020 at 19:00. The Meeting will be held with due regard to Government guidance regarding the Covid 19 pandemic.