

GILBERDYKE PARISH COUNCIL

Summary Notes of the December (Ordinary) Meeting of the Parish Council
Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7.00pm

As a point of procedure, it is noted that the December meeting of Gilberdyke Parish Council was held as a remote meeting managed by Zoom, due to ongoing restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In Attendance Cllr N Norris (Chair): Cllr C Newsome: Cllr E Morrison: Cllr D Mansell: Cllr P Buckle: Cllr K Woollass;
Cllr J Bates: Cllr K Cooper: Cllr J Arnold: Cllr C Stevens
Clerk: Andrew Crabbe

1. Any Apologies received and Chair to confirm quorate

Clerk noted an apology from Cllr Bryan – Chair resolved the meeting had quorum for the purposes of conducting business and decision making.

2. Welcome of New Parish Cllrs by Chair and formal in-statement into Office

Chair welcomed Carl Stevens and Justin Arnold to the Parish Council and their appointment to office was noted as a point of procedure from the date of this meeting.

3. Approval of Previous Month's Minutes and Signing by Chair

Chair asked Cllrs to confirm they had received, read, and agreed with the previous month's minutes, Cllrs confirmed this was the case and the Chair duly signed the minutes as official.

4. Any declarations of interests relevant to the meeting's Agenda

None declared of relevance to the Agenda for tonight's meeting. Previous declarations stand as advised.

5. Financial Report and Accounts (subject to receipt of Bank Statement in time)

Clerk noted that NatWest had still not provided a statement or response to any correspondence including a formal complaint. This problem had been ongoing for many months and the last actual statement received was October.

Cllrs discussed online banking as a possible solution to the current problems - Clerk advised that despite the problems with NatWest he personally preferred not to move to online banking and recommended that the PC retain current counter / cheque service and the albeit old fashioned means of banking as this allowed a high level of transparency and authority for processing payments – Cllrs discussed merits and disadvantages of online banking and Clerk noted that if no developments were forthcoming by the end of the month, he would be recommending a transfer to another bank. Clerk also asked if Chair might contact the bank to express his displeasure at the matter. Resolved in that the Chair would contact NatWest to resolve the matter.

Clerk presented the financial report which can be found as **appendix 1**. Cllrs had received a copy of the report prior to the meeting and Clerk reported no financial concerns and the PC finances remained stable and solvent.

6. Public participation (15 mins max, or 3 mins per person/topic)

Clerk noted no members of public had requested attendance at the meeting and no issues had been raised.

7. Any correspondence requiring discussing

Clerk reported no correspondence had been received which had not been dealt with already.

8. Planning Applications to be considered

Clerk reported no planning applications.

9. Matters arising – to consider new and on-going issues and decide further action if necessary:

Ongoing

9.1 Update on Youth Project (Attendance of Gemma Wallace Youth Project Team Leader)

Chair welcomed Fiona Rainforth to the meeting who provided an update on the Project..... Fiona reported that unfortunately, the pandemic was continuing to impact activities and although limited groups were allowed, there were concerns that this would 'snowball' into something which could not be managed.

Therefore, at the moment the project was focusing on remote activities and they were currently looking at putting together a Christmas themed song and had also created Christmas trees which had positive messages for the future.... one was placed at the pond and another at Newport. The project was also looking at horse riding sessions at a local venue..... finally, there were plans for remote meetings to be held shortly using Zoom or Teams. Gemma and Fiona were also looking to meet remotely with students from the village school to organise an anti-litter / dog fouling project and further details of this would follow

Clerk confirmed that he had received confirmation from ERYC that the Parish Council had been successful in the application for the PAG award

Chair thanked Fiona for all their work during these difficult times

9.2 Update on plans for Christmas (all)

Cllrs discussed and confirmed plans for the Christmas event – all was ready for this to happen with Father Christmas making a special visit to be joined by Star Wars Stormtrooper and a cast of others.

9.3 Update and discussion on current Project Plan (Clerk)

Clerk confirmed this was still outstanding and would be moved onto the next meeting

9.4 Update on new cemetery land and lease situation with associated road (All)

Post Meeting - Clerk confirmed that he had received confirmation from ERYC that Gilberdyke were still party to the lease of the road which ran parallel to the existing cemetery – this was contrary to the advice from Newport PC. This would be discussed further at the January 2021 meeting.

Clerk also advised that he had received an email from Newport PC asking if Gilberdyke was still proposing to make a financial contribution to the running of the cemetery – Cllrs discussed and agreed that Gilberdyke should continue to make this contribution at this point as part of the Parish Council’s responsibility to residents. Matter resolved and Clerk instructed to advise Newport PC that Gilberdyke would continue to make the payment and request an invoice.

9.5 Update on street cleaning – applications for new vacancy (All)

Cllrs noted the applications received for the vacancy and considered these. It was agreed that Chair and Deputy Chair would interview the applicants, and this was duly arranged by the Clerk and actioned.

New

9.6 Cllrs to discuss projects / budgetary issues regarding precept and budget for 2021/22 including review of financial support for War Memorial Hall (Clerk Report / All)

Cllrs considered the report previously sent to them by the Clerk which detailed operational spending and identified that due to the high current standing balance and the projected balance on 1st April, he was recommending there was no requirement for an increase – this recommendation did not include any project work and was dependent on the PC not continuing to support the 10k paid to the Memorial Hall Committee.

Chair noted regards the issue of the 10k which was allocated to the replacement of the Memorial Hall, he felt now was the time to consider if this might be redirected to other projects such as the playground, the Youth Project, and the new burial ground. He recapped for Cllrs Stevens and Arnold that the PC had been meant to be assigning 10k per annum for a new Memorial Hall and that it was understood that approximately 70k had been accumulated in the bank for this purpose. However, it was now felt that the Memorial Hall rebuild was never likely to happen due to the unattainable costs involved. Chair continued that if Cllrs felt that the PC should continue to financially support the Memorial Hall then at the very least the Memorial Hall Committee should match whatever the PC set aside and in addition, agree the original intention of providing the fund for replacing the hall was no longer valid, then the intent should be changed, ie to financially supporting the hall in maintenance matters.

Clerk confirmed that there was nothing in the financial records / a financial mandate for the above purposes and that the Parish Council’s own auditor was not aware of either a 10k annual contribution or an earmarked reserve of 70k for a new Memorial Hall rebuild. With this in mind Cllrs could change the above understanding and do as Chair was suggesting – Clerk also confirmed that the 10k transfer had not happened for at least two years.

Cllr Newsome advised that he understood that the money set aside was always meant to be singularly for the purpose of rebuilding the hall, but at some point, it was evident to him that the rebuild would not happen and the Memorial Hall itself had determined this.

Cllrs agreed to consider the above with a view to determine the way forward at the January or February meeting. Clerk advised that the issue of the 10k contribution was the pressing issue at this time as this might impact on the precept considerations and he therefore recommended this issue at least be determined at the January meeting / prior to the precept demand.

9.7 Discussions on reported 'eye sore' on Bellasize Park (Cllr Newsome)

Cllr Newsome explained that there was a parcel of land between 11 and 11a Bellasize which the PC owned – there had been some trees on this land which were removed at the request of residents who felt the trees were damaging foundations..... however this now gave view to an 'ugly' corrugated building / barn and several residents were now complaining to Cllr Newsome that this was an 'eyesore'. Cllr Newsome noted that as the PC had chopped down the trees. did the PC have a responsibility to do something about the situation?

Cllrs discussed and agreed that the trees had only been removed due to a request from residents in the first place – Cllrs resolved that the Clerk should refer the matter onto ERYC.

9.8 Cllrs to discuss road safety of B1230 / Tongue Lane following recent accident (Cllr Newsome)

Cllr Newsome reported that this was a long-standing issue and the speed limits on the road did not make sense, most of the road being 50mph then dropping sharply to 30mph into Newport and Gilberdyke respectively. There were also two bus stops and two dangerous junctions which Cllr Newsome felt was highly inappropriate for a 50mph road, which was demonstrated by the recent accident. In summary Cllr Newsome asked Cllrs to consider the PC supporting a reduction in the speed limit on the 50mph stretch of the road.

Cllr Stevens noted that the speed limit did in fact used to be more phased into Newport, dropping from 50 to 40 then to 30, but for some reason this had changed from 50 to 30. Cllr Cooper advised that the PC had previously attempted to have the speed limit reduced but this had been turned down "due to the fact there had been no fatalities"

Cllrs agreed that a project team should be created to investigate the matter and report back to the Parish Council – Cllrs Newsome, Woollass, Stevens and Buckle would comprise the team and report back to the PC monthly.

9.9 Cllrs to discuss issues of concern with Jubilee Gardens Development (All)

Cllrs noted ongoing issue of concerns raised with the above development, specifically:

- The piling of earth against a wooden fence and the prospect of this rotting with landfall onto the public path
- the increased risk of flooding in an area already prone to flooding due to the raised level of the development (raised by more than 2 foot) and the potential risk of water running off.

Clerk continued that the property developer concerned, Orion had advised that they would be putting water tanks into the site to deal with drainage, but Cllrs felt that this was not sufficient as they did not deal with water running off the site. Recent photos had shown flooding in the residential area adjoining the site and it was evident that this had worsened with the development. Efforts had been made to ask Orion Homes for a meeting to

discuss Cllr concerns, however there had been no progress made with this and Clerk confirmed that the PC had now written to ERYC with the concerns.

Cllr Newsome advised that he felt this was a serious matter and it needed ERYC to come out and inspect the site and actually look at the issues..... there was a history in the village of developers making promises and then disappearing without doing the work.

Cllrs agreed to continue to chase ERYC for a meeting at the site.

9.10 Cllrs to confirm format of January 2021 Parish Meeting (Covid Emergency) (All)

Clerk confirmed the recommendation was that the current format of the meetings remained in place and Cllrs agreed unanimously to this recommendation and that the January 2021 meeting would be held remotely

There being no more business, the Chair closed the meeting at 2115

The next meeting will be held 12th January 2021

Signed as a true record *Nick Norris* Date *14th January 2021*

Cllr Nick Norris