

Piercebridge Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 13 MARCH 2017

COUNCILLORS: S. Chalmers (Chair) C. Steel
 R. Blamire D. Taylor McDonald
 C. Hodgson
 Clerk: Martin Clark

Visitors: DBC Cllr G Lee & 3 residents

Public Participation:

Mr Willans wished to speak following the council's request to cease cutting an area of grass verge. He spoke on having done this work for several years without incident. He felt he was helping to keep the village tidy and especially round where he lived.

It was agreed by the Chair to allow Mr Willans to speak at agenda item 7.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None declared

3. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2017:

RESOLVED: The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 9 January 2017 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Steel and seconded by Cllr Taylor McDonald

4. PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2017:

The Clerk referred to his discussions with Highways officers at DBC regarding the possible sighting of a speed matrix sign in the village. The officer has been looking at the road layout and if a matrix could be used. The officer has agreed to meet councillors in the village to discuss. **RESOLVED:** The Clerk will arrange a date/time

5. LOCAL MAINTENANCE/VILLAGE ISSUES:

5.1 An earlier discussion on planters in the village was referred too. It was now agreed that bulbs planted directly in the ground rather than using planters was the preferred option.

6. FINANCE/ACCOUNTS:

No invoices requiring payment

7. CORESPONDENCE:

Mr & Mrs Willans – grass cutting

The Clerk read out correspondence from Mr Willans.

The Chair allowed Mr Willans to add anything further. He referred to having the necessary insurances in place and felt he was not affecting anyone.

Cllr’s Taylor McDonald and Steel referred to not knowing he had been doing this work. The Council need to ensure that anyone carrying out grass cutting has the relevant insurances in place. The area in question is being cut by someone contracted by the council.

Members welcome help from residents with litter picking and generally keeping the village looking good but it must make sure things are done correctly.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Blamire and seconded by Cllr Taylor McDonald that Mr Willans needs to supply copies the insurances he refers to having to the Clerk before the council look again at its decision.

This was agreed by Mr Willans. The Chair thanked him for his attendance.

8. PLANNING NOTIFICATIONS:

None

9. WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATES:

DBC Cllr Lee gave apologies for Cllr Crudass

Cllr Lee referred to a reduction of Street Scene staff from 31 to 19. The reduction will mean requests for things like gulley cleaning will happen but may take longer to be actioned. He informed the council the gullies in the village were due to be cleaned in a matter of days.

Cllr Taylor McDonald asked if the parish council would see the bridge survey report. Cllr Lee explained the report is the property of Lloyds insurance and stays with them.

10. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING & AGENDA ITEMS:

Monday 8 May 2017, 7.00pm, St Mary’s Church

Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Council Meeting

DBC – Darlington Borough Council

