

WALDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Waldridge Parish Council held on 12 November 2019 at 7.00pm



Present: Councillors - Corner, Davies, Foster, Harding, Howie, McCrystal, Moist, Morrison and Sexton.

Also in attendance – Sarah Wilson - Parish Clerk, Brian Laidler – Caretaker, and Allan Bainbridge – County Councillor.

1. **Welcome:**

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr Bell submitted his apologies.

Resolved: *It was agreed that Cllr Bell's apologies would be accepted (unanimous).*

3. **New Member:**

Following consideration at a previous meeting, Kirstie McCrystal attended to be co-opted on to the Council.

Resolved: *Members voted unanimously to co-opt Kirstie McCrystal. Cllr McCrystal signed her Declaration of Acceptance and took her place on the Council.*

4. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

No members declared an interest.

5. **Police Report:**

The police report which had been circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

6. **Minutes of Council Meeting – 8 October 2019:**

Resolved: *The minutes of the Council meeting held on 8th October 2019 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Vice Chairman.*

7. Parish matters and ongoing items

a) **County Councillors report**

Cllr Bainbridge gave an update on Birch View – no significant progress, but Barratt have instructed solicitors to hopefully resolve the matter. It was also noted that the defibrillators have been ordered but are currently delayed.

Resolved: Report noted.

b) **Waldridge Parish in Bloom Working Group**

The Council discussed whether the 2020 Northumbria in Bloom competition should be entered, and arguments both for and against entering were considered.

Resolved: It was agreed that the 2020 Northumbria in Bloom competition would not be entered (Cllr Howie in favour of entering, Cllrs Moist and Morrison against, Cllrs Corner, Davies, Foster, Harding, McCrystal and Sexton abstained).

c) **Events Working Group**

The working group gave an update – the Halloween event was very poorly attended, despite 48 tickets being collected, and further interest being shown following the ticket collections. As a result, some of the vendors who attended lost money, and it was proposed that the remaining budget from the Halloween event should be divided up among the vendors, to compensate for their losses.

Resolved: Update noted. It was agreed that £100 should be paid to Liberty Catering, £50 to Sweet Treats Candy, and £50 to Really Awesome Coffee Durham (Cllrs Corner, Foster, Howie, McCrystal, Moist, Morrison and Sexton for, Cllrs Davies and Harding against).

d) **Christmas**

The Council considered a proposal for a Christmas carolling event made by Cllr Harding. The possibility of purchasing photo baubles to decorate the Christmas tree was discussed, with it being suggested that residents could submit photos to personalise the baubles. The Council discussed whether the 'Best Decorated House' competition should be run again this year.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Christmas carolling event should go ahead, to take place directly after the Church carol and nativity service on the 22nd Dec, and that there is £100 available in the Christmas budget for this. It was agreed that photo baubles should be purchased from the Working Group budget, up to a maximum of £100. It was agreed that the 'Best Decorated House' competition should run this year, and that a £25 voucher should be purchased as a prize, from the Christmas budget (all votes unanimous).

e) **Updates from Facebook**

Cllr Harding gave an update – Facebook has been very quiet on the whole, several reports of a flasher in the Parish.

Resolved: Update noted.

f) **Escalation Routes**

The Council discussed possible escalation routes to be followed in matters of urgency. It was noted that the Clerk should be the first point of contact, but that a procedure should be put in place of who should be contacted next, should the Clerk be unavailable. Clerk to create a draft plan, including a telephone tree and details of key holders. The procedure which should be followed when decision making was discussed, with it being noted that individual Councillors cannot make decisions.

Resolved: *The procedure which must be followed when making decisions was noted.*

g) **Subsidising non-residents**

The subsidising of non-residents was discussed, and the Council considered whether non-residents should be allowed to attend Parish events. Cllr Davies stated that non-precept payers should not be allowed to attend, and Cllr Corner said she felt that events should be for Parish residents only. Cllr Morrison mentioned that allowing non-residents to attend and not excluding anyone could be a positive thing for the Council. Cllr Harding stated she would not mind non-residents attending events, and Cllr Foster asked whether an 'early bird' system could be adopted, where residents would get priority, and if tickets are remaining, these could be allocated to non-residents, as the money for the event would be being spent regardless. Cllr Sexton mentioned that he could see both sides of the argument, and that priority should be given to residents. It was then suggested that several possible solutions should be prepared and added to the next agenda to be voted on.

Resolved: *To be added to the next agenda for a decision.*

h) **Safety and Security**

As it was felt that it was related, this item was brought forward and was discussed immediately following item (f). Cllr Davies raised concern about Councillors having to enter the Parish rooms alone when the security alarm has sounded – Clerk to seek costs for an alarm that would send alerts when triggered, and security cameras that could be remotely monitored. Cllr Davies also raised concern regarding the play area swing, and concrete blocks that had been left beneath the goal posts on the green. It was suggested that in some circumstances, such as moving a block out of the way, Councillors could possibly act to remove the hazard, then inform the Clerk, but it was noted that a procedure for emergency situations will be created.

Resolved: *No decisions needed.*

i) **Clippings**

The Council reviewed the winter Clippings, and the Clippings distribution list was reviewed and amended.

Resolved: *The winter Clippings was approved subject to Christmas event and activity details being added. The new Clippings distribution list was approved. Both votes unanimous.*

j) **Parish Rooms Heating**

The Council discussed the control of the Parish Rooms heating.

Resolved: *It was agreed that in addition to the Clerk, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman should both have remote access to the Parish Rooms Hive heating (unanimous).*

k) **Car Parking**

The Council considered the purchasing of line marking spray to mark out the lines in the village car park. The purchasing of solar lights and screws for the hammerhead was noted.

Resolved: *It was agreed that line marking spray should be obtained, and that lines should be marked out in the Parish car park (Cllrs Corner, Davies, Foster, Harding, Howie, McCrystal, Moist and Sexton for, Cllr Morrison against).*

l) **Water Bowser**

The Council considered the disposing of the water bowser, and it was noted that it is missing a pump, and that there is no trailer to transport it.

Resolved: *It was agreed that the water bowser should be disposed of (unanimous).*

m) **Policy Review**

There were no policies to be reviewed.

Resolved: *No decisions required.*

Cllr Harding left the meeting at 20:25.

n) **Timetable of training events**

Cllr Davies, Cllr Morrison and the Clerk had requested to attend the CDALC Planning Training Course. Cllr Moist asked whether the Council has an input in the planning process, and Cllr Sexton said that the Parish Council can cause issues with planning by getting involved. Cllr Foster suggested that if this were the case the training should ensure that the Parish Council is following correct procedure. Cllr Davies mentioned that there have been some controversial planning applications during his time as a Councillor. The Clerk stated that she has had no planning training and does not feel like she has sufficient knowledge at present to be able to handle controversial applications correctly.

Resolved: *The Council voted against Cllr Davies, Cllr Morrison and the Clerk taking the CDALC Planning Training Course (Cllrs Corner, Foster, Howie, McCrystal, Moist and Sexton against, Cllr Davies for, Cllr Morrison abstained).*

o) **Grants / fundraising**

Pocket Parks funding was mentioned, and it was noted that Parish Council's can't apply. It was noted that community groups can apply, and that there are some groups that could benefit from this funding.

Resolved: *No decisions required.*

p) **To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was published.**

- No applications received.

Resolved: *No decisions required.*

q) **To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was published.**

- No applications received.

Resolved: *No decisions required.*

r) **Correspondence received**

- Email from resident regarding DCC play area
- Email from room hirer enquiring about upstairs of Parish Rooms
- Facebook post from resident regarding Millennium Green play area swing

Resolved: *Cllr Sexton agreed to chase up DCC regarding the equipment due to be reinstalled at the DCC play area. The room hirer's request was noted, with the upstairs of the Parish Rooms not being suitable for hire at present. It was noted that the loose bracket on the play area swing has now been tightened by Kompan.*

s) **Correspondence received after agenda published (to note only)**

- None received.

t) **Clerks Report / Action Log**

The Clerk gave an update on all items on the Action Log not already covered during the meeting.

Resolved: *Update noted.*

u) **Urgent issues for noting (Clerk to use delegated powers in necessary) and any items Councillors wish to agenda for next meeting**

No issues to note.

8. **Financial Matters**

	(a)	<u>Payments</u>
	<u>Resolved:</u> That the following payments be agreed:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That the sum of £1,193.20 be paid to S Wilson (October 2019 wage) (2) That the sum of £269.21 be paid to B Laidler (October 2019 wage) (3) That the sum of £52.70 be paid to Wave Water (Parish Rooms water) (4) That the sum of £321.84 be paid to HMRC (PAYE) (5) That the sum of £52.30 be paid to SLCC (Clerk's Manual) (6) That the sum of £56.74 be paid to Wave Water (Allotments water) (7) That the sum of £40.19 be paid to XLN (broadband) (8) That the sum of £71.00 be paid to E.ON (gas & electricity) (9) That the sum of £53.88 be paid to medic assist (defibrillator rental - October) (10) That the sum of £22.00 be paid to British Gas (boiler cover) (11) That the sum of £36.50 be paid to H Corner (Halloween expenses) (12) That the sum of £70.00 be paid to I Corner (Tommy installation) (13) That the sum of £40.00 be paid to Waldrige Fell Village Hall (room hire) (14) That the sum of £27.00 be paid to CDALC (Chairman's training) (15) That the sum of £48.49 be paid to S Wilson (solar lights and security screws) (16) That the sum of £246.50 be paid to S Wilson (vouchers – awards evening) (17) That the sum of £59.99 be paid to S Wilson (Microsoft Office annual subscription) (18) That the sum of £125.00 be paid to GNAAS (grant) (19) That the sum of £125.00 be paid to Chester-le-Street Amateur Rowing Club (grant) (20) That the sum of £125.00 be paid to Citizens Advice County Durham (grant) (21) That the sum of £125.00 be paid to 1st Waldrige Fell Scout Group (grant) (22) That the sum of £24.00 be paid to S Wilson (wristbands) (23) That the sum of £60.00 be paid to S Wilson (boiler repair excess) (24) That the sum of £7.99 be paid to S Wilson (monthly print plan – October) 	
	(b)	<u>Receipts</u> <u>Resolved:</u> That the following receipts be noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That the sum of £7.50 was received from J Fawcett – Sing & Sign (room hire - September) (2) That the sum of £10.00 was received from J Uhlirova – yoga (room hire – August) (3) That the sum of £37.50 was received from H Jones (room hire - party) (4) That the sum of £25.00 was received from J Uhlirova – yoga (room hire – October) (5) That the sum of £55.00 was received from Tranquil Treatments (room hire – October) (6) That the sum of £22.50 was received from J Fawcett – Sing & Sign (room hire October)
<p>9. <u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>10 December to commence at 7.00pm.</p> <p>The meeting terminated at 8.49pm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chairman Date</p>		

