ELDON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING

Community Centre **Tuesday** **Time: 7.45 p.m.**
Eldon **30th May 2023**

Present:

Councillors John Gibson, Paul Henry and Toni Wallace.

Tom Bolton – Parish Clerk

County Councillor Shirley Quinn.

D01/23 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED:

That Councillor John Gibson be elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the 2023/24 Municipal Year. Councillor Gibson then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor John Gibson in the Chair

D02/23 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Paul Henry be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

D03/23 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

D04/23 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Diane Pennington (holiday) and Graham Scott (work commitments).

RESOLVED:

That the apologies be accepted and approved.

D05/23 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Councillor Gibson declared interests in relation to Agenda Items 15 and 22 and Councillor Wallace in relation to Item 15.

D06/23 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no applications.

D07/23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

D08/23 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2023/2024

RESOLVED:

1. That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council represent the Parish Council on the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Local Councils Committee and the Clerk also be authorised to attend.
2. That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council represent the Parish Council on the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Forum and/or its Task and Finish Groups where appropriate.
3. That Councillor Scott represent the Parish Council on the Police and Crime Commissioner Community Panel and the Clerk also be authorised to attend in Councillor Scott's absence.
4. That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and/or the Clerk be authorised to attend the CDALC Smaller Local Councils Forum.
5. That Councillor Scott or another representative from the Parish Council attends meetings of SCYPAN.
6. That Councillor Diane Pennington and/or the Clerk represent the Parish Council at meetings of the Southern Area Residents and Travellers Forum.
7. That the Clerk and/or one Councillor represent the Council on the BASH AAP Towns and Villages Forum.

D09/23 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

1. That for the 2023/24 Municipal Year, meetings of the Parish Council be held at 7.00 p.m. on the following dates in those months in which meetings are usually held, as follows:

   Tuesday 25th July 2023
   Tuesday 26th September 2023
   Tuesday 28th November 2023
   Tuesday 9th January 2024 (meeting now needs to be earlier because of budget setting and precept request to DCC)
   Tuesday 26th March 2024
   Tuesday 28th May 2024

2. That other meetings be arranged as and when necessary.

D10/23 DATE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR 2024

An Annual Meeting for registered local electors in the Parish must be convened by the Council between 1st March and 1st June each year. It is suggested that the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting for electors should be held on 28th May 2024 at 6.30 p.m.

RESOLVED:
That the Annual Parish Meeting for Parishioners for 2024 be held on Tuesday 28th May, 2024 at 6.30 p.m, immediately prior to the Annual meeting of the Parish Council.

D11/23 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR TONI WALLACE

The Clerk reported that Councillor Toni Wallace had submitted her resignation as Councillor with effect from 2nd June (her last day in office being 1st June). The

vacancy had been reported to the County Council for the necessary statutory notice of the vacancy to be published and this was currently awaited.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Wallace for her service to the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted and Councillor Wallace be thanked for her service to the Council and the local community.

D12/23 CRIME, POLICE LIAISON AND LOCAL CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES

There was no representation by the police (or from the County Council).

Reference was made to the joint project bid with Eldon Lane to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. It had proved difficult to find a site on which to the place the CCTV camera in Eldon, but this was being further investigated. In a recent meeting with Katherine Ward from DCC a number of linked issues had been raised. A quote had now been received from JSC Electrics for solar powered floodlighting on the MUGA owned by DCC and this had now been sent to the AAP to assess suitability for inclusion in the project and costs, with a response awaited. A number of recent backyard fires in the Rows had been the subject of a recent multi agency site visit.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

D13/23 QUESTIONS – TO DEAL WITH ANY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions.

D14/23 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES OR FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(a) Outside Bodies/Meetings

There was nothing to report.

(b) County Councillors

Councillor Shirley Quinn provided an update on DCC issues, including the recent Annual Meeting of the County Council and the appointment of Councillor Joan Nicholson as Chairman of the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

D15/23 ELDON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

An update was provided on recent and upcoming events and on a bid to the AAP for funding supported by Councillor Quinn for new tables and chairs and microwave equipment.

D16/23 BISHOP AUCKLAND AND SHILDON AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP ISSUES

The Clerk referred to the item about the County Council's Community Engagement Consultation elsewhere on the agenda which could result in changes to AAPs.

D17/23 KING'S CORONATION TEA PARTY AND ANNUAL VILLAGE FETE 2023

The Clerk provided feedback on the King's Coronation Tea Party which had been attended by over fifty local residents. The invoice for hall hire and provision of food and refreshments was awaited from the Community Partnership.

The annual Village Fete was to be held on 22nd July between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. with the usual face painter and Magician/Balloon modeller booked, as well as children's fairground rides. The cost of the rides for 2023 was £1200.00 + £240 VAT.

RESOLVED:

That the arrangements be noted and the payment of £1440.00 (VAT inclusive) to Paul Evans for the childrens' fairground rides be approved and confirmed.

D18/23 BOUNDARY COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER NUMBERS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

The Clerk provided an update on the Boundary Commission final proposals, which, in relation to Eldon were in line with the Parish Councils previous representations, although the final proposal also included Coundon within the Division. Councillor Shirley Quinn advised that she did not see this as a major difficulty.

The deadline for responses to the final report was 10th July 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council advise the Local Government Boundary Commission that it has no objections to the proposals.

D19/23 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONSULTATION

The Clerk referred to the recent consultants' report and proposals published by Durham County Council primarily affecting the structure of the Area Action Partnerships if implemented. The Clerk reminded members that previous discussions amongst members had indicated that several of the proposals could have an adverse impact on the local AAP with whom the Parish Council had always had a productive relationship and accordingly a letter drafted by the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, encapsulating the Parish Council's views had been sent to the County Council. Copies had been sent to individual members.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council's response be approved and the actions of the Clerk and Chairman be confirmed.

D20/23 FILLING OF PARISH CLERK VACANCY

The Clerk provided an update on the current position regarding recruitment of the new Clerk and RFO.

D21/23 PLANNING ISSUES

(a) Application DM/23/01088/OUT: 2 No. Bungalows on Land adjacent to Office Row, Eldon

The Clerk reported that the Council had previously commented on the proposed development which, on the first proposal, did not accommodate the public right of way which ran through the development and would need diverting. The latest proposal allowed for the right of way to run northwards through the development without diverting. However, the new vehicular access into the development in the latest proposal had been moved to Office Row. Given that the roadway here was often parked up with cars on its western edge, it was suggested that the road splays opposite, into the development, be set back in such a manner as to allow vehicles to turn into and out of the development without any impediment. As the deadline for responses had fallen before the next diaried meeting of the Parish Council, the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, had submitted a response along these lines.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council's response to the County Council advising that it has no objections to the revised application, but drawing the Council's attention to the potential issue with the proposed entrance and exit to the development adjoining Office Row, be approved and the actions of the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman be confirmed.

(b) Former Eldon Deep Site – Piecemeal Development

The Clerk advised that, following a report from the Chairman about the erection of a steel shed inside the entrance to the former Eldon Deep Opencast Site, he had spoken with one of the County Council's senior planning enforcement officers for the area about this issue and also the encroaching piecemeal development on this site which the Parish Council was concerned about. The officer had said she would investigate but had stated that a caravan on the site was only a chattel and not a structure and she had not seen any that were being used for residential purposes. Councillor Shirley Quinn asked if a further email could be sent to the officer and that she be copied into the correspondence.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council write to the Enforcement Officer again about this matter and the following item.

(c) Development East of Pasture Row

The Clerk advised that he had contacted the County Council's Enforcement Officer on a number of occasions about activities at the south eastern corner of Pasture Row which had seen the importation of several waggon loads of stone into an adjoining field and through a newly created gateway. Initially the officer had responded saying she had spoken to both the landowner and contractors carrying out the works advising them about statutory processes. Details of the parties involved were not

provided with the officer citing data protection issues. Further emails to the officer asking for updates as the development proceeded had not been responded to.

RESOLVED:

That, as with item (b) above, the Parish Council write to the officer concerned seeking a response and should none be forthcoming, the Parish Council write to the Head of Planning at Durham County Council.

D22/23 CORRESPONDENCE AND LAND, PROPERTY OR ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

The Parish Council considered the following issues:

(a) Tenancies.
(b) Removal of garages on land owned by LIVIN west of Pasture Row.
(c) Blackie Wood
(d) CDALC Buddying Scheme
(e) DCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan (4) consultation.
(f) Temporary Stopover Areas – Facilities provision by DCC. Lack of toilets.
(g) Temporary Stopover Sites 2023 Contacts List.
(h) CDALC Training Courses.
(i) Zoom subscription.
(j) Durham Works and Cornforth Partnership Young People's Drop In for 16-24 years not in education, training or employment (Every Tuesday at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre 10 am to 1 pm.
(k) Climate County Durham – call for land in local authority ownership to be used for EV charging.
(l) Love to Ride Durham.
(m) CDALC Schedule of Councils.
(n) Primary Care Supplies – Defibrillators.
(o) Multiply Champion, Durham Learn: DCC support for adults 19+ to gain greater knowledge and support about mathematics,

(a) Tenancy Issues

The Clerk reported that he was awaiting the signed Agreement and fee from the tenant of the former allotment site. The tenant of the land near Pasture Row had indicated that he wished to continue for a further year.

RESOLVED:

That the allotment site tenant be asked to conclude the process and return the Agreement and fee and authority also be given for the Parish Council to enter into an Agreement for a further year with the tenant of the Pasture Row land.

(b) Removal of garages on land owned by LIVIN at Pasture Row

The Clerk provided an update about the garages on LIVIN land at Pasture Row. This had been a subject of lengthy debate at the prior Annual Parishioners meeting and it was hoped that LIVIN would attend a meeting in the village with local people to discuss the issues.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council be represented at the meeting.

(c) Blackie Wood – Vehicle Rutting and Damage to Ground

The Clerk reported that, following complaints from local residents following the thinning of trees on County Council woodland at Blackie Wood, making parts of the wood inaccessible, he had written to DCC and had received an email which indicated that the damage would be made good. However, it appeared that complaints about inaccessibility were still being received.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted and the Parish write again to the County Council about the continuing issues.

(d) Rights of Way Improvement Plan

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be delegated in consultation with the Chairman to determine whether the Council should respond to any of the issues in the Plan.

(e) Zoom Subscription

The Clerk advised that the Zoom subscription was up for renewal.

RESOLVED:

That the subscription be not renewed.

(f) All other remaining items above

RESOLVED:

That the items be noted.

D23/23 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS OR DONATIONS

There were no applications.

D24/23 PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report.

D25/23 RISK ASSESSMENT

The Council considered the annual report of the Clerk about risk assessment (for copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations in the report and the risk strategy for the coming year be approved.

D26/23 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2022 TO 2023

The Clerk reported that the Annual Accounts and Annual Return (AGAR) for 2022 to 2023 would be considered at an extraordinary meeting of the Council on 13th June.

D27/23 EARMARKED BUDGET ITEMS

The Council considered a report of the Clerk about items to be earmarked within the budget and reserves (for copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the report be adopted.

D28/23 QUESTIONS FOR THE CLERK OR CHAIRMAN

There were no questions.

D29/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on **Tuesday 25th July 2023** at 7.00 p.m.

D30/23 VOUCHERS, INVOICES, INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND ACCOUNTS

The Clerk circulated details of income and expenditure to date, together with a schedule of invoices paid for approval.

RESOLVED:

That the information and expenditure be noted and approved.