

MICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Mickleton Parish Council, held on Tuesday 4 August 2020 at 7pm in Mickleton Village Hall.

PRESENT: Mrs G Taffurelli (Chairman), Mrs M Hutchinson, Mrs S Entwistle, P Thompson, T Wilson, J Lonsdale and K Walton.

4 members of the public attended the meeting.

918 CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN- Clerk explained that owing to the Covid19 Government Restrictions, all meetings had been cancelled. The current Chairman, Mrs G Taffurelli was to continue as Chairman for 2020/21. Parish Council elections are due to be held in May 2021.

919 SIX MONTH RULING FOR COUNCILLORS – Clerk explained that if a Councillor had not attended a meeting for 6 months then they are automatically disqualified, hence this meeting being called for Councillors to remain within the 6 month rule.

920 DECLARATION OF INTEREST – K Walton and S Entwistle made a declaration of interest in the planning application for the shepherds huts.

921 2019/20 BALANCE SHEET

This had been circulated and taken as read. No questions raised.

Proposed by M Hutchinson, seconded by P Thompson, that the balance sheet be accepted, and agreed by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

922 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

Clerk reported that owing to Covid19, an extension period to 31 August 2020 had been given for the submission of the documentation. All the supporting documentation for the Return could be found on the Council website.

922.1 CERTIFICATE OF EXCEPTION FOR 2019/20

This had been circulated and taken as read. No questions raised and all supporting documents are displayed on the website,

Proposed by P Thompson, seconded by J Lonsdale, agreed by the Council that the Parish Council meet the criteria for Exception and signed by the Chairman.

922.2 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019/20

This had been circulated and taken as read. No questions raised.

Proposed by M Hutchinson, seconded by P Thompson, agreed by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

922.3 ACCOUNTING STATEMENT 2019/20

This had been circulated and taken as read. No questions raised.

Proposed by S Entwistle, seconded K Walton, agreed by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

923 PLAY AREA

Clerk reported that notices of closure of the play area had been put in place during the Coronavirus epidemic.

Playgrounds were now able to open again but users had to follow the government guidelines. Government Guideline notices to be displayed around the play area for users to follow for the safe use of the play equipment.

924 PLANNING APPLICATION DM/20/01759/FPA - 2 Shepherd Huts and access track

As Cllrs K Walton and Mrs S Entwistle had made a Declaration of Interest in regard to this planning application, they would take no part in discussions and the decision.

The Chairman asked Councillors for their views on this planning application:

TW stated he had mixed views but his main concern was regarding the access lane owing to it being a green lane.

Within the Mickleton Conservation Area Appraisal this last green lane within the Parish should not be altered as any change would lose its historical value and appearance.

PT raised several comments. Firstly he was concerned with the grassed area where these huts were to be sited being covered in hardcore as well as the access track across the fields as this was a loss of habitat.. Secondly it was a big field for 2 small shepherd huts to be sited in. The third concern was the access. The access track from the B6277 was a narrow track. There are issues with parking around this lane junction and the immediate vicinity, including parking on the bus stop marked area,impeding visibility and thought that DCC Highways should look at this issue. Finally the colour of the proposed huts should be a traditional colour as the proposed colour was not a traditional one.

JL shared the views raised by PT regarding issues over the lane access and also felt that additional vehicle movements on this lane would possibly interfere with the natural habitat and livestock.

MH only concern was regarding parking and supported someone trying to make a living through holiday lets. GT also raised a number of concerns, firstly the size of the field for the proposed 2 shepherd huts. From the information given in the supporting planning documents, the 2 huts were to be connected to a proposed septic tank. Also from the example of the proposed interior of these huts, with a proposed connection to a septic tank, would make these huts a permanent structure. There is no mention within the associated documents of a water and electricity supply, but the details of the hut interiors shows that the hut infrastructure has water and electric supplies. There are already concerns regarding the current water pressure to the west of the village and any further additions to the current water main will have a knock on effect to properties in the west end of the village. The access to the site, as mentioned, is a narrow lane and with the current parking issues around this area, raises issues regarding visibility for vehicles entry/access from the lane.

A vote was then taken as to whether the Parish Council supported or objected to his planning application, 2 councillors were for supporting and 3 councillors voted to oppose the planning application. The Parish Council to submit an objection to this planning application.

925 VILLAGE SEATS

925.1 Adopt a Seat – TW explained that Middleton in Teesdale PC had launched an adopt a seat scheme, whereby a person volunteered to look after a seat. TW reported that 6 volunteers had expressed an interest to adopt a seat within Mickleton Parish and he was willing to oversee the project.

Clerk reported that in preparation for discussion on this matter she had contacted the Clerk at Middleton PC for further details regarding this scheme and as to how they were delivering this scheme.

The Parish Council only owned 4 seats within the Parish, the majority of the seats were originally owned by Teesdale D.C, which had then transferred over to Durham CC.

After discussions the Clerk to contact Durham CC regarding the current position regarding highway seats. Contact also to be made with the PC Insurers regarding volunteers undertaking work on behalf of the Parish Council.

P Thompson agreed to update the photographic record of the parish seats.

Further discussions to take place regarding the management of the scheme and to ensure that all the seats continue to be painted in the same colour and how to oversee any repairs that needed to be undertaken, etc. Agenda item for September meeting.

925.2 Stone Seat – K Walton reported that P Townsend was wishing to donate and maintain a stone seat and wished to place the seat on the Parish Boundary at the top of Bail Hill Road. The Parish Council agreed to this donation of a stone seat and for P Townsend to install the seat.

926 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA - Clerk reported that this had been a special meeting to cover urgent items that needed addressing and Council approval. The next meeting would revert back to the ordinary agenda. Any items to be included in the agenda to be sent to the Clerk.

927 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm Tuesday, 15 September 2020

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19.55.

Signed

Date