

FRAMWELLGATE MOOR PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of a Meeting of the Framwellgate Moor Parish Council held remotely via Zoom on 7 October 2020 at 1.00pm

Present: Councillors - N Martin (Vice Chair) A Hopgood, G Blenkiron, P Dawson, C Hillary, T Moderate, FM Simmons, JG Holland

Also in attendance - A Foster - Parish Clerk and 2 members of the public

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Cllrs K Willis and T Johnston gave their apologies – No apologies from Cllr M Wilkes and Cllr FM Simmons to arrive late

2. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr Dawson declared an interest in agenda item G, but will be allowed to speak on the matter as not pecuniary.

3. **Questions from members of the public:**

No questions submitted prior to the meeting. Two members of the public present but had no questions.

4. **Police Report:**

Newsletter submitted and circulated prior to the meeting. No issues raised.

5. **Minutes of Council meeting (previously circulated)**

Resolved That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2020, were approved, and will be signed by the Chairman at the next possible opportunity.

6. **Clerks report**

- Recycle centre although changed to winter hours is still very busy and the road will remain closed with diversion in place for some time.
- Smithfield sign has been ordered
- The 20mph signs on Front Street are being looked at, Cllr Hopgood suggested covering the flashing sign for the time being.
- The lady using the Abbey Road field has decided not to use the field for Metafit.
- A netball club wishes to use the MUGA and have agreed to pay for the lines to be installed on the court. The hoops will be stored outside the Pavilion. But will be their responsibility.

7. Parish Matters and on-going items

a) Planning Applications

See appendix 1

Resolved: To recommend approval

b) Banking update – The Clerk noted the Natwest bank account is just about to be closed. A letter to be sent to transfer the money into one bank account, then a cheque to be raised, followed by a letter signed by 3 signatories to close the account.

Resolved: All agreed once money is transferred a cheque to be raised and signed letter sent to close account.

c) County Councillors Report

See appendix 2

d) Members Report

Cllr Dawson noted the floodlights are now on a timer

Cllr Moderate requested the Durham City Youth be allowed to use the tennis / MUGA courts for free play as long as all members were in agreement. But will need to book sessions.

Cllr Holland noted once the new development at Sniperly Park is underway, it would be essential that the Parish Council look at the boundaries, as half of the houses will be in Framwellgate Moor whilst the rest are in Witton Gilbert. This is something that needs to be looked at further after the elections in May.

Cllr Hillary has had a complaint from a resident re business owners parking on the Front Street all day, causing issues for local residents. He noted the community centre has parking to help alleviate this problem.

Cllr Blenkiron received the update regarding the Arniston Centre from Cllr Hopgood but wishes to note the problem is urgent and he is happy to be involved in any future meetings with the site owners.

He noted the yellow lines are all complete around the Parish, but Smithfield has been missed off. Cllr Hopgood to check out why.

Cllr Martin discussed the new 30mph signs are obscured by trees on Rotary Way. Cllr Hopgood will report. He noted it is very difficult to cross the road now since the cycle bollards have been installed. Also, on an evening when cars have their lights on the bollards appear to be like strobe lighting, which is causing issues to drivers who have medical issues. Cllr Hopgood will investigate this.

e) Notes from working groups – previously circulated

The virtual joint meetings for Finance and Governance and Building and Grounds working groups took place on 29 September 2020.

The notes were agreed as a true record. All items that need approving to be separate agenda items.

- f) **Charities** – As the two sites (Newcastle Terrace and Abbey Road) which are charities have no income, expenditure or assets it was suggested dissolving them both. The objectives of the charities registered with the Charity Commission are enshrined in the deeds of the land and will therefore not affect the uses of the areas. The Parish Council own the land and will continue to manage both sites.

Resolved: The Parish Council as trustees resolve to dissolve RECREATION GROUND (DURHAM TERRACE) FRAMWELLGATE MOOR - Charity no.230800 as of 8 October 2020. The Parish Council will undertake all contractual obligations pertaining to this area.

Resolved: The Parish Council as trustees resolve to dissolve RECREATION GROUND, ABBEY ROAD, PITY ME Charity no. 230799 as of 8 October 2020 the Parish Council will undertake all contractual obligations pertaining to this area

- g) **Allotments** – Cllr Dawson declared an interest but was asked to speak on the proposal. The land at Lilac Avenue has been identified as potential land for allotments. These will be self-governed and self-financing once up and running. Cllr Wilkes is trying to secure funding. The members were asked if they would take on the allotments in future, with no cost to Council.

Resolved: All agreed to take on the allotments if funding is secured.

- h) **Durham Football Club** – No update but Cllr Hillary will send over info to help with the application form to the working group.

- i) **Quarterly accounts** – The Clerk distributed the bank statement, bank reconciliation and budget for approval

Resolved: All agreed the accounts as a true record, a non signatory will sign the papers at the next possible opportunity.

- j) **Clerks salary** – The National Council for Local Government Services (NJC) have agreed a new pay deal for the Clerk, and to be backdated from April 2020.

Resolved: All agreed to increase salary in line with NJC and agree to pay backdated from April

- k) **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)** – The Clerk noted the AGAR is back from Mazars and the council have received an unqualified audit. The Clerk to advertise the notice of completion.

- l) **Water heaters in changing room toilets** – No further quotes received. But after discussions it was noted that the quote from DCC for £512.27 would be the best one to go with. Installing taps was discussed at extra cost.

Resolved: It was agreed to go with DCC quote and not to install new taps.

- m) **Report from Greenkeeper** – As he has been requested to clean the MUGA of leaves, he requested a leaf blower. It was also noted a power washer would be beneficial.

Resolved: The Clerk to purchase a blower. To liaise with Cllr Hillary. To hold off getting a power washer for now.

Cllr Simmons arrived at 2.20pm

- n) **Policy review** - All policies have been distributed for approval prior to the meeting. It was suggested changing which councillor carries out the review.

Resolved: The Chair to sign at the next possible opportunity – Grants, Fraud and Corruption, Gift and Hospitality and Recruitment/Appraisal). Cllr Simmons to take over the review process for the next 6 months.

- o) **Training** – 3 online training courses, budget, finance and VAT. The Clerk requested attending two of the course.

Resolved: It was agreed the Clerk to attend the two courses at £30 per session. No members wish to attend.

- p) **Correspondence received** - Nothing received

- q) **Correspondence received after agenda published** – Nothing received

- r) **Urgent issues for noting** - (The Clerk to use delegated powers). Any items members wish to place on next month's agenda

8. Financial Matters

Payments - The following were approved and will be paid by BACS following the meeting

- a) That the sum of £1,261.26 be paid to Mr B Quinn Greenkeeper (October 2020 wage)
- b) That the sum of £762.64 be paid to Mrs A Foster - Parish Clerk (October 2020 wage) this includes the sum of £107.28 – backdated (upon approval above)
- c) That the sum of £373.34 be paid to Durham County Council Pension Fund
- d) That the sum of £487.79 be paid to HMRC
- e) That the sum of £1152.81 be paid to Batsons (August/September)
- f) That the sum of £8,101.68 be paid to CIA – gate installation
- g) That the sum of £170.76 be paid to Turfcare – line marking powder

Receipts – that the following amounts be noted:

- a) That the sum of £647.66 was received from N Power – solar panels

9. Date of Next Meeting

4 November 2020 to commence at 1.00pm (this to be a virtual meeting)

The meeting terminated at 2.33pm

Chairman
Date

Appendix 1 – Planning Applications - agenda item A

w/c 21 September 2020

DM/20/02652/AD	17 Front Street Framwellgate Moor Durham DH1 5EJ	Attach individual white lettering to existing grey roller shutter housing
----------------	---	---

w/c 29 September 2020

DM/20/02678/FPA	52 Hutton Way Framwellgate Moor Durham DH1 5BW	Partial conversion of original integral double garage to habitable accommodation
DM/20/02716/FPA	9 Dryburn Road Framwellgate Moor Durham DH1 5AJ	Two storey side and single storey rear extensions

Appendix 2 - County Councillors report

- Continued work on parking and traffic at the Arnison Centre, mostly taken up by the queues for McDonalds drive thru and the knock-on effect for other businesses, cars and bus services. The site owners and McDonalds have finally conceded that a second exit is required from the site, this is currently in the early stages of being looked at.
- Plans for moving some council employees back into offices has once again gone on hold due to further local restrictions.
- Following approval of the Elddis development some alterations have now been submitted to planning and are down to be delegated decisions, we will be challenging these and if not dealt with to our satisfaction will be referred back to committee as they should have been part of the main application as nothing new has come up from what should have already been known.
- The long-awaited yellow lines are now in place
- Cllr Wilkes is progressing with the plans for The Carrs nature reserve, all the funding is now in place and secured so we hope work can begin this year.
- Cllr Hopgood has a meeting with Susan Robinson from the council on the 9th October to finalise all the outstanding issues with the transfer of the war memorial site to the parish.
- Strimming work is taking place at the entrance to Pity Me
- Cllr Wilkes is working on a scheme to resurface the back of Front Street, Pity Me in the same way that Garden Ave has been done.
- Brasside, Cllr Hopgood is working with volunteers from Kings Church starting on 23rd October to clear up communal parts of Beech Close, this will include cutting back of footpaths and clearing fly tipping. We have secured a load of road plannings to be dropped at the back of Frankland Prison where the junction is to the nature reserve, the area has some deep potholes, any help to spread them would be gratefully received.