

CASTLE CARROCK & GELTSDALE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 12th March– 7.30pm
Watson Institute

MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Devereux (Chair), Cllr. Knight, Cllr. Wright, Cllr. Johnstone, Cllr. Brown,

In attendance: Cllr Parsons, Tricia Meynell (Clerk)

1. Apologies. Cllr. Widdowson,

2. Declaration of interests.

Cllr. Johnstone declared an interest in Agenda Item 4d – Music on the Marr

3. Minutes.

The Chairman authorized and signed the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2014 as a true record.

4. Agenda Items

a. Hilary Holland has put her name forward to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council created by the resignation of Cllr. Hassall. After general discussion it was agreed that Mrs. Holland will be co-opted at the next meeting on May 14th.

b. Two litter pickers have been purchased – It was decided that a litter pick would take place on the weekend of 21st, 22nd 23rd March. The clerk will contact volunteers to help the Councillors and will order 6 more litter pickers.

c. Cllr. Devereux has spoken to St John's Ambulance regarding the possible running of a first aid course in the Watson Hall – a free course can be offered with no certificate at the end of it, or they can run a paid course for which you get a certificate. The course lasts 3 hours and will take you through the basics up to the stage of using a defibrillator. Cllr Johnstone said he would like to have some of the MoM stewards do the course. The clerk will ascertain numbers and decide whether to run one or two courses, and when.

d. Request from Geltsdale Arts for financial contribution to Music on the Marr 2014. In the past the Parish Council has given a small donation to help with the running costs. It was unanimously agreed that it should once again be supported, to the same figure as last year - £250.00

e. Update on possible Lonning repair work to be carried out on 'Back Lonning' and Peth Lonning. Cllr Devereux has talked to a local contractor who is of the opinion that stone would be better than the previously suggested road planings. It is estimated that it would take 200 tons of stone. The contractor would dig out Peth Lonning and lay the stone himself. For the Back lonning the contractor would dig out the mud and lay stone in the holes with the help of Cllrs. Devereux and Widdowson. Total estimate £1,650 for both lonnings. The Clerk will contact Cllr Graham to see if there is any funding available for this work.

f. Gordon Strong will no longer be cutting the grass in the village due to his retirement. A reasonable quote has been obtained for cutting the grass, removing the clippings and spraying hard path areas. References will be sought and the contractor will be made aware of specific dates of events in the village.

5. Correspondence – letters and emails received were viewed and discussed where appropriate. It was noted that there will possibly be permission sought for planning on the Glebe field in two years' time, meaning that a section of this field will not be available for allotments. The field is currently up for lease on a two year agreement for agricultural grazing only. Previously, Cllr. Graham had said the County Council might sell field behind anchor housing for use as allotments. The Clerk will contact Cllr Graham.

6. Financial Matters - Statement of account and bills to pay as follows

a. It was noted that the VAT return has been completed and £345.28 credited to the Parish Council account accordingly.

b. Reimbursement for office expenses to parish clerk. £5.00 Cheque #344

c. To note that the annual invoice has been delivered to The Duke of Cumberland Pub (to cover ground rent for land outside Duke). It was proposed that the rent be lowered to £50 for 2014 and thereafter reviewed annually in January.

d. Reimbursement to parish clerk for purchase of 2 x litter pickers £12.85 Cheque #345

e. Annual Data Protection fee now due - £35.00 payable to Information Commissioner Cheque #346

f. To note that on advice of the Internal Auditor, the annual precept was set at £4340.00 (inclusive of LSCT grant) i.e the same as for the previous year. The figure of 2.5% raise on the Council Tax document received by residents is in fact a levy raised by the police, and not by the Parish Council, as this document suggests.

To note that a replacement cheque was written to JA & A Wannop for £900 for work done previously, but for which the cheque had not been cashed. New cheque # 347

7. Planning Matters

a. 14/0067 – External Heat Source pump for Watson Institute - no objections.

b. 14/0143 - Tottergill Farm. Revised application: Demolition of existing barn and erection of two storey side extension. Previous application had already been granted permission. No objections.

8. Councillor's Issues

a. Re previous minutes, it was suggested that the lonnings in and around the village should have name plates attached to the existing fingerposts – this can be achieved at a cost of £20 + vat per sign. Cllr. Johnston will compile an accurate list of names.

b. Cllr Wright said that he had heard that no more money was going to be put into the Weary, and that all plans are on hold.

c. The faded 'no-through rd.' sign by the Marr has been reported to Highways department and the issue should be responded to by 20th April. Likewise the branches hanging over B6413 which had also been pointed out as being at risk of falling onto passing vehicles.

d. Persistent flooding opposite Four Winds. The clerk will contact the engineer covering this area.

Meeting closed at 8.47pm

Date of next meeting, including AGM. Wed 14th May 2014