

## MURTON PARISH COUNCIL

### **MINUTES of MEETING of the COUNCIL held in THE GLEBE CENTRE on THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023.**

**Present:** Councillor J. Maitland (Chair)  
Councillors P Penman, K Dixon, J. Griffiths, R. Adcock-Foster, A. Cowley, H. Napier, S. Robson, B. Brown, L. Riley, M. Grogan, R. Cunningham, L. Grogan

**Public:** Chima Anyadikes-Danes (observing)

#### **Officer:**

#### **1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies M. Rafferty, G. Maitland R. Kelly, N. Honnor

#### **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None received

#### **3. POLICE REPORT**

No report received

However Cllr Griffiths reported on the PACT meeting attended, approximately 50 members of the public had attended to raise concerns regarding high levels of crime in Murton, which included burglaries and car crime. She advised that the Police were carrying out a number of operations and surveillance however they could not advise members of the public on the details of these operations.

It was the consensus that magistrates were not strong enough when sentencing criminals. Some members of the public mentioned starting vigilante groups within the village as they feel crime is significantly increasing.

#### **4. CHAIRMANS REMARKS**

Due to illness N. Honnor was unable to attend therefore it was agreed for P. Penman to deal with correspondence and minute taking and the Vice Chair J. Maitland to take the meeting.

As the Chair had been away over the festive period she wished everybody a Happy New Year and all the best for the future.

**Resolved to agree**

#### **5. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

Copies of the minutes were circulated to members previously.

**Resolved the minutes of the Parish Council meetings be approved, confirmed and signed as an accurate record.**

Item 5 – P. Penman advised members that the Sculpture Steering Group had met to discuss to the plan for the statue following previous enquiries. The Steering Group have agreed to move the project forward, following the public consultation night with Ray they are recommending the lady statue as this was a majority vote on the evening. This needs to be progressed so that the funding and fundraising can be achieved for the project.

**Resolved to agree the sculpture decision.**

**Item 1** – Members raised that there had been no change to the activities of the Chinese Takeaway / Supermarket with large vehicles loading / unloading on pavements causing obstructions and bin storage. County Councillors advised that this matter was ongoing with officers at Durham County Council. Cllr Griffiths reported that the Police had been attending the site to move vehicles that were causing obstructions and also that they have been advised that alternative premises are being sought in the Seaham area.

**Resolved to receive the information.**

**6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE LETTER**

The letter was discussed and members felt there were still outstanding issues that had been raised by residents regarding the B1285 and the litter campaign posters. It was agreed to respond to some of the areas within the letter i.e. Road Markings / Formal Crossings close to the Co-op, the 20mph speed limits.

It was agreed to use the online application for a license to enable the litter campaign posters to be displayed on identified lampposts throughout the village

**Resolved to respond to aspects in the letter.**

**7. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Adcock-Foster reported.

Cllrs updated members on the current traffic lights going out of Murton on the East, these were in place as they are removing trees and shrubs with regards to a proposed widening of the slip roads on the A19.

The traffic calming measures which have been agreed for St. Josephs School are ongoing, hopefully they will be actioned shortly.

A scheme is being proposed for Barnes Road parking situation.

There have been some large overspends within the County Councils budgets which will have an impact within the county.

The leaders of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland councils have agreed to a devolution deal. Members were advised that Matthew Elliott (local resident) is attending a council at Durham to speak on the matter.

It was also advised that following a boundary review there will be a reduction in County Councillors from 126 to 98 to cover all areas this will impact on the Murton, South Hetton and Seaham areas.

**Resolved to receive the information**

**8. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Members were updated on the Solar Farm hearing which took place in the Glebe Centre, Parish Council made representations along with Murton Residents Action Group and local residents. The representations for the County Council were very professional and demonstrated a strong case for the planning refusal.

Following a discussion there was a mixed opinion on what the final outcome would be on this planning appeal.

The final decision will be made in approximately 3-4 months.

**Resolved to receive information.**

## 9. MATTERS OF INFORMATION / CORRESPONDENCE

Quotations were received from R. Jennings for new machinery as agreed in precept.  
**Resolved to agree purchase.**

Quotation was received for a new roof to Glebe Centre House roof.  
**Resolved to receive another quotation for comparison**

Request received from Murton Allotment Association for confirmation on the rent charges for the forthcoming financial year.  
**Resolved to refer to Finance Committee for review**

## 10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members were given a copy of the proposed diversion of Public Bridleway No29 Murton Parish. Following a short discussion no member had any objections to these proposals as there were alternative walkways / footpaths.

**Resolved to agree to the changes**

The following proposed planning applications were received:

- Change of use for the High House, to ground floor shop and first floor offices .

**Resolved to receive information**

## 15. FINANCIAL MATTERS

### Monthly Accounts and Wages

Details of receipts and payments made in the past month were reported as follows:

Total of Accounts Received in January	£ 1,410.00
Total of Accounts Passed for Payment in January	£ 10,016.01
Total Wage Bill for the Month of January	£ 15,154.87

Contribution to Murton Welfare Assn.	£ 60,000.00
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The Council supports the Community Centre financially under the

- Local Government ( Miscellaneous Provisions ) Act 1976 Part 1,s19
- Local Government Act 1972 s144,145 and 133.

Assistance had been requested from Murton Allotment Association for the funding of two skips.

**Resolved to agree.**

The next meeting of Murton Parish Council is Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm in The Glebe Centre.

**The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 19.10pm.**

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIRMAN DATE: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023