P.Y.P.

Murton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in The Glebe Centre on Thursday 17th October 2024

Present: Councillor P Penman, (Chair)
Councillors S Robson, B Brown, H Napier, R Kelly, G Maitland, J Maitland, M Grogan, M Rafferty, L Riley, K Dixon, A Cowley, J Griffiths

Officer: B Brooks

Public: Matthew Elliott
William Johnson
David Cook
Martin Robson
Matt Tough

1. **INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**
   Apologies: R Adcock-Forster, L Grogan, R Cunningham, PCSO Jak Smurthwaite

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
   Cllrs B Brown and S Robson declared an interest in the discussion on HMOs

The Chair gives the members of the public the opportunity to speak and brings forward the discussion on HMOs up the agenda

Matthew Elliott approaches the members regarding putting the notice board on the terrace and makes comment about the maintenance, and has questions about the road resurfacing
Clerk reports that notice board is ready to go up and will report the maintenance issues to DCC. Cllr Griffiths is able to answer the questions about the road

Martin Robson attended a meeting in Seaham and raised a discussion regarding crime rates with HMOs

David Cook raised that a large number of new houses that should have been rent to buy were now private rent only

Discussion ensued regarding the Parish councils remit regarding housing
Resolved for Clerk to write to DCC regarding this

Matt Tough is the author of the HMO report and invited questions from the members

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The Chair gave an overview of the current planning process and what Article 4 is and a discussion ensued

Resolved that Clerk writes to John Hewitt in support of introducing Article 4 in East Durham

3. **POLICE REPORT**

   Report attached. Members requested actual numbers for how many crimes.

   Resolved to receive the information

4. **CHAIRMANS REMARKS**

   The chair thanks the members for their attendance at the meeting

   Resolved to receive the information

5. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARRISING**

   Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held 19th September 2024.

   Copies of the minutes were circulated to the members previously.

   Resolved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting to be approved, confirmed and signed as an accurate record

   Matters arising

   Clerk advises members that the speed-watch needs to be rescheduled

   Clerk to liaise with PCSO

   Feedback from tenant regarding parking at the house, further issues arising since letter was sent

   Resolved for Clerk to arrange face to face meeting with tenant regarding this

6. **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

   Cllr Griffiths reports information on a number of issues from residents

   The Lord Lieutenant opened Addictions north east at lighthouse café on Spectrum business park

   A Success story for the use of drones that 3 bikes in Dalton le dale were seized and squashed

   Resolved to receive the information

7. **REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**

   Easington towns and villages recycling presentation for changes to the waste collection starting in 2026

   Resolved to receive the information

8. **HMOS IN EAST DURHAM**

   This Agenda item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting in the presence of the members of the public with an interest on the topic

   Members had received a copy of the report and crime figures produced in advance and asked questions to the author on some points raised.

   The council acknowledged that there is a need for HMOs for those individuals on a low income with no eligibility for council or social housing, however, need to be properly

managed and maintained as they can be a source of unsuitable accommodation and cause harm to the amenity both for the occupier and wider community. They can give rise to concerns about the changing nature of a community as family dwellings are being converted to HMOs. MP Graeme Morris has already written to Durham County Council to raise his concerns regarding the long term impact HMOs may have on our communities.

Impacts from such changes can include issues related to waste management, parking, noise and disturbance, and also negative impacts on the physical appearance of the neighborhood.

The chair advised that the point to focus on was information regarding article 4 and whether the Parish Council wanted to support in Durham County Council introducing Article 4 for East Durham so that each proposed HMO would be subject to planning and the members would be consulted and could view on a case by case basis

Resolved that members unanimously agreed to write to Durham County Council to support the introduction of Article 4 in East Durham

9. EXTERNAL AUDIT OF ANNUAL RETURN

The Audit report and completion notice was circulated to the members previously The Clerk invites any questions regarding the comments, and explains the points of improvement and informs members of how these can be achieved

Resolved to receive the information and approve findings

10. MATTERS OF INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk shares the letter of thanks from Hetton Squadron for the donation with the members

Resolved to receive the information

Clerk advises members that there has been no reply from DCC regarding the road condition

Resolved that clerk will follow this up again

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None received

Resolved to receive the information

12. 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 September	£2,012.00
Total of Accounts passed for payment in September	£18,297.13
Total Wage Bill for the Month of September	£17,970.53
Contribution to Murton Welfare Association to date	£36,000.00

The Council supports the community centre financially under the;

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

Resolved to receive the information

The next meeting of Murton Parish Council is Thursday 21st November 2024 at 6pm in The Glebe Centre.

The chairman thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 19:10

CERTIFIED CORRECT: P.V. Pearman CHAIRMAN DATE: 21st November 2024