

PONTELAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT MERTON HALL ON 8th SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: Councillor C Greenwell (in the Chair)

Councillors R Dodd, A Hall, N Sehgal, A Varley and K Woodrow

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ahmed, Caisley, Darwin, Ford, Johnson and Overbury.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hall declared an interest in item 58 the Mayor's report.

51. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 21st JULY 2021

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st July 2021 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

52. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute 42 Environment Working Party – update re Crocus planting day

The Clerk stated that she had written out to Councillors requesting assistance with the above which was being held on Saturday 9th October at 10.00 a.m. Councillors had been asked to oversee one of each of the eight areas being planted. Councillor Caisley had volunteered, and Councillors Greenwell, Hall, Overbury and Varley agreed to attend. Councillors would receive a reminder prior to the event.

53. PLANNING

(i) Planning Committee

Minutes of meetings held on 6th and 20th July and 3rd and 17th August 2021 were circulated for information.

(ii) Report on recent planning decisions

There were no reports.

54. GRANT APPLICATION

A grant application had been received from Sport Tynedale together with a copy of their accounts for 2020-21.

RESOLVED – A grant of £250 be approved.

55. EVENTS WORKING PARTY MEETING

Minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 25th August 2021 had been circulated.

Councillor Dodd mentioned a suggestion he had made relating to the creation of an earth mound in the Park which could be used for events instead of hiring staging. He had seen these in other areas, and they were formed by using various layers of earth covered in grass. This idea was at an early stage and required further thought before progressing the suggestion.

Councillor Hall stated that the Rotary Club would be working with the organisers of Party in the Park for next year. They had helped with the Duck Race held on 5th September.

Councillor Varley reported that he had been informed that the Rugby Club beer festival was being held on the weekend of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

RESOLVED –

(i) The Council note the actions outlined in the minutes of the Working Party and await a further report from that meeting in due course.

(ii) The Town Council agreed to participate in the Party in the Park event to be held on Sunday 5th June 2022.

56. REPORT RE SUGGESTED PLANTING AT THE BACK MERTON WAY CAR PARK

A report by the Mayor had been circulated.

Councillors were reminded that following the extensive works carried out to improve the car parks at the back of Merton Way, the situation regarding the surrounding landscaping had not been resolved.

Councillors were further reminded that a sum of £500 had been set aside some time ago to carry out some planting in this area. This amount had been carried forward into the budget for this year.

Following discussions with the PTC gardening contractor, a suggestion had been made to sow a high-quality wildflower mix in the area at the back of garages and around the sides of the car park where possible. The report included photographs of the areas concerned. This would require some work by the contractors to prepare the land and this needed to be done soon rather than wait for this item to go through a Working Party.

The report included detail of the mix of seeds to be used which would be acquired from Pictorial Meadows who produce high quality seed mixes which

56. REPORT RE SUGGESTED PLANTING AT THE BACK MERTON WAY CAR PARK (Continued)

are widely used by local authorities. The cost would be around £1000 and with the additional £500 available this would cover the cost of the scheme.

The report showed the area which was not included in the scheme at the bottom of page 3, and this was mainly grass. The Mayor and Councillor Dodd had met to discuss what could be done in this area. They hoped that something special which represented the history of the area could be used. It was also suggested that some public art depicting the railway heritage could be painted onto the back of the garages. This would be discussed in more detail by the Highways Working Party.

In response to a query, the Clerk stated that this scheme would be met from the projects fund.

RESOLVED – The Council agreed to approve the scheme as outlined within the report and agree to the additional expenditure of £1000 which would be met from the projects fund.

57. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Dodd stated that there was not a great deal to report due to the August break.

He stated that the Local Transport Plan was currently under discussion and the Town Council would be considering their priorities at the Highways Working Party.

He stated that Covid-19 was an ongoing issue.

He also mentioned ongoing discussions with a resident regarding traffic on the North Road.

58. MAYOR'S REPORT

A report by the Mayor had been circulated. The report related to three events she had attended remotely, and a summary of those meetings was included within the document.

She also reported on recent expenditure from the Mayor's account relating to the Rotary Club Duck Race. She had agreed to meet the cost of sponsoring two races at a cost of £60. The Rotary Club has asked for help to purchase some gazebos for their event at a cost of £25 each. She had agreed to donate £75 to the Club which would include the two races and the purchase of three gazebos. After discussion with the Clerk, she agreed to purchase a further gazebo for use by the Town Council for events such as Party in the Park, the Easter Egg hunt and litter picks. This had been purchased at a cost of just under £100 including delivery.

RESOLVED – The report be accepted.

Note – Councillor Hall declared an interest in item 4 within the Mayor's report and took no part in the discussion.

..... DATE

CHAIRMAN

59. REPORTS BY TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

There were no reports.

Councillor Varley mentioned the solar farm application relating to Newcastle Airport which was out for consultation.

60. ACCOUNTS/ BANK RECONCILIATION/ BUDGET REPORT

The Accounts Committee approved payments totalling £30,642.97.

A copy of the monthly budget report was also circulated, as well as the Bank reconciliation for August 2021.

RESOLVED – The reports be accepted.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2021 AT 6.15 P.M.
AT MERTON HALL**

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE