

LITTLE CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th December 2016 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Ian Elliott, Jean McCartney, Ken Stephenson, John Dixon and Roland Bell. Judith Morgan (Parish Clerk) was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Brian Shaw and County Councillor Alan Kennon

Councillor Ian Elliott in the chair

105/16 Declarations of Interest: There were none.

106/16 Police Matters: There were none.

107/16 Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr J Dixon, seconded by Cllr J McCartney, the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record.

108/16 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i) Further to minute 101/16 ii) the Clerk reported that negotiations were ongoing with Kevin Cosgrove.
- ii) Further to minute 94/16 i) Documentation was passed to Cllr I Elliott
- iii) Further to minute 94/10 ii) an email from Hayley Bishop was read and received. Noted that County Cllr A Kennon is keen to commit some of his members' divisional allowance money towards play equipment.
- iv) Further to minute 101/16 i) It was not known whether the street light had been repaired.
- v) Further to minute 101/16 iii) it was noted that nothing had been done to regarding the U2187. Clerk to raise again with ABC.

109/16 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman extended seasonal greetings to all members of the Parish Council.

110/16 Public Participation

There was none.

111/16 Allotments

Cllr K Stephenson reported that all was going well. No notification had been received from anyone wishing to give up allotments this year so the Clerk was instructed to invoice all allotment holders in the usual manner, also to add a general note to remind allotment holders that any livestock (i.e. poultry) must be attended to every day and food and water should be available to them at all times.

112/16 Clerks Report

There was nothing new to report

113/16 Authorisation of Payments

The following accounts were approved for payment:

HMRC PAYE	£ 34.20
Rev J Morgan, salary and expenses	£159.37
I Elliott, chairman's expenses	£150.00

114/16 Planning Applications

2/2016/0606 Melbreak Hotel, for Mr Ian Hughes - notification received from ABC that this application had been deferred to enable additional flood risk assessment details to be submitted to respond to objectors' concerns.

115/16 Parish Maintenance

- i) Cllr I Elliott read an excerpt from the 'Greysouthern Gossip' newsletter in which a Mr Ken Needham encouraged residents to report online or by telephone any incidents of fly tipping. ABC contact telephone number was given as 01900 702702. Members agreed that ABC were very good at responding to such reports.
- ii) In order to counteract parking on the grass verges at Lostrigg Close, which is causing damage to the grassed area, it was agreed that Cllr J McCartney would ask homeowner for permission to erect 'no parking' signs at the front of their premises and would obtain quotes from 'Lock It, Sole It' for 4 such signs.
- iii) The Clerk was instructed to report dog fouling on the footpath at Scots Croft to ABC, for attention.

116/16 Village Hall

Further to minute 94/5 v) it was reported that

- i) The Sunday Dance group still had no keys
- ii) The promised chain to the front door was now in place thanks to Cllr R Bell.
- iii) Cllr B Shaw had attended the most recent meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee and no minutes or agenda had been circulated.

Cllr J Dixon wished to place on record his praise for those who organised the Old Folks' Christmas meal stating that Keswick Caterers did very well, the entertainment was good and there were lots of raffle prizes. It was noted, however, that committee members had failed to support the event by organising the tables and that the VPMC Chair had been left to cope alone (Keswick Caterers had assisted her, however). 40 people had attended the event but it was noted that many local residents, who would have like to have attended, were unaware that the event was being held.

Two letters of complaint from regular users of the Village Hall were read and discussed, several complaints centred around health and safety issues, others were to do with the way users were treated, in particular by the current bookings secretary. Clerk to respond to both letters saying that the Parish Council, as Trustee, is seeking ways to alleviate the current difficulties.

Other complaints from Hall Users continue to be submitted verbally to members of the Parish Council, in particular complaints about opening up and collection of money.

Cllr I Elliott reported that he had arranged for the boiler to be serviced free of charge for the first year and had subsequently received complaints that he and Mrs Elliott had been in the building with a plumber.

Other recent issues included rubbish bins left outside for over a week. Rubbish from the Old Folks' meal left by the gate. A box of empty wine bottles left on the hall.

It was further noted that the Committee had still not reimbursed the Parish Council for the cost of the new tables.

The Parish Council was advised that, as Trustee, it is the council's legal obligation to ensure that the management committee can run the hall to a reasonable standard including the maintenance of bookings, cleaning, proper handling of money, access arrangements and a committee which understands its role and whose members work together. Failure in any of these areas could mean that the Parish Council is held responsible. In such circumstances the Trustees are within their rights to order the management committee to stand down and to reappoint a committee of their choosing.

In view of all of this, the Clerk was instructed to contact the Committee Chairman asking her to ensure that members of the committee were asked to attend a meeting with the Trustees on Wednesday 11th January 2017 at 7.00pm to decide on the way forward.

117/16 Matters for next meeting

There were no new matters to bring forward.

118/16 Date of next meetings

Trustees' Meeting, Wednesday 11th January 2017 at 7.00pm.

Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Signed..... Chairman