

## GLANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the digital meeting held on Monday 25 January 2021

### Present

Parish Councillors Angus Collingwood-Cameron, Mrs Susan Collingwood-Cameron, Jerry Dronsfield, John Guiry, John Lang, Jon Radgick (Chairman in the Chair) and Mrs Susan Rogers

County Councillor Steven Bridgett

SE Rickitt – Clerk

### **1: Introduction**

#### **1.1 Welcome, apologies for absence and declarations of interest/grant of any dispensations and possible co-option**

PCSO Russell Stalker had given his apologies.

#### **1.2 Public Questions**

No public questions had been emailed to the clerk nor had any parishioner sought the log-in details for the meeting.

#### **1.3 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30 November 2020 were agreed as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman

#### **1.4 An update on matters arising from the minutes of 28 September 2020**

1.4.1 The Christmas Tree kindly donated by Dr A Henfrey had been in situ during the Christmas period. The Council formally recorded its thanks to Ronnie Anderson & John Swanson for assisting in the erection, Peter Lake for sorting out the lights and the Church for supplying the power.

1.4.2 The Chairman gave an update on the Broadband Gigabyte Voucher Scheme which was supplemented by Cllr Bridgett. FACTCO have been surveying Glanton and the other communities within the Rothbury Electoral Division and should be writing to all residents, explaining the scheme and inviting parishioners to sign up via the Govt's dedicated webpage.

## **2: Items for discussion and potential decisions**

### **2.1 The Coronavirus National Emergency**

Although Glanton Assist remains ready to assist parishioners, it appears that parishioners have made their individual arrangements during this third national lockdown. The Chairman was not aware of any current requests for assistance.

### **2.2 Reports from the County Councillor and the Police**

2.2.1 Cllr Bridgett contributed to discussions on a number of items during the meeting. He updated the Council on the then latest figures for coronavirus cases in both the county and the Rothbury division. The vaccination programme was under way and invitation letters were due to be sent to the 75-79 cohort within the next few days. The County Council was increasing the staffing to get grants to businesses as quickly as possible.

2.2.2 The Memorial Hall had sought funding for the renovations and Cllr Bridgett had been pleased to be able to allocate £5000 from his Members Small Schemes Allowance, he was also aware that a funding application had been made to the County Council's Community Chest Fund. After discussion, the Council agreed to make a further grant of £250 to the Hall, partly being taken from the budget set aside for Room Hire. The Council was conscious of the need to retain funds for use in connection with the potential play area – see item 2.7 below.

2.2.3 PCSO Stalker had sent a written report which is set out in the Appendix.

### **2.3 Planning**

2.3.1 There were no new planning applications to consider.

2.3.2 The Chairman had circulated a Landscape Report commissioned by the Northumberland & Newcastle Society in connection with the examination into the draft Northumberland Local Plan. The Council resolved to support the findings of 'The Northumberland Sandstone Ridges & Vales – a Valued Landscape' – Alison Farmer Associates January 2021 ('the Study') and adopts its suggested designation of that part of the Parish Area (and the landscapes surrounding it) as advised by the Study, as an Area of High Landscape Value. **Action JR**

### **2.4 Highways**

2.4.1 The Council was delighted that Front Street had been resurfaced, with markings to go down shortly. Cllr Bridgett informed the Council that resurfacing of the village end of Playwell Road should be undertaken in early February, depending on the weather.

2.4.2 Councillors discussed the problems caused by silt blocking highway drains and asked Cllr Bridgett to request that the Highways Dept. investigate the potential for silt traps in appropriate places. It was noted that a Gully Cleaner had been in the village that day. **Action SB**

2.4.3 Cllr Mrs Rogers reported that a parishioner had expressed concern about the state of the footways and her response that the Parish Council was continuing to press for these to be repaired.

### **2.5 List of Absent Owners**

2.5.1 The clerk had drafted a policy which was agreed by the Council, a copy is attach to the signed minutes.

2.5.2 Cllr Bridgett advised that the Business Rates Team keep a list of the properties which pay business rates and are therefore likely to be holiday lets. He will supply the Council with details, albeit now about 18 months old. He suggested that the Team be approached for an updated list but requested this be delayed as the Team are fully occupied with the distribution of coronavirus grants.

2.5.3 Cllr Mrs Rogers volunteered to take the lead in starting to compile the list.

### **Actions SB & SueR**

### **2.6 A Grant to the Memorial Hall**

This has been recorded under item 2.2.2 above.

### **2.7 The Site of St Peter's Church**

2.7.1 The Chairman reported his correspondence with the developers' agents and it was clear that there would be no progress until there was a firm buyer for the plot fronting the road. It seems likely that any transfer to the Parish Council will depend on the potential buyer's views, who may seek conditions in the transfer.

2.7.2 In these circumstances the Council agreed there was no merit in seeking to progress a sale at this point. The Council did, however, agree the instruction of Warcup Law Firm, Alnwick to act as the Council's lawyers in due course.

### **2.8 A Newsletter Editor**

No further progress has been made in getting a volunteer to step forward.

## **3: Items for Information**

### **3.1 Forthcoming Village activities**

3.2 The Council was not aware of any forthcoming activities, given the current national lockdown.

### **3.2 Details of any meetings attended by Councillors or the clerk**

The clerk reported on a number of meeting attend in his NALC capacity, details having been circulated via NALC's bulletins.

### **3.3 Correspondence received**

The Clerk had circulated any items of interest.

### **3.4 Parish Council Elections**

The clerk updated the Councils on the administrative steps needed, should the elections proceed as currently planned on 6 May 2021.

## **4: Administration**

### **4.1 To note the current accounts and to authorise any payments**

The Council noted the current accounts and authorised the following payments

- Glanton Memorial Hall – Grant towards the cost of the refurbishment - £250.00 (see item 2.2.2 above)
- J Radgick – Reimbursement for the defibrillator battery and pads - £314.34 - retrospective
- SE Rickitt – Clerk's admin expenses for calendar year 2020 - £55.03 – (NB to be paid by cheque)
- HMRC - PAYE Q4 - £30.00
- Thropton Parish Council – Cluster fees - £8.79

### **4.2 Details of items Councillors wish to raise at forthcoming meetings**

None

### **4.3 Date of Next Meeting**

The Council noted the current following schedule as

- Monday 29 March 2021
- *Thursday 6 May 2021 – Contested Parish Council Elections*
- Monday 24 May 2021

Confirmed as a true record at the Parish Council held on .....

Signed .....

Date.....

(Chairman)

**Appendix – Police Report – Item 2.2.3**

The below information reflects the GLANTON area from 1st December 2020

**Crimes reported 2 –**

Domestic incident – Detected, Criminal damage to vehicle – Undetected

**Anti- Social Behaviour 2 –**

Complaint re neighbours and complaint from council regarding vehicle obstruction, both resolved by Police.

**Other Business**

Report of possible poaching on Bridleway leading to Shepherds Law – Deer carcasses found in the area, no further information known. Area has been given extra attention and rural crime team have been made aware.

**NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS** – As you will be aware there are current restrictions in place to reduce the spread of coronavirus. Any reports received of breaches of guidelines are followed up and dealt with accordingly. Please report any breaches. Since the latest lockdown was announced, Alnwick Neighbourhood team have reported 10 persons for breaches of restrictions, with the majority of those being second homeowners staying overnight away from their primary addresses without reasonable excuse.

**OPERATION ACORN** – This operation involved patrols of the national park areas. This has been ongoing since lockdown came into force as concerns have been raised by local residents regarding an increase in visitor numbers to the area. Concerns are that large groups and youths are attending car parks in high numbers breaching lockdown restrictions. This work is in partnership with national parks/forestry commission. Obviously, this is not limited to the parks.

**OP NIGHTWING** - Patrols conducted around vulnerable premises such as building sites/post offices and public houses who are most likely to be targeted by travelling criminals.

**FARMWATCH** – Please spread the word to any farmers/workers that we are here to support them and provide crime prevention advice. I have already visited a few farms in the area and issued new FARMWATCH signs and signed them up to the scheme – Basically this allows us to notify them of suspicious vehicles or incidents in the area.

My email address is [4965@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:4965@northumbria.pnn.police.uk) – if something is not urgent and you would like some advice please get in touch.