

**Glanton Parish Council**

A meeting of the Parish Council was held digitally at 7.00 pm on Monday 27 September 2021.

**Present:**

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

Richard Verrill – Glanton Heritage Group (who left after item 2.4)

One Parishioner

Stephen Rickitt – Clerk – actions by the clerk are noted as SER

**1: Introduction**

**1.1 Welcome, apologies for absence and declarations of interest/grant of any dispensations/ co-option to the vacancies**

[a] Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Angus Collingwood-Cameron and Mrs Susan Rogers.

[b] Cllr Mrs Susan Collingwood-Cameron declared an interest in planning application 21/03254/FUL and withdrew from the meeting during the discussion – see item 2.3 below.

**2.4 A Fingerpost sign at the West Turnpike junction**

[a] With the agreement of the Council this item was brought forward.

[b] Mr Verrill thanked the Council for allowing him to address the meeting on behalf of the Glanton Heritage Group (“the Group”) and apologised to the Council for the mix-up of over consultation with parishioners regarding the Group’s wish to erect a fingerpost sign (“the Sign) at the Front Street /West Turnpike junction (“the Junction”). Two fingerpost signs had already been successfully installed within the village. The post had been erected within the planter, but the directional fingers had not yet been attached.

[c] Residents at one of the properties at the Junction had asked that the post be moved as it obstructed the view from their property.

[d] A site meeting had been held with Mr Bucknall from the County Council's highways department (see minute 2.4 of the meeting held on 2 August 2021).

[e] The Group was seeking the Parish Council's views on a possible relocation of the sign further west along West Turnpike, and whether it should be within an extended planter. The Group had circulated its written proposals to the Parish Council prior to the meeting and a copy is attached to the signed minutes.

[f] Mr Verrill said the County Council required the pole to be at least 0.5 metres from the kerb and at least 2.25 metres above the height of the existing pavement. The Group's preferred option was to extend the current planter and have the Sign set within the extended planter rather than free-standing. He explained that the post has been concreted into the existing planter and would have to be cut off below soil level before relocation. That would reduce the overall height of the Sign but that could be offset to some extent by the collar used to hold the directional fingers.

[g] Parish Councillors then debated the proposal which included the following points and questions

- Mr Verrill was asked why the Sign should not be in the same position as the current modern-style sign? Mr Verrill gave his opinion that the Group's suggested location would give a better view for residents and users of the north side of Front Street.
- Concerns were expressed about vehicles turning into the properties at the Group's suggested location. Mr Verrill explained that Mr Bucknall had approved their suggested location as there would be at least 15 centimetres clearance between the end of the fingerpost and the carriage way.
- Further questions were asked about the responsibility for the maintenance of the Sign when completed. Mr Verrill stated that the highways department had accepted that they would become responsible for the post as it was within the highway and on their land.
- Concern was expressed that relocating a directional sign from the site of the current modern-style sign would reduce visibility for traffic along Front Street. Mr Verrill accepted there would be a modest reduction but in his view this would be minor.
- Comment was made that the Group's proposals did not include the option of replacing the modern-style sign with a fingerpost sign in the same location

[h] All accepted that the final decision on location would be made by the County Council's highways department. After further discussion the Parish Council unanimously agreed that a preference for a fingerpost sign being erected in the same location as the current modern-style sign.

[i] The Council then considered whether the existing planter should be extended to incorporate the position of the Sign. After further discussion the Council agreed by four votes, with one abstention, to retain current shape and style of the planter.

[j] During the course of the debate the Council was informed of a potential fourth fingerpost sign being erected on the Village Green at the Whittingham Road junction. The clerk will investigate whether there are potential problems with the designation of the land as a village Green. **Action SER**

## 1.2 Parishioners Questions

No parishioners' questions had been received.

### 1.3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft minutes of the two Parish Council Meetings held on 2 August 2021 were agreed as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman.

### 1.4 An update on matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings held on 2 August 2021

[a] Cllr Lang asked when were face-to-face Council meetings to resume? Mr Verrill (as Chairman of the Memorial Hall) said the renovation work was unlikely to be finished before the spring due to the recent discovery of woodworm. The Council agreed to continue with digital meetings until the Memorial Hall was available in the absence of a suitable venue in the village. Broadband is now available in the Hall, and this may enable meetings with remote access by some Parish Councillors.

[b] The Chairman reported the completion of the maintenance work on the seats and noticeboards, all agreeing this had made the village look smarter.

[c] The Chairman was also pleased to report that he had presented Robert Johnston with a framed certificate confirming the award of the Honorary Freedom of the Parish. The award had been greatly appreciated by Mr Johnston.

[d] The clerk reported he had not had a reply to an emailed enquiry to the Home Group regarding their lettings policy. He will chase this up with an old-fashioned letter if necessary.

**Action SER**

## 2: Items for discussion and potential decisions

### 2.1 The Coronavirus National Emergency

Councillors were not aware of any issues specifically relating to the parish or of any parishioners who might have difficulties.

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

No reports had been received prior to the meeting.

### 2.3 Planning

The Council considered the following applications and commented as shown

Application	Resolution or Action
21/03254/FUL - Glanton Pyke Farm – Replacement Conservatory	The Council was in favour of this application.

## **2.4 A Fingerpost sign at the West Turnpike Junction**

See above

## **2.5 Highway Issues**

The clerk will continue to press the County Council about the extension of the West Turnpike speed limit. **Action SER**

## **2.6 A List of Absent Owners**

Cllr Mrs Rogers had reported some success in locating owners, but a number were not listed on the websites of letting agents. A letter-drop in those houses had met with some positive replies. **Action Cllr Mrs Rogers**

## **2.7 Environmental Issues**

[a] The Chairman was very pleased to report the efforts of Parishioners in maintaining the planters. He had also noticed that the grassed areas had been strimmed although he did not know by who. The Council agreed these demonstrated the positive community spirit within the Parish.

[b] Cllr Dronsfield and the Chairman will agree a date for planting the native-species daffodil bulbs. **Action Cllr Dronsfield & Cllr Radgick**

[c] Concern was expressed about the dead Christmas Tree and Cllr Radgick will arrange for its removal and disposal. **Action Cllr Radgick**

## **2.8 The Newsletter**

No progress has been made in identifying a new editor.

## **3: Items for Information**

### **3.1 Forthcoming Village activities**

There were no activities to report given both the pandemic and the closure of the Memorial Hall for refurbishment.

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

Attention was drawn to the forthcoming meeting of the Coquetdale Cluster on 12 October 2021.

**3.3 Correspondence received**

Councillors had been circulated with an exchange of letters with the United Reformed Church concerning the maintenance of the clock should the Church be sold in the future. The Church Trust had indicated they wished to deal with the clock once a sale was envisaged as that would enable discussion with potential purchasers. The clerk was able to display a copy of the Grade II listing on the Historic England’s website which contains a reference to the clock. A copy of the exchange is attached to the signed minutes.

**4: Administration**

**4.1 The current accounts for 2021/2022 and to authorise any payments**

The Council noted the accounts, a copy is attached to the signed minutes. The following payments were approved

- Richard Frater – Maintenance of seats and noticeboards - £220 – retrospective but prospectively agreed at the meeting on 2 August 2021
- Cllr Dronsfield – Reimbursement of the costs of the daffodil bulbs - £45.99
- Cllr Radgick – reimbursement of the cost of replacement pads for the defibrillator - £47.09
- HMRC – PAYE Q2 - £30.00

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

None were raised.

**4.3 Date of Next Meetings**

These were agreed as below, all to commence at 7.00 pm.

- Monday 29 November 2021
- Monday 31 January 2022
- Monday 28 March 2022

Confirmed as a true record

and signed by the Chairman ..... Date .....