

Glanton Parish Council

A meeting of the Parish Council was held digitally at 7.00 pm on Monday 13 December 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.

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

None

1.2 Parishioners' Questions

1.2.1 A question was asked about the removal of the fingerpost signpost pole which remained in the planter at the West Turnpike junction. Cllr Radgick stated that he had agreed to delay removal with the Glanton Heritage Group as an affected property had recently been sold and it was appropriate to consult with the new owners once the conveyancing had been completed.

1.2.2 Cllr Radgick will speak to the parishioner who has been tending the planter to discuss what bulbs should be planted pending a final decision on removal of the pole. The Council endorsed the action of the Chairman, noting that the final decision would be made by the County Council's Highways Dept. **Action Cllr Radgick**

1.2.3 A further parishioner's question related to the damage to the trees at Doctors' Field. The Council strongly supported the actions of the Chairman in raising grave concerns with the County Council's Planning Enforcement Team. The Council was able to view the video taken by Cllr Dronsfield appearing to show an excavator trying to push over one of the trees. The Council agreed to take up the County Council's offer of a cabinet member attending a future meeting to discuss this and other issues. **Action SER**

1.3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27 September 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 meeting held on 27 September

[a] The Council thanked Cllr Dronsfield for planting the daffodil bulbs.

[b] The clerk reported he had not had a reply to the emailed enquiry to the Home Group regarding their lettings policy. The Chairman will chase this up with a letter to the Group's Chairman. **Action Cllr Radgick**

2: Items for discussion and potential decisions

2.1 The Coronavirus National Emergency and Storm Arwen

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

2.1.2 On 26 November 2021 Storm Arwen had hit Northumberland causing extensive damage. Parishioners had been without electricity, and internet & mobile phone connections had been lost for some days.

2.1.3 The Council considered what initial lessons could be learnt and issues raised included

- How to contact the emergency services as only those with an "old-fashioned" plug-in telephone were able to make or receive telephone calls. It was noted that facility would go when Openreach ceased providing an analogue service in 2025.
- The serious problems with communications from suppliers and public bodies almost entirely relying on internet or text messaging.
- The need for the Parish Council to consider how best to marshal the resources of the community to assist should/when other emergencies occur. This would include discussions with the Memorial Hall Committee to examine the potential for the Hall's use as an emergency rest centre.
- Councillors praised the County Council's staff involved in re-opening the roads.
- Consideration was given to a "WhatsApp" type group for the Council, but several Councillors would not be able to join, and the idea was not progressed.

2.1.4 The Chairman will draft a short initial plan and circulate this to fellow Councillors. The issue will be discussed further at the next meeting. **Actions Cllr Radgick & SER**

2.2 Reports from the County Councillor and the Police

The Council noted the Police Report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes.

2.3 Planning

There were no new applications for the Council to consider. The Council had discussed the Trees at Doctors' Field under item 1.2.3 above

2.4 Highway Issues

2.4.1 The recent storm had highlighted the state of the drains, especially on the Powburn Road and it was agreed to ask the County Council to jet this out. **Action SER**

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

2.5 A List of Absent Owners

Cllr Mrs Rogers had circulated a draft list which will be updated. The Council thanked Cllr Mrs Rogers for her work on this and agreed to diary a review for 12 months-time. **Action SER**

2.6 Environmental Issues

The Chairman reported the kind donation of a further Christmas Tree by Dr A Henfrey, and the Council recorded its thanks to Dr Henfrey. The Tree was to be erected later in the week.

2.7 HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Chairman reported that a national chain of beacons were to be lit at 9.15 pm on Friday 2 June 2022, the Council endorsed participation. Cllr Angus Collingwood-Cameron would liaise with the Hall Committee on whether other events would be held. **Action Cllr Angus Collingwood-Cameron.**

2.8 The Newsletter

No progress has been made in identifying a new editor.

3: Items for Information

3.1 Forthcoming Village activities

There was to be a Carol Service on 19 December 2021.

3.2 Details of any meetings attended by Councillors or the clerk

The Chairman had been unable to attend the Coquetdale Cluster on 12 October 2021, but it was noted that the Leader of the County Council had not been able to attend.

3.3 Correspondence received

Councillors had been circulated with items of possible interest.

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

- HMRC – PAYE Q3 - £30.00
- The County Council – Insurance - £187.78
- Friends of Whittingham Burial Ground – Support Payment - £200.00
- Glanton Memorial Hall – Support Payment - £200.00
- Hammer Services – Mowing FP 4 - £120.00 (The net cost has already been reimbursed by the County Council)

4.2 The Budget and Precept for 2022/2023

The Council considered a report from the clerk, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes. The Council agreed the following budget for 2022/2023

General Fund Expenditure Item and Number	Budget for 2022/2023
Clerks Costs including travel [1]	600.00
Misc. Admin (Postage, etc.) [2]	220.00
Insurance [3]	200.00
Legal /Audit /Subscriptions [4]	135.00
Maintenance and Planting [5]	400.00
Hall Hire [6]	120.00
Support Payments [7]	400.00
Communications [8]	120.00
Total	2195.00
Income from Precept	2100.00
Balance from Reserves (negative is payment into reserves)	95.00

The Council resolved to set the precept for 2022/2023 as £2100.00 [Two thousand one hundred pounds].

4.3 Details of items Councillors wish to raise at forthcoming meetings

None were raised.

4.4 Date of Next Meetings

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

- Monday 31 January 2022
- Monday 28 March 2022

Confirmed as a true record

and signed by the Chairman Date

DRAFT