

**MINUTES OF THE DARRAS HALL ESTATE COMMITTEE
MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 05 JUNE 2017
AT 19:00 HOURS IN THE ESTATE OFFICE**

Present:

Mr A Mate	Mr S Savin
Mr D Brown	Mr J Scott
Mrs S Hill	Mrs C Thompson
Mr J Myers	Mr A Tucker
Mr A Pile	Mr G Wright

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Gilchrist, Mrs S Jaidka & Mr M Welford.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 08 May 2017 were signed as correct.

3. **Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Planning Applications:**

Please refer to plans minutes.

5. **Financial Report by Treasurer:**

Mrs Duffy circulated the Financial Report for the Committee's perusal. There are now 791 outstanding rents so the reminders will soon be able to be distributed. Mrs Duffy wished to bring to the attention of the Committee the fact that No 2 Station Cottages would soon require a new boiler. Mr Mate requested that quotes be obtained in the first instance.

6. **Letters Received:**

83 Runnymede Road

Mr McLeod had written a letter to Nicholson & Morgan stating his position following the Committee's granting of covenant consent at the above property. Mr Morgan felt that no response was necessary other than acknowledgement of receipt and the Committee agreed.

Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan

A response has now been forwarded to Northumberland County Council.

7. **Any Other Business:**

7.1 Major Structural Inspection Fees

Mrs Woodall informed the Committee that following a recent survey of major structural alterations and new builds on the Estate, a problem had been highlighted with some major structural alterations to properties being demolished to the point of becoming uninhabitable. It was felt that the covenant consent letter should include a paragraph which pointed out that if the property was found to be uninhabitable an Inspection would be carried out upon completion and the appropriate fee levied.

Following a brief discussion, Mr Mate suggested that Mrs Woodall and himself would put together a proposal to put forward to the next meeting. This would include the view to Inspections being carried out after the Committee had determined the extent of building works.

7.2 Darras Hall Podcasts

Mr Myers explained that he felt it important the Committee, and Darras Hall in general, receive some positive press rather than all the negative press that has been received in the past twelve months. The idea is that perhaps once a month he will talk to various interesting people around the Estate to establish their feelings about why they like to live here, together with discussing their own interests. He will also include an interview with a Committee member, beginning with the Chairman, Mr Mate.

7.3 Profiles of Committee Members

Mr Mate reminded the remaining Committee members, who have not completed a profile for the website, that they must do so.

7.4 Dog Waste Bins and Dispensers

A poll has been run on our website regarding the proposal to install dog waste bag dispensers on the Bridlepath next to the waste bins. It was agreed that two would be purchased and we would assess their usefulness at a future date.

7.5 Meeting with Councillor Jackson

Mr Gilchrist had sent an email asking the Committee if they thought it was a good idea to request a meeting with Councillor Peter Jackson highlighting the poor state of repair of our roads and footpaths. The Committee agreed that they should attempt to organise this.

7.6 Projection of PDF plans onto screen

Mr Gilchrist had carried out some investigation into the costs involved for projecting all plans onto a screen or whiteboard at our meetings. All architects would need to submit plans in PDF format to enable this to happen. Following a brief discussion, Mr Myers agreed to make enquiries about purchasing 2 x televisions for mounting on the wall which could then be linked up to a laptop.

7.7 **Sub-Committee Reports**

7.7.1 *Highways and Environmental*

Nothing to report.

7.7.2. *Land and Property*

Mr Pile was hopeful to set a date in the near future to carry out the Grasslands walk. Once a date has been scheduled he will email the Committee in order that as many can take part as possible so that they can assess what work, if any, needs to be carried out.

Mr Pile also requested that another Committee member become involved with the Land and Property Sub-Committee. Mr Myers agreed to assist and would discuss what was required with Mr Pile.

7.7.3 *Airport Representative*

Nothing to report.

8. **Date & Time of Next Meeting:**

Monday, 10 July 2017 at 19:00 hours.

Meeting Closed: 20:50 Hours.