

**MINUTES OF THE DARRAS HALL ESTATE COMMITTEE
MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 02 OCTOBER 2017
AT 19:00 HOURS IN THE ESTATE OFFICE**

Present:

Mr A Mate (Chairman)	Mr A Pile
Mr D Brown	Mr S Savin
Mrs S Hill	Mr J Scott
Mr S Hughes	Mrs C Thompson
Mrs S Jaidka	Mr A Tucker
Mr J Myers	

Mr Mate introduced Mr Atul Malhotra who was interested in becoming a Committee member. He told the Committee what he could contribute and after a short discussion, all members were in favour of co-opting Mr Malhotra onto the Committee.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Gilchrist, Mr M Welford and Mr G Wright.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday, 04 September 2017 were signed as correct.

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

Best Practice List of Criteria

Still pending.

Major Structural Developments

Still pending.

4. **Planning Applications:**

Please refer to plans minutes.

5. **Financial Report by Treasurer:**

The Financial Report was circulated for the Committee's perusal.

6. **Letters Received:**

23 Runnymede Road

The Committee granted covenant consent in April 2017 for extensions to existing property, render to existing front elevation, side elevation and garage and new roof and new entrance wall with gates. As this property has two road frontages, the Committee previously agreed that they would look upon the area to the right-hand side of the property, towards Kingsway as a side space, rather than a road frontage. The Committee also previously agreed that in the event of demolition of existing garage and rebuild, then the required side space (3m), rather than the existing distance to boundary (0.5m) be maintained. In September 2017 it was noted that a demolition had taken place, albeit one garage wall was still in situ. Applicant submitted a detailed explanation as to why such works had taken place. Whilst the Committee appreciate the explanation as to the poor structural quality of the walls and the reasoning behind the demolition, they request that the owners provide written clarification that all future building works will be strictly in accordance with plans approved. Additionally, in view of the mass demolition, this application will be classed as a new build and will be charged accordingly in addition to the necessary three inspections that must be carried out.

7. **Any Other Business:**

7.1 Highways & Environmental:

Nothing to report.

7.2 Land & Property:

7.2.1 Tenders have been circulated for Bridlepath tree works. Deadline for submissions 13 October, 2017.

7.2.2 Unfortunately, an issue has arisen with Natural England in that there is no contact available at current time.

7.3 Airport Representative:

The Airport Representative gave a report to the Committee which included the following:-

- Increase in passenger numbers.
- Launch of one off charter to North Iceland on Monday, 29 January 2018 which offers a 4 nights' accommodation as well as vouchers towards excursions such as seeing the Northern Lights and experiencing the Lake Myvatn Adventure. It is hoped that this will lead to more direct flights.
- Social Media. 68,000 followers on Twitter, 32,000 followers on Facebook and over 6,200 followers on Instagram.

- Commercial Development. Pita and Brew, a new catering unit opened in the departure lounge in July 2017. This ‘grab and go’ catering offer provides food which can either be boxed to take on the plane or it can be enjoyed in Pita and Brew itself.
- Terminal extension. A planning application has been approved for a modest extension to the terminal to provide additional room for UKBF. The development has now commenced.
- Complaint’s History.

7.4 Administration Staff - 20 Year Anniversary:

It was agreed that Mrs Woodall and Mrs Duffy be rewarded with a token of appreciation for their 20 years of service.

7.4 Indiscriminate Parking – Runnymede Road

It was agreed that a letter drop be organised around the site of 23 Runnymede regarding indiscriminate parking.

7.5 Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan

Referendum result: 96.1% voted Yes
3.9% voted No
3 spoilt ballot papers

7.6 Meeting with Councillor Jackson

Following the Chairman’s request in Pont News & Views that residents email the Estate Office with any matters which they want the Committee to flag up with Councillor Jackson on their behalf at a scheduled meeting, a number of issues have been highlighted which include; overgrown hedges, traffic management, parking, street lights, speeding, pavements.

7.7 CCTV Cameras – Broadway

Estate Office to make enquiries as to the ownership of the Broadway CCTV cameras and if they are in working order.

7.8 Quality of Broadband Connection

It was agreed that contact be made with BT regarding the poor quality of the broadband connection in the area.

7.9 Website Update

A meeting has been arranged with Retox in order to discuss the problems recently experienced, the matter of compensation and the way forward.

7.10 2 Station Cottages

Committee agreed to request from tenant for a door to be fitted between lounge and kitchen.

7.11 Darras Hall Surgery

It has been brought to the Committee's attention that the Darras Hall Surgery is now private and does not cater for NHS patients. Andrew Morgan to look into this matter to see if this is permissible under the terms of the Lease.

7.12 Broadway Shopping Centre

Andrew Mate and Andrew Tucker to meet prior to organising meeting with Zara Commercial.

7.13 83 Runnymede Road

Correspondence received from 85 Runnymede Road.

7.14 Business Infiltration on Estate

Several reports have been received from owners of a property on the Estate are running a business. This allegation has been strenuously denied. It was agreed that a way forward would be to organise a meeting between all parties concerned.

7.15 Podcast

Episode 4 is now live.

7.16 Remembrance Sunday

Andrew Mate to represent the Committee at the Remembrance Sunday Service on Sunday, 12 November 2017.

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

Monday, 06 November 2017 at 19:00 hours.

Meeting Closed: 20:30 hours.