

**MINUTES OF THE DARRAS HALL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2019  
AT 19:00 HOURS IN THE ESTATE OFFICE**

<b>Present:</b>	Mr A Mate (Chairman)	Mr S Savin
	Mr A Gilchrist	Mr A Tucker
	Mrs S Hill	Mr M Welford
	Mrs S Jaidka	Mr I White
	Mr A Pile	Mr G Wright

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Brown, Mr A Malhotra, Mr J Myers, Mr J Scott and Mrs C Thompson.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 11 March and 25 March, 2019 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:**

5.1 The financial report was circulated by Mrs Duffy.

5.2 Committee were informed that the new Cooperative Bank account has now been approved and will be operational in the near future.

5.3 Mrs Duffy informed the Committee that as of April 2019 the employee's pension scheme contribution would increase from 3% to 5%. The Committee were asked if they would consider matching the increase in employer's contributions. It was agreed that Mrs Duffy circulate relevant figures for Committee consideration.

6. **Sub-Committee Reports:**

6.1 **Land & Property:**

6.1 Concern was expressed regarding the unsightly entrance to The Drey. As this particular area of land is managed by a Management Company, it was agreed to refer this matter for action.

- 6.1.2 Further to recent requests from residents, the Committee agreed to post a notice on Facebook asking for preferred locations of dog waste bins. The Committee could then use this information in order to assess as to whether or not additional bins are required.
- 6.1.3 Several complaints have been received regarding the parking of a caravan opposite Edge Hill entrance to the Estate. This matter to be referred to Police.
- 6.1.4 Concern was expressed with regard to drains on the Estate which are full of debris. Mr White confirmed that this matter would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting with Northumberland County Council.
- 6.1.5 It was agreed that the Committee put forward a proposal to pay half towards the cost of a new SID on Darras Road near Western Way and the Town Council pay the other half. The DHEC to pay the ongoing annual maintenance of the SID.
- 6.1.6 Correspondence received expressing concern regarding the removal of the hedging outside of the Darras Hall Primary School.
- 6.1.7 The keys for Grasslands were loaned out to an adjacent owner for access of machinery onto their site via Grasslands side entrance. Unfortunately, access to the site was not gained via Grasslands side entrance, the machinery was actually driven onto Grasslands itself. This has resulted in extensive damage to land.

The owner responsible has confirmed that repair work will be carried out as soon as feasibly possible.

The Committee were in agreement that no-one should have access to the key for Grasslands without Natural England's permission. The key is to be kept in a secure place with a note to this effect attached.

## 6.2 Highways:

The Highways Chairman presented his report which included the following:-

- Local Transport Plan has now been finalised and a meeting has been requested.
- New footpath is being worked on in Eastern Way (last year's Budget). No other major work going on in the Estate at present, but waiting for an update from Highways.
- Speed monitor has been installed on Eastern Way, near to Meadow Court.

- Eastern Way Culvert – looking for some information update from any one of the three options, either NCC, EA or Northumbrian Water. Contact has been made with relevant personnel in Northumbrian Water who confirm that this issue is in the hands of NCC who had agreed that they would carry out investigation work last year. Awaiting update from Highways on this matter.
- EA and Northumbrian Water say that as far as they are concerned this job is closed, but they did carry out a clearance of the general waterway which is within their control, and confirm that there is no issue with sewage from the area.

7 **Date & Time of Next Meeting:**

Monday, 10 June 2019 at 19:00 hours in the Estate Office.