

**MINUTES OF THE DARRAS HALL ESTATE COMMITTEE
MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 10 JUNE 2019
AT 19:00 HOURS IN THE ESTATE OFFICE**

Present: Mr A Mate (Chairman) Mr J Scott
 Mr D Brown Mrs C Thompson
 Mr A Gilchrist Mr A Tucker
 Mr A Pile Mr G Wright

The Chairman announced the sad demise of John Myers. John was an incredible man and a much valued Committee member. As a mark of respect to John and his family, a one minute's silence was held.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hill, Mrs S Jaidka, Mr A Malhotra, Mr S Savin, Mr M Welford and Mr I White.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 May, 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:**

- The financial report was circulated by Mrs Duffy.
- Committee informed that the overdue rent reminders were about to be distributed.
- It was agreed that a transfer of £65,000 should take place from Nat West to Co-op Account at 0.50% interest with instant access.
- Investigations are now taking place into a new card machine for payments into Co-op Bank Account.

6. Sub-Committee Reports:

6.1 Highways:

- Northumberland County Council have sent round the quad with the weed killer and weeds can be seen to dying. They will follow-up with the sweeper wagon where necessary.
- Meeting has taken place with the Highways Director in which it was established that the Committee liaise with the Town Council on highways matters of concern which can then be submitted to NCC for 2020 action list. Andrew Mate to arrange meeting with Alan Varley, Mayor of Ponteland Town Council.

6.2 Land & Property:

- After inspection of the Bridlepath, it appears that despite a few areas that require re-surfacing, the path itself is of a satisfactory standard. The Committee agreed that Andrew Pile liaise with Gary Hillery and obtain an additional quote regarding the possibility of purchase of sufficient aggregate to resurface the whole length of the Bridlepath. If this proves to be too expensive an option, then the re-surfacing of affected areas would certainly suffice.
- Concern was expressed with regard to the unsatisfactory standard of overgrowth cut recently carried out on the village end and middle sections of the Bridlepath. All debris has been left where it fell, rather than tidying it away. Estate Office to liaise with contractor on this matter.
- Estate Office to identify damaged sign near to URC Church recently reported on Facebook page and liaise accordingly with persons responsible for repair.
- Despite an increase in the amount of disposable dog bags supplied by the Committee, it has been noted that the dispensers are quite often empty. Unfortunately, it is not financially viable to further increase the quantity of disposable dog bags supplied by the Committee.
- Further to an on-site meeting at Grasslands to discuss rectification of the incredibly boggy access, it was agreed that a specialist field drain specialist be appointed in order to identify as to whether or not the two drains are working effectively.

6.3 Airport Representative:

The Airport Representative reported on the following:-

- Passenger numbers.
- Security.
- Inbound tourism.
- Taxi waiting area.
- Airport Business Park – Phase 1.
- Breakdown of noise complaints.

7. Letters Received & Any Other Business:-

Meadow Court Development

Further to a recent request from developers asking if the Committee would rescind the original condition attached to covenant consent regarding the use of one plot for parking of contractor's vehicles, the Committee have taken the opportunity to canvass the opinions of affected residents in the locality.

The general consensus of the affected residents is that that the original condition of maintaining a free plot for parking of contractors' vehicles is upheld.

The Committee therefore feel that the best way forward would be to have a meeting with the developers and Chairman.

Broadway Shopping Centre

- Andrew Tucker to investigate as to whether the garages which had previously been under the leasehold of the Co-op had now been transferred back to Zara.
- Applications for new front signs to be submitted for dental surgery and building society.

Camera Pole

It has been reported that a CCTV camera pole has been erected outside of a property pointing up Darras Road. Estate Office to investigate and act accordingly.

8. Date & Time of Next Meeting:

Monday, 08 July 2019 at 19:00 hours in the Estate Office.

Meeting Closed: 20:25 Hours.