

**MINUTES OF THE DARRAS HALL ESTATE COMMITTEE
MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 07 OCTOBER 2019
AT 19:00 HOURS IN THE ESTATE OFFICE**

Present:

Mr A Mate (Chairman)	Mr J Scott
Mr D Brown	Mrs C Thompson
Mrs S Hill	Mr A Tucker
Mr A Pile	Mr I White
Mr S Savin	Mr G Wright

1. Apologies for Absence:

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

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 09 September 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:

Mrs Duffy circulated the financial report and said that all is currently in accordance with the budget allowance. There are now 216 rents outstanding, 28 of which are 2 years or more. The latter have now had a deadline payment date set of 1 November 2019 after which time, Land Registry searches will be carried out and court summons processed.

There were no other matters arising.

6. Sub-Committee Reports:

6.1 Highways and Environment: Mr White updated the Committee on the following matters:-

- Meeting had been held with Highways Manager on 30 September 2019 to review various matters.
 - The two new litter bins (one of which is installed on highways land) received approval from NCC.
 - The gully wagon has cleared Woodside and they have now agreed to bring forward the annual program so will be working around the estate in the near future.

- Damaged bus stop on Middle Drive has now been replaced.
 - Mr White has formally raised the question with NCC regarding Phase 4 of the re-surfacing of Middle Drive as this has still not been carried out.
- Speed danger on The Crescent. Neighbourhood policing have responded to this and Mr White is awaiting a response from NCC on the installation of a data logger.
 - Discussions are ongoing with PTC and neighbourhood police officer PC Lee Davison regarding the siting and installation of a new speed indicator. PC Davison said that research has found the smiley/angry face signs to have more impact than an actual speed indicator. After a brief discussion the Committee felt that a specific proposal letter be sent to PTC in order that the matter can be progressed. It was decided that the site should be on Darras Road towards Western Way. Mr Mate was eager to have this installed before our next AGM.
 - A further weedkilling operation should have now been completed. Residents are encouraged to report any particularly bad areas.
 - An environmental issue with a vacant property on Western Way has now been rectified. NCC now have an Environmental Enforcement officer who dedicates 2 days per week to this area, he had proved to be very responsive following Mr White's request.
 - Mr White asked if a link could be placed on the Darras Hall Facebook page regarding reporting of potholes.

6.2 Land & Property:

- The Grasslands cut can now be carried out, however, it is extremely wet so Mr Pile was liaising with the contractors and hoped to have it completed at the end of this week.
- Natural England have said there will be finance available for the winter maintenance.
- With regards to the Information Board on the Grasslands, now that funding is secured Mr Pile is liaising with Mrs Dunigan regarding the design/information on it and said some pictures have already been sourced.
- Bridlepath surface improvement is still a matter for consideration. One quotation has been received and another is awaited.
- The barriers between Dunsgreen and Meadow Court have now been removed for disability access.
- The estate owned access to Ponteland Park, between 32-34 Runnymede Road, had been raised as a matter of concern through PTC and Friends of Ponteland Park. This area has been checked and is seen to be perfectly adequate both for lawnmower access to the wild meadow and emergency vehicle access. Contact to be made with PTC informing them of this.

Mr Tucker informed the Committee that he had been in contact with Zara Commercial who have now re-taken control from the Co-op, of 9 garages behind

Broadway shops. These garages are in a bad state of repair, but the landlords are unsure of their plans for them at present. Mr White said he would give Mr Tucker the name of new Environmental Enforcement officer at NCC in order that they can be inspected.

6.3 Airport Representative:

Nothing to report.

7. Letters Received & Any Other Business:-

Byelaws

Mrs Woodall reminded the Committee that the amendments to Byelaws meeting is on 21 October 2019 at 7pm. She asked that Committee members bring their hard copies to the meeting.

Pont News & Views

Mr Mate highlighted the recent letters in PNV regarding front boundary treatments. He had prepared a response to be published in next month's issue of PNV and the Committee approved this. It was also agreed that once the amended Byelaws have been agreed, there will be a clearer view of Byelaw 13 which can then be published on our website and correspond once more with PNV.

Meadow Court Development

Mrs Woodall read out a letter from a resident affected by the above development. Mr Mate informed the Committee that he had carried out 3 site visits recently and all appears to be in accordance with agreed stipulations.

Remembrance Service

This is on 10 November 2019 and Mr Mate confirmed he would be in attendance.

Christmas Gathering

It was agreed that this would be held on 18 December 2019 at The Blackbird Inn. Details to follow.

Staff Appraisals and Salary Review

Mr Mate asked the Committee if they wished to make any comments or be in attendance at the forthcoming staff appraisals. He said that in any event, any recommendations would be brought forward to the next meeting for Committee approval.

8. Date & Time of Next Meeting:

Monday, 04 November 2019 at 20.45 hours in the Estate Office.