

**MINUTES OF THE DARRAS HALL ESTATE COMMITTEE
MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2019
AT 19:00 HOURS IN THE ESTATE OFFICE**

Present: Mr A Mate (Chairman) Mr S Savin
 Mr A Gilchrist Mr J Scott
 Mrs S Hill Mrs C Thompson
 Mrs S Jaidka Mr I White
 Mr A Malhotra Mr G Wright
 Mr A Pile

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

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Brown, Mr A Tucker and Mr M Welford.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday, 07 October 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 for review.

There are currently 172 rents owing, 10 of which owe £64 or over. Land Registry searches will be carried out to establish the property owners in order to commence with legal proceedings.

6. Sub-Committee Reports:

6.1 Highways & Environmental:

A recommendation for a new speed display to be located on the inbound side of Darras Road at the Western Way end has been forwarded to the Northumberland County Council Highways Officer so that he can assess whether the suggested location is viable.

Ponteland Town Council to approach Swarco to check if some of the existing display units have an internal memory which would be able to be accessed to give a record of the activations on each display which might well offer valuable information for ourselves and for Community Speedwatch in terms of data on volumes and speed records of traffic.

6.2 Land & Property:

Grasslands:

- 6.2.1 Unfortunately, damage has been caused to Grasslands during the recent cut. Due to the way Natural England govern the site, we are not allowed to cut and clear it before October. This year, due to the recent heavy rainfall we had already been made aware by our contractors that there would be considerable damaged caused. We had no option but to cut and clear the site at this time for fear that matters would only get worse with more rainfall.

The Land & Property Sub-Committee Chairman has been on site and is attempting to repair some of the more significant damaged caused around the entrance. He is also in liaison with Natural England to ask if the cut can take place earlier in the year.

- 6.2.2 It is hoped that the new display board will be completed and installed early in 2020.
- 6.2.3 Problems have been reported regarding damp/mould in Station Cottages. It was agreed that we contact professional bodies to carry out necessary survey.

Bridlepath:

- 6.2.3 Mr Malhotra to investigate following a recent complaint regarding overhanging trees from the Bridlepath into a Longmeadows Property.
- 6.2.4 It was agreed that additional quotes be obtained for surfacing of the Bridlepath. Suggestions included Northumbrian Roads, Shaun Nichol and Garry Hillery.

6.3 Airport Representative:

Nothing to report.

7 Letters Received & Any Other Business:

7.2 Byelaws Update

Due to the complexity of Byelaw 13, it was agreed that a separate meeting take place purely to discuss this Byelaw. This meeting was scheduled for Monday, 25 November 2019 at 19:00 hours.

7.3 Salary Review:

The Committee agreed on a 3% salary increase for all employees as of October 2019.

8 Date & Time of Next Meeting:

Monday, 02 December 2019 at 19:00 hours in the Estate Office.