LOW CONISCLIFFE & MERRYBENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of The Annual General Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th May 2014 At St Edwins Church Hall, High Coniscliffe, 7.25pm.

ATTENDANCE: Cllrs: M Ellerton (Chair), P Ellerton, L Steel, A Craggs, T Stuckey, R Cliff & R Mackay (Clerk).

1 **Election of Chairperson:** Cllr Stuckey proposed Cllr M Ellerton as Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Steel and Cllr M Ellerton accepted. Resolved Cllr M Ellerton is Chairperson.

2 **Election of Vice Chair:** Cllr Ellerton proposed Cllr Steel as Vice Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Stuckey and Cllr Steel accepted. Resolved Cllr Steel is Vice Chair.

3 **Apologies for Absence:** Ward Councillors Crudass and Lee (prior commitments).

4 **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Signed and accepted as a true record.

5 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

6 **Public Forum: No Attendance.**

7 **Matters Arising From the Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Action Points:**

- Item 10, Parish Matters – Localmotion to c/f.
- Item 13, Correspondence – Poppy seeds have been scattered.
- Item 13, Correspondence – Electronic photographs have been taken and Cllr Steel will send them onto WC Lee.

8 **Finance/Accounts:**

- Cheques approved included: Clerks Salary £199.98, PAYE £49.98, £100 Petty Cash, £225 Church Hall Hire, £5.99 for the purchase of a Cash Box, £16.49 for Printer Paper and Ink.
- Cllr M Ellerton read out the proposed costs for the coming year.
- Balance Current A/C £9225.45, Business Reserve A/C £2071.83.
- Internal Auditor – It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Mr Burgess if he was willing to carry out the internal audit.
- Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance Statement were approved and signed.

9 **Planning Proposals:** This item was discussed after item 14.

- 14/00369/FUL Coniscliffe Grange Farm – Erection of Solar Panels. A discussion took place on the proposal and the meeting was informed that DBC did not have a policy on this type of development. It was reported that Mr Thompson the Countryside Access Officer had reportedly stated that the site was well screened from public view by hedgerow and farm buildings, apart from a short section of footpath that crosses the A1M from the west. It was resolved that the PC had no objections to the development as such, provided that the conditions supplied, be taken into consideration. Resolved to approve subject to the following conditions:
    - There should be no impact upon the character and visual impact (taking into account the land gradient and surrounding land form).
    - The colour of the panel frames must be suitable to the landscape.
    - The land in question must not be in present or designated use as agricultural land.
    - The panels must not detract from the landscape as this is valued by visitors to the area (walkers).

- That the risks are minimalised to the public including the criminal element from attempted theft and unauthorised access.
- The installation should be reversible allowing the site to be restored.
- There should be no removal of hedgerows.
- There should be no impact upon any protected species.
- There is no historical impact on the landscape.
- There is no potential impact via glare on aircraft safety.

- 14/00411/FUL 47 Merrybent Drive – SS Extension, 2 Velux Windows and Flue to rear. A discussion took place on the application and it was resolved to recommend approval.

10 Planning Decisions: None.

11 Highway Matters: It was reported that Highways would be attending at 10am on the 29th May to look at the paths and potholes in the area. It was reported that StreetScene had been out recently and tidied up following works that had been carried out by the Parish handyperson, and that they would attend the area approx 6 times a year.

12 Parish Matters:

- It was reported that permission had been approved by DBC to allow the PC to plant up the strip of land up from the bus shelter.
- Cllr Thompson submitted his letter of resignation from the Parish Council. The Parish Councillors thanked Cllr Thompson in his absence for his commitment and it was resolved a letter expressing the Parish Councils thanks would be sent to him.
- Clerks contact details to be put on display in the noticeboard.
- Clerk requested permission to purchase a laptop specifically for Parish Council business, instead of using a personal laptop. Permission granted to purchase laptop up to £350.
- Clerks contract approved including the addition of extra hours. To be signed at next meeting.

13 Items For Future Consideration:

- Localmotion.

14 Correspondence:

- Letter read out re donation for Darlington Neighbourhood Watch.
- Letter read out re Darlington Local Plan.
- Email re out from WC Crudass re planning application for Tees Valley Stud, informing the PC that the scale of the development was smaller and that it would be going to committee.
- Letter received from J Walke Room 101 in relation to saving of £600,000 needing to be made and that it was hoped that persons would choose to adopt pieces of land and carrying out the grasscutting etc.
- Letter read out from Police re Parking Offences, ie Parking on Footpaths and requesting that people refrain from doing so, otherwise fixed penalty notices will be issued.
- Email read out re Geo Thermal Heat Pumps and offering a talk to the PC.

15 Date of Next Meeting: TO FOLLOW. CLERK TO CONFIRM

MEETING CLOSED 9.25pm

MEWton
29/10/14