ALL SCHEDULED PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS WERE CANCELLED FROM MARCH 2020, IN LINE WITH COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND LEGAL ADVICE

The following is a brief summary of matters arising and action taken, to ensure the Parish Council remained functional during these difficult times:

MARCH 2020

L J Digital Media Invoice regarding upkeep of Website 2019-2020 fee £99.95.
The Parish Council agreed to continue for one year.

S106 Application - Robertson Home Development:
Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it was decided to hold back submission of the application until change in circumstances. Email to Dave Coates at DBC to confirm.

Damaged Junction sign on entrance to Low Coniscliffe:
Email to DBC and order placed for new sign and post.

Elm Ridge was contacted for a quote to renew contract to maintain flower tubs 2020/2021. Due to Coronavirus, Elm Ridge confirmed they were not renewing such contracts.

Outstanding Items from Agenda of Cancelled Meeting March 2020:

1) Parish Clerk Vacancy - Application from Linda Hopper accepted
2) Parish Councillor Vacancy - Application from David French (Merrybent) accepted
3) Appoint Jo-Anne Garrick as Consultant re DBC Local Plan - agreed
4) Local Audit and Accountability Return - outgoing Parish Clerk to complete AGAR Return - agreed

APRIL 2020

Notice of Planning Application 20/00254/FUL:
Erection of extension to existing outbuilding, insertion of four Velux rooflights and bi-fold doors re 18 Merrybent, Darlington.

Response: Approve subject to Conditions

MAY 2020

Draft AGAR Return 2019/2020 prepared by outgoing Parish Clerk and forwarded on for Internal Audit.

Notification of Planning Permission 20/00329/FUL:
Formation of new first floor window opening to side elevation re 48 Gate Lane, Low Coniscliffe.

Response: Approved

Advice received from CDALC regarding On-Line Clerks Foundation training session.

Response: Approved for incoming Parish Clerk Linda Hopper

JUNE 2020

The Annual Return passed Internal Audit, with no issues raised.

Historic England:
Application for the assessment of Low Coniscliffe village river stone walling for listing declined.

Notice and Note of Email Meeting prepared, asking Parish Councillors to confirm their satisfaction that the outgoing Parish Clerk and Chair can sign off Certificate of Exemption for 2019/2020, Annual Governance Statement for 2019/2020 and Accounting Statement for 2019/2020.

Annual Return proceeded to sign-off.

Notice of Planning Application 20/00358/FUL:
Demolition of existing garage and kennels and erection of replacement garage re 18 Merrybent.

Response: Approve subject to conditions

Confirmation received from Dave Coates (DBC) that the Parish Council may proceed to submit our S106 Application, detailing potential projects for consideration. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, PCllr Mark Armstrong agreed to scan documentation on to Dave Coates.

JULY 2020

Anti-Social Behaviour:
Discussions held with Ward Councillors, Ian Morgan (Landowner) and Andy Cusick of the Rural NPT, to consider actions that could be taken to monitor/resolve anti-social behaviour.
Update Newsletter delivered to residents.

Wind Damage to bus shelter west Merrybent and damaged light in bus shelter east Low Coniscliffe, reported to Ward Cllr Crudass:
Email to DBC requesting repair works.
Fallen tree situated bottom of Wood Lane, Low Coniscliffe reported to Highways and removal works carried out.

AUGUST 2020

Annual Return Exercise of Public Rights Notice posted 03 August 2020.

Robertson Homes:
Comments received from residents regarding hedgerow cut back, fronting the A67. The site was visited and discussion held with Site Managers. Update delivered to residents.

Meeting arranged with Mark Wallace of Robertson Homes, to discuss potential landscaping and supply of seating and history/wildlife board to open space to entrance to Gate Lane. Mark Wallace confirmed he would make further enquiries.

Notice of Planning Application 20/00618/FUL:
Erection of single storey rear extension re 56 Merrybent.

Response: Approve

CDALC New Clerk Training:
4 x 2 hour Zoom sessions, to be held on consecutive Tuesdays in October, cost £50. Agreed.

DBC Local Plan Consultation:
Local Plan Submission (Regulation 19) Representation Period Thursday, 06 August - 5.00 pm on 17 September 2020.

Following conversation with Jo-Anne Garrick (Consultant), we provisionally agreed:
Friday, 04 September - Jo-Anne to provide copy Draft Response
Wednesday, 09 September - Parish Councillors to read Draft Response

Jo-Anne Garrick agreed to provide sample narrative to aid formalising leaflet to be distributed to parish residents, with regard to the Submission Response.

Confirmation received from Groundwork UK Neighbourhood Planning Team, to the change of use of residual grant monies, for use on the Submission Response to the DBC Local Plan

Notice of Planning Application 20/00586/FUL:
Reconnection of Cocker Beck to Baydale Beck, creation of new wetland, flood storage and extended bund.

Response: Approve

Notice of Planning Application 20/00692/ADV:
Display of 6No non-illuminated free standing signs Ash Lane, Low Coniscliffe.

Response: Approve

Informal outside meeting of Parish Councillors to formulate leaflet for distribution to parish residents, with regard to the DBC Local Plan.

Leaflet printing quotation Prontaprint £194.40 - Agreed (funded from Neighbourhood Plan Grant)

SEPTEMBER 2020

Notice and Note of Email meeting of Parish Councillors to progress a decision on accepting the Draft Representation Forms, relating to DBC's Proposed Submission Local Plan 2016-2036, prepared by Consultant Jo-Anne Garrick BSc(Hons) MTP(UC) MRTPI.
Following minor additional input, it was agreed amended Representation Forms were to be submitted to DBC by Jo-Anne.

Fees for this submission stage to be funded from Neighbourhood Plan Grant residual monies - future fees (if applicable) for the Hearing Stage will be discussed once details are released

Planning Application 20/00574/OUT:
Outline Application for the erection of up to 10No residential dwellings with all matters reserved except access - land off Merrybent (A67) Darlington

Response: Agree with principle of application, subject to observations and conditions outlined in response.

Dated: September 2020

Please contact lindatheclerk@gmail.com if you have any queries or concerns you feel the Parish Council should be aware of.