

Tatham Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 7.30pm at the St James the Less Church

Present:

Cllr Dawson (chair), Cllr Osborne, Cllr Mason, Cllr Deller, Cllr Winstanley, Cllr Harrison, Cllr Taylor & 13 members of the public.

Public forum.

A number of parishioners raised concerns regarding the recent planning application ([19/01268/FUL](#)) for a wind turbine which the parish council supported. In particular, parishioners felt the parish council had failed to communicate, engage with, or seek the views of Tatham residents (especially those living on Old Moor Road) before commenting upon and supporting this application. The chair explained that as the application (19/01268/FUL) was not in Tatham Parish, Lancaster City Council had not notified either the Parish Council or nearby residents. Even so, the Parish Council had communicated, engaged with and sought the views of residents by adding the application to its November 2019 meeting agenda which was available to see on the parish council website and notified in the Wrayly Mail and on three parish noticeboards. Nevertheless, almost all the residents on Old Moor Road objected to this development. Furthermore, the recently developed parish council policy in relation to wind turbines (agreed at the November 2019 meeting) was regarded as 'inflammatory', far too narrow in its scope and contrary to the Lancaster City Council's Local Plan.

There is recognition, within the community, for the issues and concerns related to climate change and the need to promote renewable sources of energy. Thus, parishioners would like to see the parish council retract their current policy on wind turbines and replace it with a much wider ranging policy which takes into account and deals with all aspects of renewable energy development. A suggested policy statement was put forward by one of the parishioners. Cllr Dawson (Chair) invited the parishioner(s) to submit their ideas and proposals, via email, to the clerk (tathamparishcouncil@gmail.com), this (i.e. policy in relation to renewable energy scheme developments) would then be put on the agenda for the March 2020 meeting.

A parishioner commended the parish council for officially supporting Lancaster City Council's 'Declared Climate Emergency' and also urged the council to support item 7 on the agenda (i.e. the national initiative entitled 'Local Electricity Bill').

A number of parishioners urged the council not to adopt the BT phone box in Lowgill and, instead, allow BT to continue providing and maintaining this public phone/landline which is regarded as a valuable and important local resource.

20/01 Apologies for absence.

None

20/02 Declarations of interest and dispensations.

- Cllr Mason – The Old School (2020-21 budget setting)
- Cllr Osborne – The Old School (2020-21 budget setting)
- Cllr Winstanley – St James the Less Church (2020-21 budget setting)

20/03 Consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th November 2019.

The minutes were approved and signed by the chair

20/04 Planning.

[19/01565/CU](#) – Ashley’s Farm, Millhouses Road – Change of use of agricultural workshop to mixed unit comprised of a upholstery studio/workshop. ***It was noted that the parish council had already submitted its response, supporting this application.***

[19/01584/FUL](#) – Lanshaw, Slaidburn Road, Lowgill – Erection of a single story extension to the west elevation. ***It was resolved that the Clerk would submit a response, supporting this application.***

20/05 Accounts and finance.

Payments

Carl Hunter (Clerk salary – December 2019/January 2020) £150.00

It was resolved that the above payment be made.

Receipts

None

20/06 The 2020/21 Parish Council Budget and Precept.

It was resolved:

- To Increase the Clerk’s salary, with effect from 1st April 2020, to £100 per month
- To increase the annual donation to The Old School by £500 to support urgent roof repairs
- That the budget for 2020/21 be set at £6,075.00 (see the [Parish Council website](#) for a full breakdown). The Clerk will notify Lancaster City Council that the required ***Precept for 2020-21 is £6,075.00.***

20/07 Local Electricity Bill

It was considered that this national initiative was not relevant to such a small parish as Tatham and, therefore, ***it was resolved that the parish council will not, at this stage, make a commitment to support this bill.***

20/08 Lowgill Phone Box

In response to the views expressed by a number of Lowgill residents, ***it was resolved that the parish council will not adopt the Lowgill phone box and will allow BT to continue providing this important local resource.***

20/09 Bentham Medical Practice & Morecambe Bay CCG

The letter from Mr J Hawker, Chief Officer, MBCCG, was considered by the parish council. ***It was resolved that Cllr Osborne would take up Mr Hawker’s invitation for Tatham PC to become a member of the ‘East Integrated Care Community’.***

20/10 Fairy Steps Footpath

It was noted that Lancashire County Council have agreed to repair the ‘Fairy Steps’ footpath in due course.

20/11 Car Parking in Wray

It was noted that Lancashire County Council have agreed to install the ‘No Parking’ sign in the layby on Main Street, Wray, in due course.

20/12 Date and time of the next meeting.

Tuesday 17th March 2020, 7.30pm at The Old School, Lowgill.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm Signed Date.....