Tarleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 23rd July 2020 at 2.30pm at the Pavilion, Carr Lane, Tarleton Under Government Covid-19 arrangements

Present
Cllrs. Latham; R Bryan; S Bryan; Evans; Forrest; Lockwood; Mee and Sutton.
No members of the public were present.

2020/001 Chairman's welcome and opening remarks
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting in such unusual times.

2020/002 Apologies for absence: Cllrs. Baybutt and Wareing

2020/003 Notifications of Interests: None.

2020/004 Minutes of the last meeting
It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2020 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2020/005 Clerks Report (for information only)

a) Acland Bracewell – no response to the Clerks email 23.5.20 (cc TPC members) covering current and potential leases. We now have a Woodland Plan and ideas on Landscape Feasibility. All potential CIL projects.
b) Linear Park – No contact from Hesketh with Becconsall PC about possible plans. Issues with private land around the boatyard at Plox Brow would need to be considered before progressing the project. Again, a potential CIL project.
c) PWLB Loans- Early repayment of TPC long standing loans is not financially beneficial. To quote PWLB: "the terms for accepting early repayment will apply. The terms will not favour the borrower over the National Loans Fund".
d) Speed cameras – LCC have all the detailed requests from TPC. We are awaiting approval and costings for posts. The virus and staffing issues have impacted their ability to respond.
e) Public Rights of Way – The LCC grant is now £500 per annum for maintenance to be organised by TPC. There is an issue with missing sign on 8-16-FP1. Members declined to pay for its replacement out of this grant.
f) Bus Shelters – Windgate –The long running question of ownership of the shelter on the Liverpool to Preston side has been resolved. WLBC have now confirmed it can be passed to TPC for ownership and future maintenance. As regards new shelters LCC have our requests. They have responded saying there is a need for on-site meetings. These can't happen at moment due to the virus.

2020/006 Financial Matters
(a) It was resolved that the payments listed should be approved.

(b) Items of income received since last meeting:

(c) Members resolved to approve the Annual Financial statement to 31st March 2020

(d) Annual Rents: In view of the current Covid crisis and hence inactivity, Members resolved to agree a payment holiday of 12 months for the Football and Cricket Clubs who both pay fixed annual rents for the use of the facilities at Carr Lane.

2020/007 Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20
It was resolved to receive the report of the internal auditor and to note that there were no matters arising in the report.

2020/008 Annual Governance Statement 2019/20
It was resolved that the Chairman and Clerk sign Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 being part of the annual External Audit for the year ending 31 March 2020.

2020/009 Accounting Statements 2019/20
It was resolved that the Chairman and Clerk sign Section 2 Accounting Statements 2019/20 being part of the annual External Audit for the year ending 31 March 2020.

2020/010 Planning Matters
Weekly planning applications considered:

a) 2020/0403/FUL 16 The Beeches, Tarleton
b) 2020/0435/FUL Marshals Farm, Middle Meanygate, Tarleton

It was resolved that no representation should be made on any of the applications.

2020/011 Woodland Management Plan
As part of the lease for Carr Heys Plantation the Parish Council was required to undertake a woodland management plan. The Planning and Environment Department of STRI Group was commissioned by the Parish Council to prepare a woodland management plan for Carr Heys to enhance the woodland for biodiversity and recreational purposes.

The woodland management plan has also been commissioned as part of the developing Tarleton Masterplan which provides a broad vision for several different elements within the Parish. The masterplan ties into the emerging Local Development Plan and will bring together the different land uses within the Parish to create a more cohesive and joined-up approach for future land use, management and development. It has been agreed that to be effective and functional, any future plans for the wider area must consider the ecological interests for the purposes of enhancing local biodiversity and the health and well-being of the community.

Recognising and investing in a wider and more connected landscape strategy is an ongoing objective for the Parish and this will form the basis of the woodland management plan. Scope and structure of the woodland management plan the woodland management plan sets out recommendations for habitat creation, long-term management of the woodland, and monitoring measures that should be taken to enhance the nature conservation and recreational value of the woodland. A five-year work schedule has been prepared which is capable of being rolled forward over a 5-10-year period.

Members resolved to adopt the plan as presented and proactively consider how the work schedule can be implemented.

2020/012 Donation Request
The local Covid-19 Mutual Support Group, Hesketh Bank and Tarleton Helpers, is requesting a grant from Tarleton Parish Council in the sum of £300.
Principally this money was to be used for the production of a newsletter for foreign workers in the area.

Members questioned whether this was good use of public money given their own knowledge of what was happening in the area in keeping foreign workers updated, not least through digital platforms. Members were happy to meet the Helper Group to start a dialogue of how the Council could better support their activities at this time.

2020/013 The Gravel Mere Brow – Traffic and Parking Issues
Cllr Evans reported the following as regards <u>traffic issues</u>:
Cllr Joan Witter has lodged a formal complaint with Lancashire Constabulary (ref: LC. 20200626-0706) regarding traffic problems along The Gravel in Mere Brow.
Since the closure of the Runner Plat Bridge all farm vehicles, tractors and HGV's, off Tarleton Moss now travel past Mere Brow Primary School, along The Gravel and out onto Marshes Lane.
There have been several accidents outside of the school gates, the latest a couple of days ago involving a motorcycle and a van. Despite many alternatives to the closure being suggested by local residents and indeed the farmers themselves the closure went ahead with the anticipated problems now evident.

The local MP has written to LCC and Lancashire Constabulary expressing her concern regarding the traffic issues. She will inform us when they reply and is willing to visit the school to see first-hand the problems arising from the increased vehicular movements through the village.

<u>Parking</u>:
Members requested that the Clerk contact LCC asking that parking regulations be urgently instated from Mere Brow Smithy, around the blind bend and ending at the bus stop opposite the Legh Arms on The Gravel.
It was noted that Legh Arms customers often find that the pub car park is full and they opt to park anywhere along the main road, including the blind bend, causing potential accident problems.

2020/014 Christmas Decorations
The Parish Council has set aside a budget of £7000. This is to include annual cost payable to Lancashire CC for erection of the lights (£1400) and Plantscape Ltd for the solar trees (£2500). A balance of circa £3000 is available to invest in new displays. Cllrs Evans and Bryan will research possibilities for the purchase of new lights.

2020/015 Policies
Member resolved to adopt the following policies:

a) Scheme of Delegation
b) CCTV Policy
c) Data Breach Policy
d) Data Protection Policy
e) Subject Access Requests Policy
f) General Privacy Notice
g) Freedom of Information Policy

Dates for further review of each policy is included within the text of the documents.

2020/016 Next Meeting
Due to the on-going pandemic this will be determined at a later date.