**Present:** Councillors: Mrs P. Crathorne **(Chairman)** Dr. S. Drew **(Vice Chairman)**

Mrs M. Walker; Mr P. Mayhew; Mr T. Hall; Mrs. P. Drew; Mr R. Vaughan; Mrs V. Parnaby

Mrs J. Snowball

*In attendance: Parish Clerk: Mr D. Snowball*

*County Councillor: not present*

**67\_****23/24** **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors: -

Mrs M Poole, Mr R. Poole, Mrs J. Grafton

*and council noted and accepted the apologies.*

Councillor Mr P. Metcalfe was not present.

**68\_23/24** **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest.

**69\_23/24** **MEMBERS DISPENSATION**

The Clerk informed the meeting that there were no dispensations for this meeting.

It was noted that there were no dispensations.

**70\_23/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Two members of public were present.

*Resident ‘A’*

Asked what the progress was on the external noticeboards and council Facebook page.

The clerk responded that the external noticeboards were on order and should be received early in October and that the Facebook page should be in place within the next two weeks, subject to workload.

**71\_23/24** **MINUTES**

1. ORDINARY meeting held on; Monday 10th July 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Dr S Drew and seconded by Councillor T Hall and it was;

***RESOLVED:***

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 10th July 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at this meeting.

1. ALLOTMENT SUBCOMMITTEE meeting held on; Monday 17th July 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Dr S. Drew and seconded by Councillor Mrs P Drew and it was;

***RESOLVED:***

To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Allotment Subcommittee and (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere.

**72\_23/24** **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

County Councillor Mrs E. Peeke was not present at this meeting.

*Members noted this.*

**73\_23/24** **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman informed the meeting that she was working with a representative from Tarmac to resolve an issue with heavy lorries being parked in the old bus depot up from the Community Centre. She asked members to be vigilant and if they noticed any application for the location to inform her of this as the community do not want heavy lorries going through the village.

*Members noted this and would respond if required.*

**74\_23/24** **POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (pact)**

Councillor Mr T. Hall informed the meeting that he had several updates due to council being in recess. The police and County Councillor had not attended the last PACT meeting.

The PACT meeting had been informed of a serious issue whereby threats had been made to staff at Cornforth House, thankfully the offender was apprehended and has been accordingly dealt with.

Incidents of arson and car damage had occurred and the Police have stepped up patrols in relevant areas.

Several issues had been raised/discussed including abandoned vehicles, youths throwing newspapers around in the Oaks area, and motorcycles/quad bikes had been seen.

The street warden activity and what they do was also raised.

Councillor Hall informed members that if they wished to have copies of the detailed information that he had then if they contacted him, he would provide copies.

Councillor Dr S Drew also requested that the Parish Clerk writes a letter to the chief constable and copies in the Police Crime Commissioner expressing the concerns and disappointment at the lack of attendance at the most recent P.A.C.T. meeting of the community support officer and the street wardens and associated reports of their work in the community. It is felt that we are getting nowhere directly when contacting people and draw attention to these concerns and the disappointment felt by the lack of actions and engagement.

*Members received and noted the updates and the clerk will send the concerns as requested.*

**75\_23/24** **AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Mrs P Crathorne informed the meeting that the County Council had updated the AAP meeting on the councils Medium Term Financial Plan. And are carry out on line consultations on this. It is possible that there may be a 4.99% council tax increase in the next financial year. Councillor Crathorne had expressed her concern on the financial impact this would have on middle earners who were already being stretched to a financial breaking point. The police had explained that crime was down and the offender who had threatened staff at the Cornforth Partnership had received a prison term. The AAP are being changed in 2025 and will not be board led, they will be community led. 19 applications for approximately £350,000 had been received for consideration but the area budget is only £250,000. A decision on the successful applicants will be made within a week or two.

*Members received and noted the updates.*

**76\_23/24** **CLERKS UPDATES**

The clerk provided the following updates for information only: -

Members received details of a letter of thanks from the great north air ambulance service for the recent £500 donation.

The clerk had received an email from Northern Power Grid saying they have been trying to get in touch in connection with details in connection with the unmetered power supply for the tree rope and up lights in the green areas as well as the Christmas motifs located on the lampposts in the high street that are owned and maintained by Durham County Council. Discussions are ongoing with officers from the county council to resolve this issue.

*Members received and noted the updates.*

**77\_23/24** **MEMORIAL PARK PLAY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS**

Report of the clerk informing members of necessary and preferred repairs to the play equipment in the memorial park as identified from monthly inspections carried out by Durham County Council as part of a service level agreement with the parish council.

It was proposed by Councillor Mr T. Hall and seconded by Councillor Mrs V. Parnaby and it was;

**RESOLVED:**

That the clerk confirms the acceptance of the quotation for the provision of the repairs as identified in the report.

**78\_23/24** **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE’S CHAIRMANSHIP GUIDANCE**

Report of the clerk requesting members consider, agree, and adopt the proposed guidance included in the report as Appendix ‘1’.

Councillor Mrs M. Walker said that the information in connection with quoracy was wrong and the clerk and several councillors tried to explain that it was correct, and Councillor Walker did not accept this and at the point of voting abstained.

All other members voted in favour to accept the document and it was proposed by Councillor Mr T. Hall and seconded by Councillor Ms J. Snowball and it was;

**RESOLVED:**

That the council committee’s chairmanship guidance is adopted and all members refer to this especially if they have an interest in being a chairman / vice chairman in the future.

**79\_23/24** **WORKING GROUPS PROTOCOL**

Report of the clerk requesting members consider, agree, and adopt the proposed working group protocol as included in the report as Appendix ‘1’

It was proposed by Councillor Mr T. Hall and seconded by Councillor Dr S Drew and it was;

**RESOLVED:**

That the council Working Group Protocol is adopted.

**80\_23/24** **PLANNING**

There were no planning matters for consideration at this meeting.

**81\_23/24** **BILL WILSON MEMORIAL PARK – MAIN SIGN PROPOSAL**

Report of the clerk requesting members consider and agree the design and wording of a sign to be placed at the three main entry points to the memorial park in connection with dogs on a lead.

Following discussion on the proposal, amendments were discussed and agreed as well as additional signage for fenced in areas of play equipment in the park informing that under eights must be always supervised.

Councillor Mrs M. Walker abstained from voting on this item.

All other members voted in favour to accept the outcome of the discussions and it was proposed by Councillor Mr T. Hall and seconded by Councillor Mr P. Mayew and it was;

***RESOLVED***

That the three main signs, as amended, and additional signs for fenced in areas are ordered and installed. Delegation was given to the clerk and chairman to discuss and agree the most appropriate final locations for the signs.

**82\_23/24 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS (June and July 2023)**

Members received the Income and Expenditure Analysis for June and July 2023 as prepared by the Parish Clerk

It was proposed by councillor Dr S. Drew and seconded by councillor Mr T. Hall and it was;

***RESOLVED***

To receive and approve the Income and Expenditure Analysis for both June and July 2023 and for them to be signed by the Chairman Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne.

**83\_23/24** **BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT (June and July 2023)**

Members received the Bank Reconciliation Statement for June and July 2023 as prepared by the Parish Clerk.

It was proposed by Councillor Dr S. Drew and seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Drew and it was;

***RESOLVED***

To receive and approve the Bank Reconciliation statement for June and July 2023 and for them to be signed by the Chairman Councillor Mrs. P. Crathorne and Councillor Mrs P. Drew in the absence of Councillor Mrs M. Poole.

84\_22/23 **QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – Quarter 1 (April – June)**

The Clerk presented the report to members for information.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Dr S. Drew and seconded by Councillor Mrs P. Drew and

***RESOLVED:***

To receive the quarterly budget monitoring update for quarter one.

***Meeting closed at 8.30pm***

Signed (Chairman):

Date: