

Evenwood & Barony Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2016

COUNCILLORS: B. Nicholson (Chair) P. Townsend
 A. Lyons O. Bogle
 R. Gibson B. Maude
 L. Brabbam
 Clerk: Martin Clark

Visitors: 4 residents whose names were recorded
Trevor Brookes – Teesdale Mercury

Public Participation:

It was agreed that one resident could speak at item 11

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were tendered and accepted for Cllr's Donovan and Elliott (work), and Cllr Prince (holiday)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2016:

RESOLVED: The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 12 January 2016 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Lyons and seconded by Cllr Townsend

4. PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2016:

The Clerk went through his report and update on the takeover of the Randolph Centre. One additional item brought to the council's attention was the severe damage done by a resident of Bank Top to the grass verges with their vehicle(s). This will be reported to DCC for action.

RESOLVED: The report was noted.

5. POLICE REPORT:

The Clerk read out a report submitted. The crime figures reported were:

Road related – 7 (horses in the road)	Violence – 3 (youths fighting/feuding families)
Animal/wildlife – 11 (all related to horses)	Anti-social behaviour – 9

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Suspicious Activity – 13	Burglary – 4 (x2 shed, outhouse, house)
Vehicle crime – 1 (theft)	Concern – 3
Theft – 1 (mobile stolen from school bus)	
Criminal damage – 4 (property damaged by stone, property damaged by air pellet, bus shelter damage, damage to vehicle)	

There was continued concern the figures for Evenwood and Ramshaw were still unacceptably high and another request will be made for the Police to attend the March meeting

6. LOCAL MAINTENANCE:

6.1 Grass verge damage at Bank Top – discussed at item 4

7. CORRESPONDANCE:

7.1 Rural Crime Issues Forum – Noted

7.2 Great North Air Ambulance – Thank you for the continued support by the council. Noted.

7.3 The Children’s Foundation – Members felt a donation could not be considered without information on the direct support that given to local people in the parish. **RESOLVED:** The Clerk will write requesting this information.

7.4 County Durham Central Heating Fund. The Clerk explained a roadshow to promote this fund will take place in the village.

8. FINANCE/ACCOUNTS:

8.1 February Financial Report

The Clerk reported one additional invoice requiring payment:

St Paul’s PCC (Venue hire)	£72.00
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RESOLVED: The February Finance Report was approved by Cllr Bogle and seconded by Cllr Lyons

9. PLANNING:

England & Lyle public consultation on a development at Kays Hall Farm, Evenwood. In principle the council support a development but concerns were raised about removing trees to develop the access from Raby Street. It was agreed to look at Tree Preservation Orders and to make a full comment should planning be submitted.

10. RANDOLPH SOCIAL WELFARE GROUND:

Currently there were no issues to report.

11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN REPORT, COURT CASE AND PARISH COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Cllr Nicholson referred to her report discussed in January and agreement the final element of her report would be discussed at this meeting.

At this point the Chair allowed Mrs Sewell to speak. Mrs Sewell gave an impassioned statement to the council alleging the council had listened to an ex parish councillor who was

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too involved personally with the 'residents' and therefore the council did not examine her issues thoroughly as it was being misdirected.

Members had agreed the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) report was factually incorrect. The Parish Council had not been given the opportunity to validate the facts.

Members discussed the role of an ex councillor where information now available following the Police investigation and court case had shown that this councillor was close to the 'residents' and had favoured them beyond what would be expected from a councillor from this council. Members heard how the councillor had misrepresented the council to DCC and had failed to declare a personal interest when matters in Windmill village were discussed in an open forum.

Members felt let down by their ex member, who now serves on a neighbouring council

RESOLVED: Following the full and frank discussion it was proposed by Cllr Bogle the parish council refer Cllr Stephen Hugill to the Standards Committee for alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Lyons.

12. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING & AGENDA ITEMS:

Tuesday 8 March 2016, 7.00pm Evenwood Church Hall

Signed.....

Dated.....

