

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on Monday 31 July 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr R Clayton – Chairman
Cllr R Neale
Cllr Plunkett
Cllr Turner (from Minute 6)

Mrs J Markham – Clerk

In attendance: District Cllr D Pighills
Cty Cllr R Heseltine

Public: 6 (to Minute 5); 4 (Minutes 6 to end)

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllr Billing; absence approved.

2. Disclosure of Interests

Members were invited to disclose any interests (including any not already listed in the Register of Interests) relevant to the business of the meeting, and, in respect of a disclosable interest (previously registered or not), to request dispensation pursuant to the Council's Code of Conduct to participate in the business under discussion and vote on the matter.

Relevant Interests disclosed: Cllr Neale – personal interest in agenda item 5 (owner of neighbouring property)

Additional Interests disclosed: None.

Dispensation Requests received: Received from Cllr Neale, with reference to agenda item 5.

RESOLVED: "That a dispensation to participate in the discussion and vote on the matter set out at agenda item 5 (Planning Applications) be granted to Cllr Neale on the grounds that the number of members otherwise prohibited from taking part in the meeting would impede the transaction of the business."

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 June 2017

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 29 June 2017 were taken as read, approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

(i) Local Plan The Clerk reported that comments had been submitted as regards the impact of housing allocations on the viability of rural schools, and as regards affordable housing requirements.

(ii) Grass-cutting Cllr Neale gave an update on verges maintenance over the last month. It was reported that arrangements were working well, with a team of 5 trained members now in place, but that both the mower and strimmer were in need of minor maintenance.

RESOLVED (1): “That the Clerk be authorised to organise a mid-season service, and repairs as necessary, for the Council-owned mowing machinery.”

RESOLVED (2): “That, as authorised at the meeting held on 18 May 2017 (Minute 9(ii) refers), expenditure of £22.43 (within the authorised budget of £200) on equipment for use by the verge cutting team be approved.”

(iii) Road Safety The Clerk reported that alternative costings for road signs had not yet been received. This would be followed up by the Chairman.

(iv) Audit The audit 2016/17 had been concluded, and the statutory notices were being displayed on the noticeboards and website.

5. Planning

(i) Meadowcroft House – Tree Works

It was noted that, in view of the number of objections submitted by local residents, the planning officer had issued a 7-day notice on the application.

RESOLVED: “That comments be presented to the planning authority objecting to the proposed tree works at Meadowcroft House, on the grounds that, in the conservation area, mature trees should be retained and sympathetically maintained wherever possible, and that the District Council Ward Representative be requested to call the application in for consideration by the Planning Committee accordingly.”

It was confirmed that Cllr Neale would represent the views of the Council at the Planning Committee meeting.

- (ii) Land at Draughton Heights – Forestry Building with yard
No objection to be made, but comments to be submitted in relation to ensuring adequate landscaping and screening of the structure.

6. Co-option to Casual Vacancy

It was RESOLVED:

“THAT Mrs Turner be and she is hereby appointed to the casual vacancy on the Council with immediate effect.”

Cllr Turner signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form in the presence of the Clerk to the Council and was provided with a form for the notification of interests for completion and return to the District Council.

7. Financial Matters

- (i) The month’s accounts were approved for payment, and cheques were signed as required.
- (ii) The monitoring statement and Bank Reconciliation to 30 June 2017 were received and noted.
- (iii) It was reported that grant of £864 had been received from the Transparency Fund 2017/18. In this regard, the Clerk was asked to research the costs of upgrading the Council computer.

8. Consultations and Correspondence

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, and action agreed as follows:

- (i) Craven District Community Governance Review – item deferred to the next meeting.
- (ii) North Yorkshire County Council consultation “Working Better Together” – item deferred to the next meeting.
- (iii) It was noted the Council was now registered on the Parish Portal online system for recording and tracking highways issues.

9. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on **Thursday** 14 September 2017 at **7.00pm** in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Chairman