

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 9 March 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr E M Curtis - Chairman
Cllr M Billing
Cllr R Clayton
Cllr S Plunkett
Mrs J Markham – Clerk

In attendance: Cty Cllr R Heseltine
District Cllr G Quinn
Local Electors – 1

Absent: Cllr W Bell

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr W Bell

Reasons for absence (for personal reasons) approved.

2. Disclosure of Interests

Members were invited to disclose any interests (not already listed in the Register of Interests) relevant to the business of the meeting, and, in respect of a disclosable pecuniary 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.

Additional Interests disclosed: None.

Dispensation Requests received: None.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 February 2016

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10 February 2016 were taken as read, approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

- (i) Superfast Broadband Cllr Plunkett reported that Boundless (formerly LNC Communications) had contacted him to indicate that the wireless superfast service could be available in the village during April.
- (ii) Locality Fund – Application for Defibrillator The Clerk reported that the Dales Care Home had not yet responded to the invitation to contribute to the cost of purchasing a defibrillator, but that the application to the Locality Fund had been successfully submitted and grant funding of £750 was to be made available, subject to completion and return of an acknowledgement letter.

It was RESOLVED: “That the Clerk be authorised to arrange for the execution and return of a letter to North Yorkshire County Council acknowledging the pledge of a grant of £750 from the Locality Fund for the purpose of buying a defibrillator for the village.”

The Clerk reported further that an application to Craven District Council had been made for 50% of the remainder of the sum required (£1500 budgeted). Research had been carried out to identify the best model to buy and the means of installing it.

- (iii) Patron’s Lunch 12 June It was confirmed that, at the joint meeting (with the Village Hall Trustees, together with the Rector and Curate) which had taken place immediately after the Council meeting in February, preliminary ideas for celebrating the Queen’s Birthday on 12 June had been discussed. It had been decided not to take part in the beacon lighting event on 21 April, and Beamsley parish meeting had been informed accordingly.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Chair of the Village Hall Trustees for an electronic copy of the leaflet currently being distributed to advertise the celebration on 12 June, in order that details could be placed on the website.

In this regard, it was also noted that commemorative medals were to be made available to schools and local councils, and it was suggested that the Village Hall Trustees could use them as prizes for competitions being organised as part of the Patron's Lunch celebrations on 12 June; this would be followed up with the Trustees by the Clerk.

5. Planning

(i) Online Petition – Right to Appeal

The Clerk reported that Yorkshire Local Councils Association had circulated an online petition to request the right for affected third parties, including local councils, to appeal planning decisions. The petition could be signed by the Parish Council as a body, and also by individual councilors. After discussion, it was RESOLVED:

“That the Parish Council sign an online petition requesting that third parties affected by planning decisions have the right of appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.”

(ii) Chelker House Farm and Upper Whitewell Farm – Notice of Appeal

It was reported that an appeal had been made to the Secretary of State by the applicant against the refusal of planning permission for two wind turbines at Chelker House Farm and Upper Whitewell Farm. Written representations were invited, and could take the form of comments, or modification or withdrawal of a respondent's previous submission. In view of the complexity of the issue, and the statutory timescale for comments to be submitted, it was RESOLVED:

“THAT the Clerk be authorised to submit a representation, concerning the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for two wind turbines at Chelker House Farm and Upper Whitewell Farm, to the Planning Inspectorate, if thought fit, following consultation with members outside the meeting.”

6. Financial Regulations

The Clerk reported that updated draft Financial Regulations, circulated to members with the agenda, were recommended for adoption by all member councils to ensure adherence to proper practices. A schedule setting out a timetable for financial reporting and approvals under the Regulations was tabled. It was then RESOLVED:
“THAT the revised model Financial Regulations, dated January 2016, be adopted with immediate effect.”

7. Internal Auditor

The re-appointment of Mr Charles Burton as Internal Auditor to the Council for audit of the financial accounts 2015/16 was approved.

8. Other Financial Matters

(1) Payments made (as authorised) in the month: None this month

(2) The month's accounts were approved for payment as follows:

- (i) Clerk's salary – 3 months January-March
- (ii) Expenses - £31.98
- (iii) Village Hall – £20 (2 meetings February and March)

(3) The Clerk reported on quotations received for the renewal of the grass-cutting contract for the 2016 season. It was then RESOLVED (Proposed: the Vice-Chairman; seconded: Cllr Plunkett):

“THAT the quotation from ISS Facilities for the cutting of the village green and verges at the top of the village to the A65 junctions during the 2016 season be approved in the sum of £972 (+VAT), and that the Clerk be authorised to finalise terms with the contractor accordingly.”

The Clerk was also asked to write to householders on Low Lane notifying them that the Highways verges outside their properties would not be cut this season.

9. Membership Subscriptions

It was agreed to renew the subscriptions to the Society of Local Council Clerks, to the Yorkshire Local Councils Association, to Rural Action Yorkshire, and to SELRAP, and the Clerk was authorised to make payments to the organisations accordingly, provided that the membership fee in each case was in line with budgetary provision.

10. Election Timetable

The Clerk reported that the timetable for notice of the local elections, due to be held on 5 May, would start to run on 30 March, with the first day for receipt of nominations on 31 March.

11. Correspondence

- (i) Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan Gargrave parish council were consulting on their draft Neighbourhood Plan, published on their website, and online comments were invited.
- (ii) E-Correspondence Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted.
- (iii) Other correspondence The Clerk reported on other correspondence received – the next Parishes Liaison Meeting was to be held on 16 March; SELRAP’s AGM had been held on 9 March; and RAY had launched a new winter project “Well and Warm in North Yorkshire”.

12. Date of next Council Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 13 April 2016

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman