

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 14 December 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr S Plunkett – Vice-Chairman, in the Chair
Cllr M Billing
Cllr R Neale

Mrs J Markham – Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from the Chairman and Cllr Turner; absences 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: None.

Additional Interests disclosed: None.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2017

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16 November 2017 were taken as read, approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

- (i) Christmas Tree It was noted that the Village Hall Trustees had now put up a tree in the churchyard.
- (ii) Police Community Messaging It was noted that the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator had registered to receive community messages, and those relevant for the village were being circulated by means of the village email contact list.
- (iii) Community Speed Watch Alternative quotations for village signs aimed at encouraging careful driving through the village had yet to be received, but the suggestion of putting up signs would be

reviewed at the next meeting, along with other concerns regarding parking and traffic safety in the village. It was agreed that proposals to promote other safety improvements, including double yellow lines and a mirror at the junction at the top of Low Lane, could also be considered and the Clerk was asked to investigate costed options with Highways.

5. Planning

The following matter was noted:

- (i) Tree works: application made for removal of an ash tree at Howgill House.

The following matter was discussed:

- (ii) Land at the top of the village (opposite the Old Post Office) – a revised application was still expected in the New Year.

It was also noted that an application had been submitted for a barn conversion at Matchless House (Ref: 2017/18752/COU). The Clerk was asked to request an extension to the consultation period to allow time for the application to be considered at the next meeting; if necessary, an extraordinary meeting would be convened to consider the matter on 28 December.

6. Draft Budget and Precept 2018/19

The Clerk presented the draft Budget Statement 2018/19, amended since the date of the last meeting in order to make provision for the costs of replacement LED lights in the footway lights, as recommended by NYCC. It was noted that, if approved, the precept would give rise to an increase of £6.40 (17%) in the charge for an average Band D property, compared with the charge in 2017/18. It was also noted that the budget for the Clerk's salary from 1 April 2018 was based on the NALC/Society of Local Council Clerks 2016-18 recommended hourly rate of £9.05 (at spinal point SCP16), for 19 hours per month.

It was RESOLVED:

“THAT the draft Budget 2018/19, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as an Appendix, be approved, and that it be used as the basis for setting the Parish Precept 2018/19 in order that sufficient funds be made available for budgeted expenditure, taking account also of the level of funds available as carried forward from previous financial years and with a view to managing any potential increase in local taxation, and that the Clerk be authorised to complete the precept form accordingly and arrange for its signature by the Vice-Chairman and two other members.”

It was agreed that the costs of cutting the village green would be re-tendered in the Spring.

7. Village Newsletter – January 2018

Draft copy for the next edition of the village newsletter had been circulated. It was suggested that an “opt-out” for receipt of paper copies of future editions could be included, and a website link set up for online access to all newsletters produced to date.

It was RESOLVED: “THAT printing costs of £120 be approved for the production of the next edition of the village newsletter, and that the Clerk be authorised to finalise the content and organise printing and distribution during January 2018.”

8. Other Financial Matters

The month’s accounts were approved for payment, including the annual donation to Citizens’ Advice Bureau, as authorised at the meeting, and cheques were signed as required.

9. Consultations and Correspondence

Newsletters and emails circulated for information, including notices from NYCC concerning the replacement of sodium street and footway lights with LED lights, and emailed notification of external audit arrangements due to apply for the 2017/18 audit, were noted, and the following matters were discussed:

- (i) Broadband – the Vice-Chairman reported on his recent exchange of emails with Boundless. The potential offer of an alternative superfast solution for outlying village properties would be investigated further with the District Council.
- (ii) World War I event – details of the beacon-lighting proposals had been circulated, and it was noted that the village newsletter would be used to request ideas for marking the event in Draughton; these could include a themed event in the village hall.

10. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on 11 January at 7pm in the village hall. The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Chairman