

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 13 July 2020 via a remote meeting platform at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr A Mole - Chairman
Cllr M Billing (from Minute 6)
Cllr J Garnett
Cllr R Neale
Cllr A Turner
Mrs J Markham – Clerk

In attendance:
Public - 1

1. Standing Orders

An Addendum to Standing Orders, as circulated to Members and published on the Council's website, was approved for use during such time as Council meetings needed to be held remotely.

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. 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.

4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 March 2020

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 March 2020, together with the Clerk's report, for information, on matters arising, were taken as read, and the Minutes were approved as a true and correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk's Report on Matters Arising was read out to the meeting and noted.

As regards weed clearance on the village verges, Cllr Neale noted that NYCC's waste disposal fees at the Skibeden site would be reviewed in the Autumn, with a view to considering proceeding with an order for clearance works in early March 2021.

5. Scheme of Delegation

It was RESOLVED:

- (1) "THAT decisions taken by the Clerk under the Scheme of Delegation dated 16 March 2020, as reported to Council and published on the Council's website, be ratified."
- (2) "THAT the Scheme of Delegation dated 16 March 2020 remain in force until such time as the Council should determine otherwise."

6. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20

The Report of the Internal Auditor 2019/20 was received and noted. It was noted that the auditor had no matters to raise with the Council, following his annual audit of the Council's financial records and procedures, that, in his view, the records and systems of internal control were adequate and effective, and that accounting information shown in the Annual Return had been correctly stated.

The Statement of Receipts and Payments 2019/20, as circulated to Members, was noted.

Taking the assurances of the Internal Auditor into account, it was RESOLVED:

- (1) "THAT the Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 be approved for signature by the Chairman and Clerk."
- (2) "THAT the Accounting Statements 2019/20, as signed by the Responsible Financial Officer, be approved for signature by the Chairman."
- (3) "THAT the Clerk be authorised to set the period for the exercise of public rights, and to publish information on the website, as required under the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities."

The Chairman on behalf of the Council thanked the Internal Auditor for his support on the accounts throughout the year.

7. External Audit 2019/2019

The Clerk noted that, pursuant to s.9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, since neither gross income nor gross expenditure for the year of account ending 31 March 2020 exceeded £25000, the Council was eligible to certify itself as exempt from limited assurance review by external auditors. It was accordingly RESOLVED:

“THAT a Certificate of Exemption be completed, notifying the external auditor that during the financial year 2019/2019 the higher of the authority’s gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000.”

8. Register of Assets

The updated register of the Council’s asset holdings, as circulated to Members, was reviewed and noted.

9. Risk Policy

The updated Risk Policy and Risk Assessments, as circulated to Members, were reviewed and confirmed.

10. Planning

The Clerk reported, for information, on outstanding planning matters, and it was noted that decisions were still awaited as regards the following applications for development:

- (i) Housing development at top of the village (Ref 2018/18883/FUL)
- (ii) Land at Draughton Heights (Ref 2019/20400/FUL)
- (iii) East Berwick Farm (Ref 2020/21594/FUL)

11. Consultations, Correspondence and Members’ Discussion Forum

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted. Cllr Neale reported on residents’ concerns with speeding cyclists passing through the village, and also noted that work continued on assembling information to forward to the District Council’s Environmental Health Officers on pest control in the village.

12.Dates of next Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 7 September at 7pm, convened as necessary subject to further and ongoing guidance from the Government and the principal authority on public meetings during the pandemic crisis.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Chairman