

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 14 December 2020 via a remote meeting platform at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr A Mole - Chairman
Cllr M Billing
Cllr J Garnett
Cllr R Neale
Cllr A Turner
Mrs J Markham – Clerk

In attendance:
Public - 4

1. Apologies for Absence

None

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 Council Meeting held on 9 November 2020

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 November 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.

4. Scheme of Delegation

It was RESOLVED:

- (1) "THAT decisions taken by the Clerk since the date of the last meeting 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."

5. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report on ongoing items of business was presented to the meeting. It was noted that a replacement dog waste bin for the top of Donkey Neddy had been delivered, and that a donation had been made for the Christmas tree, put up in front of the church on 28 November. It was also reported that the Council's letter of support for the District Council's proposals for local government reorganisation had been sent and an acknowledgement received. The competing proposals put forward by both the District and County authorities were now being considered by the Government for a decision in the New Year.

The following matters were discussed and noted, with matters being agreed, as appropriate, as follows:

- (i) Telephone Kiosk Mini Library – an email consultation had been initiated to seek residents' views on possible improvements to shelving and display equipment in the kiosk in order to facilitate the organisation of the "mini-library". This would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.
- (ii) Capital expenditure – the draft budget having been amended to enable expenditure on village improvements (see Minute 7 below), an initial application had been made via the Ward Representative to the County Council's community grant scheme for support towards the cost of replacing the Jubilee bench on the green. A paper describing a number of suitable products available in the required price range had been circulated, and it was agreed to focus further market research on looking at benches in the 6' range, made out of the most waterproof and durable materials.
It was RESOLVED: "THAT formal application be made to North Yorkshire County Council's Locality Grant Scheme for financial support of £500 towards the cost of a replacement bench for the Village Green, and that the Chairman and Cllr Neale be authorised to sign the form on behalf of the Council."

6. Planning

- (i) The Clerk reported, for information, on planning matters, and it was noted that consent had been refused for tree works at High Barn, and that a decision was still awaited on the following application:

Land at Draughton Heights (Ref 2019/20400/FUL)

At the invitation of the Chairman, a local resident outlined potential proposals for development at Field House Farm, involving conversion of the barn off the bridleway to Bolton Abbey for residential use. The possible plans were noted and the resident was thanked for his attendance at the meeting to introduce pre-application consultation with the community.

- (ii) An application for change of use of the site owned by the heritage railway at Draughton Bottom was considered. After discussion, during which comments submitted by residents were taken into account, it was RESOLVED: “THAT an objection be made to proposals for change of use of land off Low Lane (Ref 2020/22012/FUL) and that material concerns relating to access issues and inappropriate over-development of the site for industrial purposes be raised with the planning authority.”

7. Precept and Budget 2021/22

The draft of the Budget 2021/22, as amended after discussion at the November meeting, was received and proposals for the precept were considered and discussed.

It was noted that, if approved, the precept, even though set to raise funds at the same level as in 2020/21, would give rise to a small increase in the charge for an average Band D property, compared with the charge in 2020/21, because of changes in the local tax base.

It was RESOLVED:

- (1) “THAT the draft Budget 2021/22, 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 2021/22 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 Chairman and two other members.”
- (2) “THAT funds of £300 be earmarked from the Council’s bank reserves for the purpose of providing a contribution towards the costs of capital works and amenity improvements in the village in 2021.”

8. Authorised Signatories

The list of authorised bank signatories was reviewed, and it was noted that current signatories were as follows:

Cllr R Neale

Cllr A Turner

The Clerk

It was agreed to add another signatory to enable more flexible use of online banking systems.

It was RESOLVED: “THAT the Chairman, Cllr A Mole, be and he is hereby appointed as an authorised signatory for use of the Council’s Bank Account with immediate effect.”

The relevant change of mandate process would be completed outside the meeting, and instructions provided to the Council’s Bank accordingly.

9. St Augustine’s Church

At the invitation of the Chairman, a member of the public, representing the Church, presented a report on plans to explore the use of renewable energy technology in the church building, initially by means of applying for grant funding to support a feasibility study.

The Council expressed broad support for the initiative, which could also include investigation of an electric vehicle charging point on the wall of the churchyard.

10. Consultations, Correspondence and Members’ Discussion Forum

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, including an email from the Parks Authority giving details on its response to the challenges of climate change. A notice concerning the 2021 Census, due to be carried out largely online on 21 March 2021, was noted.

It was also reported that a resident had proposed looking into options for additional tree planting in the area, possibly in conjunction with members of the local farming community. This would be kept under review, once the Government’s intentions for subsidies for rural businesses had been finalised.

A brief discussion was held concerning difficulties experienced in accessing material on the village website, and the Clerk was asked to check on its performance with the website designers.

11. Dates of next Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on a date to be arranged in February 2021, convened as necessary subject to further and

ongoing guidance from the Government and the principal authority on public meetings during the pandemic crisis.
A schedule of possible meeting dates for the calendar year 2021 would be circulated for consideration at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Chairman