

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 8 February 2021 **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:
Cty Cllr R Heseltine

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: Cllr Garnett – personal interests in planning applications 2020/22376/FUL & 2019/20400/FUL as neighbouring landowner

Additional Interests disclosed: None.

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 December 2020

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 December 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 decision from the Government was awaited as regards proposals for local government reorganisation in the County. The Clerk also reported that an application had now been made, via Holy Trinity Church, for grant support towards the costs of a feasibility study into investment in renewable energy systems in St Augustine’s church.

The following matters were discussed and noted:

- (i) New bench on village green – it was reported that grant funding of £500 had now been received for expenditure in the Spring on a suitable replacement bench. The choice of product would be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.
- (ii) Authorised signatories – arrangements for the new online signatories had been set up, and the Chairman’s form was due to be submitted to the Bank shortly.
- (iii) Website – upgrades for the website had been commissioned and the functioning of the site was being tested.
- (iv) Precept – the forms had been submitted to the billing authority.

6. Elections May 2021

Arising from the Clerk’s Report, key dates for the local elections, currently due to be held on 6 May, were discussed. With the number of seats on the Council increasing from 5 to 7, it was agreed to encourage nominations by means of posts and articles on the website, in social media and in the Spring newsletter, in which the possibility of holding a (remote) public meeting would be put forward to publicise the role of the local council and promote community interest.

7. Planning

- (i) The Clerk reported, for information, on planning matters, and it was noted that no comments had been submitted on the application for tree works at 2 Meadowcroft.

Cllr Garnett withdrew from the discussion for the following 2 items of business

(ii) East Berwick Farm (Ref. 2020/22376/FUL)

The revised planning application was considered, and the proposed development compared with the prior application made in May 2020 (Ref. 2020/21594/FUL), to which the Parish Council had objected. After discussion, it was agreed that the new proposals had introduced improvements in the design such that the impact on the local setting and views was lessened; however, it was considered that, as a new build in open countryside at this location, there could nevertheless be continuing concerns as regards compliance with Local Plan policies. A proposal was made by Cllr Billing for the Council to object to the new build, on the grounds that alternative plans should be required for restoration and preservation of as much of the original traditional features of the farmhouse as possible, but after discussion this proposal was not supported; however, a related proposal seeking to respect the working relationship of the homestead with its rural location was agreed.

It was RESOLVED (Cllr Billing dissenting):

“THAT, while not objecting to the principle of development at East Berwick Farm, the Parish Council note the particular proposals for property demolition and replacement works, as set out in application Ref. 2020/22376/FUL, and submit comments to the planning authority to express continuing concerns with these plans for new build in open countryside in conflict with relevant Local Plan policies, NPPF guidance and the Draughton 2002 Landscape Appraisal; further, that the Clerk be instructed to request that, in the event that the planning authority should be minded to approve the application, the inclusion of a planning condition relating to a live/work unit should be considered in order to respect the traditional purpose of the settlement within the landscape for the benefit of the local economy.”

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

Ward Representative Cllr Heseltine reported that, unless instructions were given for the application to be considered by the District Council’s planning committee, a decision was due to be made shortly by officers under delegated powers, in receipt of a recommendation for approval of the development, with conditions. The planning officer’s recommendations, as presented by Cllr Heseltine, were discussed with reference to the concerns previously

raised by the Parish Council in responding to the consultation in 2019. The recommendations and proposed conditions raised a number of new factors for consideration, and Cllr Heseltine advised that it would be in order for the Council to request a re-consultation for this purpose.

It was RESOLVED:

“THAT continuing concerns with the proposed development of fishing lakes and associated infrastructure at land off Height Lane (Ref. 2019/20400/FUL) be recorded, that the Clerk be instructed to write to the planning authority to request a re-consultation, and that Cllr Heseltine be requested to pass instructions to the authority for the application to be called in for consideration by the planning committee under the 7-Day Notice procedures.”

The Chairman (or, if unavailable, Cllr Neale) was authorised to represent the Council at the planning committee meeting.

Cllr Garnett rejoined the business of the meeting

8. Mini Library in Telephone Kiosk

The Clerk reported that, following an email consultation with residents requesting views on improving the telephone kiosk for use as a mini library, a number of proposals for additional shelving and display equipment had been suggested.

After discussion, it was agreed to invite the residents at the Old Post Office, who were still intending to relocate the kiosk to a new position to the side of the property curtilage, to put forward costed proposals for internal improvements, including display equipment and possibly battery-powered lighting, for consideration at a future meeting.

9. Consultations, Correspondence and Members' Discussion Forum

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, including invitations from YLCA to a Craven Branch meeting on 24 February and to the 2-day conference on 21 and 22 April (to be held remotely). It was also noted that a session was to be arranged by the planning authority for parish councils concerned with the process for consulting on planning applications.

The Clerk also reported, for information, that the operators of the former Sunday bus service had invited expressions of interest from the village in resuming the service in summer 2021, but an email consultation had not indicated a viable level of take-up.

10.Dates of next Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting would provisionally be held on 8 March 2021, convened as necessary subject to further and ongoing guidance from the Government and the principal authority on public meetings during the pandemic crisis.

The proposed schedule of meeting dates for the remainder of the year was agreed, subject to revision as required.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman