

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Monday 17 May 2021 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr A Mole - Chairman (from Minute 2)
Cllr R Binks
Cllr T Coupe
Cllr B Davies
Cllr J Garnett
Cllr R Neale
Cllr A Turner
Mrs J Markham – Clerk

In attendance: District Cllr D Pighills
Cty Cllr R Heseltine

Public: 6

1. Election of Chairman

It was resolved (proposed by Cllr Turner; seconded by Cllr Garnett):
“That Councillor Mole be and he is hereby elected as Chairman of the Council with immediate effect to serve until the date of the next annual meeting.”

The Chairman’s Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and received.

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. Councillors’ Declarations of Acceptance of Office

Declarations of Acceptance of Office were received from all newly elected and re-elected councillors present at the meeting.

The Clerk noted that, with all members now duly elected and the new Council in place, a decision could be taken to renew the General Power of Competence.

4. Election of Vice-Chairman

It was resolved (proposed by Cllr Turner; seconded by Cllr Mole):

“That Councillor Garnett be and he is hereby elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council with immediate effect to serve until the date of the next annual meeting.”

5. Register of Interests

Councillors were supplied with Registration of Interests forms and confirmed that their interests, to be registered as accurate and up to date, and to be recorded in the Register of Interests held and maintained by the Council’s principal authority, would be filed with the Monitoring Officer by the due date.

6. Disclosure of Interests

Members were invited to disclose any interests (including any not already to be registered for filing in the Register of Interests) relevant to the business of the meeting, and, in respect of a disclosable pecuniary interest (to be 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.

7. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 April 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 April 2021, 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.

8. Policies and Procedures of the Council

The Council’s existing policies and procedural documents, as published on the website, were reviewed and confirmed.

The Clerk presented a revised Code of Conduct, based on a model supplied by sector bodies and adopted by the principal authority. This was approved and adopted with immediate effect.

9. Delegation to Committees and Other Local Authorities

Members were reminded that no authority was currently delegated to committees or other local authorities.

The delegation arrangements of the Council were confirmed.

10. Delegation to Clerk

It was noted that the authority currently delegated to the Clerk, as agreed at the meeting held on 16 March 2020, was set out in the Scheme of Delegation published on the website; procedures for delegated authority were also detailed in Financial Regulations.

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.”

11. Internal Auditor

It was RESOLVED: “THAT Mr C Burton be and he is hereby re-appointed as Internal Auditor to the Council for the financial year 2021/22.”

12. Clerk’s Report

The Clerk’s Report on ongoing items of business was presented to the meeting and taken as read.

The following matters were noted, and listed items discussed and agreed as follows:

- (i) Local Govt reorganisation – the Government’s formal decision on the two bids for new unitary authorities in North Yorkshire was awaited. The Parish Council’s comments had been submitted to the consultation.
- (ii) Renewable Energy – it was noted that a newsletter had been distributed to all households, providing information on the church’s initiative to investigate the adoption of green energy in the local community.
- (iii) AGAR 2020/21 – the Clerk noted that the certificate of exemption from external audit had been filed, and the dates for public inspection of the accounts had been set for the period 14 June – 23 July.
- (iv) Jubilee Bench - the Clerk reported on the results of the community email consultation on options for replacing the Jubilee bench on the village green. It was also reported that a local resident had refurbished the existing bench.

A number of additional costings for a suitable product, to be funded with grant support received from the District Council's Ward Member Grants Scheme, had also been circulated to members. After discussion, it was agreed to consider the matter further at the next meeting, allowing time for all the village benches to be inspected.

- (v) Dog waste bin on Roman road – the Clerk noted that, following further discussion with the landowner, a report from the local resident assembling evidence of need to satisfy the District Council's procedures had been received. This was discussed and, following referral for further advice to the waste management team at the principal authority, would be reviewed at the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to thank the local resident for his report.
- (vi) Telephone Kiosk and Mini Library – an oral report on the likely costs of re-installing the power supply to the telephone box, once relocated to a more accessible site for use by residents, was discussed. Detailed proposals would be made to the next meeting.

13. Planning

(i) The following matters were reported, for information:

- Field House Farm – application refused
- Croft House Farm – consent granted
- 3 The Croft – consent granted
- Village Hall tree works – supported by Parish Council; no objection made to planning authority
- Railway site at Draughton Bottom - application refused under planning officers' delegated powers; awaiting decision by Applicant as regards a possible Appeal before initiation of enforcement action to remove materials from site
- Howgill Cottage – status of extension development being followed up by planning authority
- Housing development opposite Old Post Office – Applicant's Appeal dismissed.

(ii) Land at Draughton Heights - Fishing Lakes (Ref 2019/20400/FUL)
The Clerk reported that a complaint had been formally submitted to the District Council as regards the handling of this application under the Planning Protocol. A response was awaited.

14. Consultations, Correspondence and Members' Discussion Forum

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, including a consultation on rural broadband and feedback from the Clerk concerning sessions attended on behalf of the Council at the YLCA remote conference held on 21 and 22 April. Recordings of the sessions would be circulated to councillors on request.

The Clerk was asked to respond to the NALC survey on remote meetings to record the Council's support for enabling the option for local councils to meet remotely, as appropriate, in future. As regards an ongoing survey on rural broadband, it was suggested that the next edition of the newsletter could be used to invite residents to give their feedback on the speed of service locally.

An email received from the Friends of the Dales as regards the maintenance of village verges was discussed, and Cllr Neale offered to bring a full report to the next meeting.

A notice concerning arrangements for waste collections was noted. All householders were to be notified of the changes by letter from the District Council.

15. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall on 7 June 2021

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Chairman