

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 7 June 2021 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr A Mole - Chairman
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: 7

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Disclosure of Interests

Members were invited to disclose any interests (including any not already registered in the Register of Interests) relevant to the business of the meeting, and, in respect of a disclosable pecuniary interest (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 17 May 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 May 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.

4. Scheme of Delegation

The Clerk presented a report, proposing revised transitional arrangements for delegation of limited powers to replace the Scheme of Delegation put in place in March 2020.

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 be revoked and replaced with a revised Scheme in the form as attached to these Minutes and as published on the Council’s website, such Scheme to remain in force until such time as the Council should determine otherwise.”

5. General Power of Competence

It was noted that, with all Members duly elected to the Council and with a qualified Clerk in post, the Council continued to meet legal requirements for holding the General Power of Competence.

It was RESOLVED:

“THAT, as the Council meets the conditions for eligibility for the purposes of s.8(2) of the Localism Act 2011, in that the number of members declared to be elected is greater than two-thirds of the total number of members and also that the Clerk holds the Certificate in Local Council Administration, the General Power of Competence be adopted with immediate effect.”

6. 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 discussed and agreed as follows:

- (i) Village Benches – it was reported that the Clerk and Cllr Neale, with the assistance of Ward Councillor Pighills, had inspected all 3 of the village benches and it was considered that they could all be retained for now, subject to repair and maintenance where necessary. It was agreed that, in the first instance, additional volunteers would be recruited by the Village Vergers to undertake this work. It was agreed that the bench which had already been refurbished by a nearby resident would be moved to a new location by the church gate, so that both existing Jubilee benches would be sited together. A final report with costings for a new bench for the village green, to be funded with grant support received from the District Council’s

Ward Member Grants Scheme, was then considered. After discussion, it was RESOLVED:

“THAT a new traditional hardwood village bench be procured, at a cost of approx. £500+VAT, and that the Clerk be authorised to place the order and arrange online payment accordingly.”

- (ii) Dog waste bin on Roman road – the Clerk noted that the District Council’s waste management team had agreed to install a bin for a month’s trial period. A further report on the outcome of the trial would be made to a future meeting.

7. Telephone Kiosk

The Chairman introduced a report on plans to relocate the telephone kiosk, following a meeting with the owners of the Old Post Office on 19 May. After full discussion, it was agreed that the public benefits of moving the kiosk to the proposed new location, nearer to the village noticeboard and with improved pedestrian access, justified the provision of financial support towards the costs of the move, specifically the costs of replacing the supply of power to the kiosk for winter lighting.

It was RESOLVED:

“THAT, in support of residents’ development plans to relocate the telephone kiosk outside the Old Post Office, payment of costs, estimated approx. £1200, arising mainly in connection with the supply of power for lighting but also to cover reimbursement of the costs of materials to refurbish and re-equip the kiosk, be approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to make payments against receipts and VAT invoices as appropriate.”

8. Planning

Progress, if any, as regards ongoing planning business, was noted, and the following matters were discussed:

- Draughton Heights Fishing Lakes – a formal response to the Council’s complaint had not yet been received from the planning authority, but a telephone consultation was being carried out on their behalf by consultants for the purpose of exploring planning liaison issues with Craven parishes. A report on the outcome of this consultation would be made to a future meeting.
- Field House Farm – at the invitation of the Chairman, the owners of the property reported on recent discussions with Ward Representative Cllr Heseltine as regards possible future plans to introduce a new

planning application for their principal property. The owners noted their intention to hold pre-application discussions with the Council.

9. Renewable Energy Project

At the invitation of the Chairman, a local resident reported on progress with the local churches' project to introduce low carbon heating in their buildings, including St Augustine's. Contractors had now been appointed to carry out the feasibility study and the results were to be reported later in the summer. It was noted that, once the consultants' recommendations were available, the possibility of assessing them in relation to a potential community-wide green energy project could be considered.

10. Village Verges

Cllr Neale introduced a report detailing suggested future plans and practices for maintenance of the village verges, taking account of recommendations received by the Friends of the Dales. This was discussed, and, in the light of feedback received, Cllr Neale offered to bring a further report to the next meeting, with costed proposals for the removal of weed growth and future maintenance of the verges for improved wildlife habitat. It was also agreed that the verges along the adopted highway section of the lane by the church would be added to the current schedule for maintenance by the Vergers.

11. Consultations, Correspondence and Members' Discussion Forum

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, including a letter from Highways as regards the delivery of operational services, and notice of an online presentation by the Police on cyber fraud.

Cllr Binks proposed a vote of thanks, unanimously agreed, to Ward Cllrs Pighills and Heseltine for their recent assistance in procuring road signs during the recent roadworks in Addingham which had affected local traffic flows. Members also requested a review of traffic issues at the next meeting.

12. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall on 12 July 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman