

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 13 September 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: Cty Cllr R Heseltine
District Cllr D Pighills

Public: 3

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 12 July 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 July 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.

It was noted that the Government had now approved the establishment of a new unitary authority for the area, based on the model proposed by the County Council, and that it would be implemented from April 2023. It was also noted that the new benches had now been installed by the church gate. The Clerk reported that a new LED light was to be procured for the kiosk.

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 7 June 2021, as reported to Council and published on the Council’s website, be ratified.”
- (2) “THAT the Scheme of Delegation dated 7 June 2021 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 and taken as read.

It was noted that a response had not yet been received from the planning authority as regards the Council’s formal complaint.

The following matters were discussed and agreed as follows:

- (i) Dog bin – it was reported that, following a trial period during the summer, the principal authority would be prepared to service a new bin on Heights Lane, if provided by the Parish Council. It was RESOLVED: “THAT expenditure of up to £300 be approved for the purchase of the new dog waste bin, located temporarily on Draughton Heights Lane, and that the Clerk be authorised to finalise all necessary arrangements with the District Council for its retention on site and permanent addition to the monthly servicing schedule.”
- (ii) Village Verges – Cllr Neale, with input from a local resident, reported that discussions continued with a view to treating test areas for weed clearance and wildflower seeding, and the Clerk was asked to stand ready to issue an invitation for additional voluntary help from village families.

6. Planning

The Clerk’s report on ongoing planning business was noted. The following planning decisions were noted:

- 5 Draughton Hall Farm (2021/23002/HH) – balcony extension - refused
- Farfield Farm (2021/222896/FUL) – menage - consent granted

7. Village Green

The Clerk reported that the contract for maintaining the Green was due for renewal for the 2022 season. Costed options, involving the

appointment of either a replacement lengthsmen or a local contracting company, were presented to the meeting. It was RESOLVED: “THAT NWH Contractors be appointed to cut the village green for the 2022 season at a cost of £35 per cut, as quoted, and that the Clerk be authorised to confirm arrangements and let the contract accordingly.”

8. Green Energy and Climate Change Community Initiatives

A summary report on community climate change initiatives, together with background papers and recommendations from consultants offering to support local councils in measuring and monitoring a community’s carbon footprint, had been circulated to members.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Cllr Neale, who had represented the Council at a recent meeting held with consultants working on a feasibility study into the use of green energy for St Augustine’s, reported on progress in taking this work forward. Further information was provided by a local resident representing the group of churches which had commissioned the report. It was noted that the consultants’ phase 2 report was due shortly. At this stage, recommendations for work on the church would be clearer, and it was agreed to wait to receive this report before discussing the provision of support from the Council for further community action in more detail.

In the meantime, developments in the sector and more widely would continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

9. Action Plan 2022/23

The draft Action Plan 2022/23 was received and discussed. It was agreed that contingency plans would be included for replacing the Council’s mower, and Cllr Neale offered to source a quotation from a suitable supplier. It was also noted that the new unitary government model, due to be introduced in 2023, could result, in the longer term, in opportunities for additional local service developments.

The draft Plan, as amended, would now be used to inform the process for preparing the Budget and Precept for the next financial year.

10. Newsletter

The Clerk introduced a discussion on the content of the next village newsletter. It was agreed to use the edition to focus on building

awareness for possible community climate change initiatives and also to communicate information from the police and fire services on safety issues and crime prevention. In this regard, the Clerk was asked to contact the local PCSO team to arrange attendance at a future meeting.

It was RESOLVED: “THAT costs of up to £150 be approved for production of the Autumn 2021 edition of the village newsletter and that the Clerk be authorised to draft and approve the final copy, liaising with members as appropriate, and make arrangements for printing and distribution.”

11.Consultations, Correspondence and Members’ Discussion Forum

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, including a consultation as regards priorities for the North Yorkshire Police Fire and Crime Commissioner and consultations on the local planning authority’s recent draft SPDs.

It was noted that YLCA’s annual conference, due to be held remotely in September, had been cancelled.

The County Council had opened a consultation on local bus services and comments from villagers had been invited. A detailed summary of comments, produced by a local resident, had been circulated to members as the basis for the Council’s contribution to the consultation. This was taken as read and accepted.

During the members’ discussion forum, the Vice-Chairman noted that a number of ash trees, suffering from ash die-back, could be posing a safety risk to users of the lane by the church. This would be investigated with the highways authority and a report made to the next meeting.

12.Next Meetings

A draft revised schedule of meetings for 2021/22 was received and it was agreed to trial a meeting cycle of 2-monthly meetings, with each meeting being given a particular focus for community interest.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall on 22 November 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Chairman