

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 6 December 2021 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr A Mole - Chairman
Cllr R Binks
Cllr T Coupe
Cllr J Garnett
Cllr R Neale
Cllr A Turner
Mrs J Markham – Clerk

In attendance: Cty Cllr R Heseltine
District Cllr D Pighills

Public: 4

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllr Davies; reasons for absence approved.

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. Police Report

The Clerk reported that the PCSO was unfortunately unable to attend in person and the Police Report was read out to the meeting. This was noted.

Following a discussion of road safety issues, and with reference to briefing material produced by the national "20s Plenty Campaign", it was agreed to participate in action to lobby highways authorities to reduce the default speed limit in village locations to 20mph.

It was accordingly RESOLVED:

"THAT proposals to introduce a default speed limit of 20mph for Draughton and for all the urban and village streets in North Yorkshire

where people live, work, shop, play and learn, with higher limits set only where the needs of vulnerable road users are taken fully into account, be supported, and that the Clerk be instructed to write to the highways authority to request implementation of a County-wide policy on this issue accordingly.”

The Clerk was asked to invite feedback from the community on measures to address speeding concerns, including a possible option to request installation of a speed bump in the centre of the village, and it was also agreed to join the 20s Plenty Campaign in North Yorkshire in order to access briefings and monitor future developments.

4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 September 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 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 online briefings for councillors had recently been delivered to explain progress in setting up the new unitary authority, with transitional arrangements due to be in place from May 2022. It was also noted that the bench on the village green was to be repaired in the Spring, and that arrangements had been agreed with Highways as regards the removal of dead ash trees on the lane by the church.

5. 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.”

6. 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, although a specific response had not been received from the planning authority as regards the Council’s formal complaint, a report from consultants on the District Council’s overall performance in handling planning matters had been published and had been circulated to members.

The following matters were discussed and agreed as follows:

- (i) Village Green – the Clerk reported that weed clearance around the stone bench area would need to be put on hold during the winter season.
- (ii) Kiosk light – It was noted that a new LED light was to be procured for the kiosk.

7. Planning

The Clerk's report on ongoing planning business was noted.

The Clerk reported on a recent webinar presentation provided by YLCA on the Government's planning reforms, and it was noted that further advice had been requested as regards the possible preparation of a local Design Statement in readiness for the new rules-based framework. Subject to this advice, a more detailed report would be made to the next meeting.

8. Village Verges

Cllr Neale thanked volunteers who had taken part in recent work to clear weeds and plant wildflowers in a test area of the verge at the top of the village. He noted that, subject to the results of this exercise, consideration could be given to rolling out the project to treat the remaining verge areas throughout the village.

Cllr Neale reported on maintenance requirements for the vergers' machinery. A quotation for expenditure on strimmer parts had been circulated to members, and the Clerk noted that a second quotation had yet to be procured.

It was then RESOLVED:

“THAT expenditure up to £250 be approved for maintenance and replacement of verge strimming equipment, as appropriate, and that the Clerk be authorised to liaise with Cllr Neale in placing the order for goods and services accordingly.”

It was also agreed to include a contingency in the Budget 2022/23 for the capital costs of replacing the ride-on mower when and as necessary in the forthcoming seasons. The county council and district council ward representatives commented that grant monies could be available for part-funding the new machinery.

9. Budget and Precept 2022/23

The draft Budget 2022/23 was received and discussed.

It was RESOLVED:

- (1) “THAT a contingency fund be established, and included within the Budget 2022/23, for the purpose of replacing the Council-owned ride-on mower, that funds of £1200 be raised by means of the Parish Precept, and that funds of £500, if required, be earmarked from the Council’s bank reserves to provide an additional contribution to put together with available grant monies towards the anticipated capital costs of sourcing an appropriate product when and as necessary.”
- (2) “THAT the draft Budget 2022/23, 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 2022/23 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.”

10. Green Energy and Climate Change Community Initiatives

The Clerk reported on progress made by the local church groups in following up proposals for green energy solutions for heating their church buildings. Background papers on this, together with general and sector reports on climate change, had been circulated to members.

The Clerk also reported that, with the agreement of the Chairman, an initial exploratory application had been made to the Lottery Fund for a small grant to support investigations into related community-based initiatives.

After discussion, it was agreed to review options in more detail at the next meeting, subject to the outcome of the grant application and in the light of further information concerning proposals for St Augustine’s church.

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

11.Consultations, Correspondence and Members' Discussion Forum

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, including consultations from the District Council as regards the Local List (planning applications) requirements and draft Local Plan SPDs. It was noted that the timetables for the 64 and 884 bus services had been revised.

12.Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall on 17 January 2022.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Chairman