

# **DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 21 March 2022 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr A Mole - Chairman  
Cllr R Binks  
Cllr J Garnett  
Cllr R Neale  
Cllr A Turner  
Mrs J Markham – Clerk  
In attendance: District Cllr D Pighills  
Public: 4

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Received from Cllr Coupe; 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. Ukraine**

The Chairman introduced a discussion of the situation in Ukraine with reference to briefing notes issued by UK local government bodies NALC and LGA, in which a public statement made by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, condemning the attacks on Ukraine and violations of its territorial integrity and sovereignty, had been endorsed.

After discussion, it was RESOLVED:

(1) "THAT the Parish Council express support for the people of Ukraine during these times of crisis, and that public statements to this effect (including those issued on the village website and on social media, providing a link to the Disasters Emergency Committee website collecting charitable donations to provide humanitarian aid to the Ukrainians), be endorsed,."

(2)“THAT support be offered to the Village Hall Trustees for the organisation of a fund-raising event for Ukrainian refugees in the Village Hall on Saturday 9 April, that funds be provided for a banner costing £30 to help publicise the event, and that the Clerk be authorised to place an order with a local supplier accordingly; further, that a donation of £50 be made to contribute to the funds raised at the event.”

(3)“THAT the offer from a local resident of a flagpole for community use be accepted, and that, in anticipation of its successful installation on the roof of the Village Hall, subject to any necessary planning consents, funds of up to £60 be set aside for the purpose of providing fixings and flags; further, that the Clerk be authorised to procure the necessary items, including not only a Ukrainian flag but also a Union Jack for future use at the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebration later in the year.”

4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 December 2021 and Notes of the Briefing Meeting held on 17 January 2022

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 December 2021 and of the Notes of the Briefing Meeting held on 17 January 2022, 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.

With reference to Minute 8, Cllr Neale presented an invoice for the costs of replacement parts for the mowing machinery (actual cost: £223.99, within funds allocated of £250).

It was noted that the Draughton History Project, led by Cllr Neale and a village resident, was making good progress, with research for sections of the eventual publication in hand, and donated images and photos being collated and referenced.

A brief update from Cllr Pighills on arrangements for the new unitary authority was also noted.

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 discussed.

The following matters were agreed as follows:

- (i) Draughton Vergers – Cllr Neale and the Clerk reported that the strimming equipment was currently being maintained for use in the coming season, and that the costs of additional equipment for grass collecting and winter grit spreading had been researched. It was also reported that storage arrangements for the ride-on mower and other equipment had now been confirmed with Cllr Turner. Other members thanked her for agreeing to provide suitable ongoing accommodation for the machinery.

It was RESOLVED:

- (1) “THAT, taking account of funds allocated of £250 for maintenance of the Draughton Vergers' machinery and equipment (Minute 8 of meeting dated 6/12/21 refers), payment of up to £60 for the costs of works to service the Council's strimming equipment be additionally approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to organise and pay for the costs and works accordingly.”
  - (2) “THAT the procurement of additional equipment for the Draughton Vergers, funded with the assistance of grant monies remaining on account after settlement of the purchase costs of the new Council mower, be approved up to a sum of £305, and that the Clerk be authorised to place orders as appropriate, in consultation with Cllr Neale.”
- (ii) Kiosk light – the Clerk's report noting that this matter remained outstanding was taken as read; the requirement for internal lighting during winter months would continue to be monitored.

## 7. Planning

The Clerk's report on ongoing planning business was presented and recent decisions made by the planning authority were noted. It was noted that the unauthorised container at the bottom of Low Lane had now been removed, and that the users of the site next to the railway had been instructed to remove their materials by the end of April at risk of enforcement action. An application recently submitted for a new barn at New Laithe Farm had been received and would be handled under the Scheme of Delegation.

At the request of the owners of Field House Farm, who were seeking initial informal feedback as part of a pre-application consultation process, a revised design and location plan for a proposed new build near the property had been circulated to members. Councillors expressed general concerns as regards any proposals for housing development in open countryside and noted the planning authority's Local Plan policies in this regard.

#### 8. Village Design Statement

The Clerk's report, as circulated to members and posted on the village website, was noted and discussed. It was agreed to take no action on this at present, but to revisit the proposal at a later stage when the new unitary authority was in place and planning reforms had been established.

#### 9. Traffic Survey 2022

The results of the recent traffic survey, distributed to households with the Spring Newsletter, had been circulated, and were discussed, together with the Clerk's summary report and conclusions.

It was agreed to continue with action to support the national campaign for a default 20mph speed limit ("20s Plenty") and to pursue the option of setting up a volunteer speed watch project if the lower speed limit were to be introduced in the village at a later stage.

The Clerk was asked to publicise this outcome from the survey around the village.

The Clerk was also asked to contact the Dales Care Home to follow up concerns with parking at the top of the village opposite the junction.

#### 10. Financial Matters

- (i) The draft Receipts and Payments Statement 2021/22 was received and noted. The annual accounts, audit report and AGAR forms would be presented to the next meeting.
- (ii) The salary award for local council clerks 2021/22, as agreed and recommended for adoption by NALC, was noted for implementation in 2022/23 in line with budgeted projections.

#### 11. Green Energy and Climate Change Community Initiatives

The Clerk, together with a member of the public representing the local church group, updated members on progress being made on the church project, following the climate event in the Village Hall on 19 February, supported by the Parish Council.

It was also reported that a grant to pay for a feasibility study into community climate initiatives had now been received from the National Lottery Community Fund. The Clerk reported on quotations from contractors expressing an interest in carrying out the feasibility study. After discussion, it was agreed to consider the bids in more detail outside the meeting and provide comments back to the Clerk in order that further decisions could be taken.

#### 12.Elections 2022

The principal authority's timetable for the Elections was received and noted and it was confirmed that the nomination process for existing members standing for re-election was currently in progress. This would be publicised further in the village.

#### 13.Consultations, Correspondence and Members' Discussion Forum

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, including an update on plans for the new unitary authority and notice of YLCA's (remote) annual conference, to be held on 25 March 2022.

#### 14.Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held in the Village Hall on a date to be confirmed in late April.

Items on the agenda to include an address by the local PCSO and a report from the current and outgoing Ward Representative for North Yorkshire County Council

Cllr Turner indicated that the Village Hall Trustees could provide a pop-up pub event to follow the meeting.

#### 15.Next Council Meeting

It was agreed that the next (Annual) meeting would be held in the Village Hall on 16 May 2022 at 7pm. Apologies for this meeting were received from Cllrs Garnett and Binks.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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Chairman