

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on Monday 4 July 2022 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Ms R Binks - Chairman
Cllr T Coupe – Vice Chairman
Cllr J Garnett
Cllr B Davies
Cllr R Neale
Cllr L Pope
Cllr A Turner (from Minute 4)
Mrs J Markham – Clerk

Absent: None

In attendance: District Cllr D Pighills
County Cllr R Foster

Public: 5

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllr Turner; reasons for absence approved.

(Cllr Turner later joined the meeting and apologised for late arrival)

2. 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.

3. Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 16 May 2022 and of the Briefing Meeting held on 30 May 2022

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 May and the Notes of the Briefing Meeting held on 30 May 2022 were taken as read, and the Minutes were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.

4. Matters Arising

The Clerk's report, for information, on matters arising from the meetings held on 16 May and 30 May was received. It was noted that the village green was now being cut regularly by contractors, and that weed growth around the stone bench was being controlled.

Tree works on the village green had now been carried out and, after a brief discussion, it was proposed that an item should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss potential plans for longer term improvements to the wooded area.

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 discussed, noted and agreed as follows:

- (i) History Project - Cllr Neale reported on ongoing progress in collating and editing donated material and in drafting chapters on the settlement's historic road, rail and bus links, and the Clerk noted the response of Highways to queries regarding the upkeep of Grade II listed milestones around the village. In view of the lack of funding to maintain such features on the part of the principal authority, it was agreed to consider including an allocation of funds

for this purpose in the Budget 2023/24. Grant funding sources would also be considered.

In the meantime, Cllr Davies offered to carry out a preliminary examination of the condition of the milestone on the A65 at Chelker bends.

- (ii) Draughton Vergers – it was reported that proposals for additional equipment for grass collecting and winter grit spreading would be brought forward at a future meeting.
- (iii) Traffic Safety – it was reported that the Highways authority had reviewed their policies for 20mph zones in rural villages and towns and had introduced procedures for communities to apply for consideration of a local scheme.

Cllr Neale noted that for now the Council was well-positioned in continuing its strategy of supporting national and local campaigns for a default speed limit of 20mph in rural villages.

Cty Cllr Foster reported that he had requested a review of safety at the top of the village and Highways officers were due to investigate the introduction of parking restrictions from the junction at the top of Low Lane towards the Old Post Office.

7. Climate Change - Church and Community Initiatives

The Clerk reported that issues concerning the fabric of St Augustine's church were being investigated by the church architect and the conclusions of this specialist report would be used to inform next steps for the church project.

The notes of the meeting of the Council's Climate Change Working Group, held on 8 June 2022, were received and noted.

Cllr Neale noted that consultants, Locogen, had started work on their study for the community's Action to Zero project (DAZ).

A consultation report issued by a community group working on a similar project in Settle was also noted. This would be publicised on the village website, along with details of a consultation event to be held in Settle on 9 July.

It was reported that a visit to see Settle's hydroplant installation could be arranged at a later stage, if Locogen's study confirmed the feasibility of pursuing this option.

8. 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 a decision on the Old Quarry site housing application was outstanding. It was also noted that enforcement officers were due to meet with the owners of the railway land at Draughton Bottom to assess current storage of materials on the site.

Recent activity on social media as regards local planning applications was discussed. The Clerk confirmed that the author of the Facebook posting in question had been invited to attend the meeting to have his concerns addressed directly but he had not responded to the invitation. The Chairman affirmed the policies of the Parish Council which, in its role as a consultee responding to planning applications, acted impartially and in the interests of the local community. The Chairman reminded all those present that planning decisions on all applications were made by the planning authority in line with the current Local Plan.

9. Annual Accounts 2021/22 and Internal Audit 2022/23

The Clerk noted that the period of public inspection of the annual accounts 2021/22 continued until 22 July, but that no issues had been raised by members of the public.

The re-appointment of Charles Burton as Internal Auditor for the Council for the financial year 2022/23 was approved.

10. Consultations, Correspondence and Members' Discussion Forum

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, including a note on progress being made in setting up the new unitary authority, and a report from the Clerk following the recent Yorkshire Local Councils Association Craven Branch meeting. In this regard, it was noted that the Clerk was to serve as Craven representative on a new working group set up to discuss the terms of a Parish Charter between the new unitary authority and parish councils. Cllr Foster confirmed that, over the next 5 years, the new authority would be working on a revised Local Plan for the whole of the county area. It was suggested that, as part of this process, the Parish Council could reconsider the possibility of bringing forward revisions to the Parish Plan; the development of either a Village Design Statement or Neighbourhood Plan could also be considered. YLCA's programme of training events in August and September for clerks and councillors was noted; the Chairman was booked to attend courses on Chairmanship Skills to be held over the summer.

Members discussed plans for forthcoming village events, including the barbecue due to be held on 16 July.

11. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall on 19 September 2022

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Chairman