

# **DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on Monday 3 October 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  
Mrs J Markham – Clerk

Absent: None

In attendance: District Cllr D Pighills

Public: 2

### **Chairman's Remarks**

Before opening the meeting, the Chairman placed on record the Council's respects for her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and noted that condolences had been passed, on behalf of the local community, to the Royal Family.

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

None

### **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 Council Meeting held on 4 July 2022 and of the Parish Meeting held on 8 August 2022

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 July and of the Parish Meeting held on 8 August 2022 were taken as read, and the Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record in each case.

4. Matters Arising

The Clerk's report, for information, on matters arising from the meetings held on 4 July and 8 August was received. It was noted that works to the site next to Grange Farm Cottages had been temporarily suspended, pending submission of a planning application for the new access onto the highway, and that, in the meantime, the Camping & Caravan Club had issued notices to the effect that the initial application for a camp site at the location would not proceed.

As regards traffic safety and the possible introduction of parking restrictions from the junction at the top of Low Lane towards the Old Post Office, it was noted that the County Council Ward Representative was working on the matter.

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) Draughton Vergers – a proposal was put forward for additional equipment for grass collecting, but it was also noted that the mower could need some attention, possibly requiring expenditure on new parts. After discussion, it was RESOLVED "THAT grant funds of £350, as remaining from the budget provided for equipment for the Draughton Vergers, be used for the purpose of procuring new

equipment or parts, as specified to the Clerk by Cllrs Neale and Coupe, and that the Clerk be authorised to place orders for suitable equipment, in line with quotes received, with suppliers accordingly.”

Cllr Neale also reported on a comment from a local resident as regards protecting the wild orchids on the verge. This was noted.

- (ii) History Project - Cllr Neale reported that a number of sections of the booklet had been completed and that the aim was to produce a full illustrated document in the form of a publication, which could be offered free of charge, but in return for a donation to the Village Hall. This was agreed.
- (iii) Improvement of parish assets – suggestions had been put forward for restoring the historic milestones around the parish, subject to further research into their condition with the help of specialist consultants, and also for improving the wooded area to the side of the Village Green. The Clerk advised that, subject to the approval of the Budget 2023/24, and any allocation of precept monies for the purpose of caring for assets, grant funds could be required for both projects. The proposals were therefore considered together, in the light of a potential offer for grant funding from the District Council and County Council Ward Representatives.

After discussion, it was RESOLVED “THAT, subject to receipt of a quote from the arborist for tree works on the village green, and to confirmation of available grant funding, application be made to the Ward Representatives for funds to support potential improvement projects in the parish, and that the Clerk be authorised to pursue the initiatives accordingly, and complete any grant forms, as required.”

#### 7. Climate Change - Church and Community Initiatives

A member of the public, present at the meeting and representing St Augustine’s Church, reported on progress being made with the church zero carbon project. It had been agreed, as a first step, to insulate the church roof; also, energy was now being supplied to the building by means of a new contract with a “green” supplier.

Turning to the Council’s project, the notes of the meeting of the DAZ Working Group held with consultants on 28 September were received and noted. Members had also received copies of the draft Feasibility Report and supporting material, as discussed at the meeting. A revised draft of the Report was to be submitted by mid-October.

Cllr Neale reported further on the potential viability of the project and, after discussion, the interim Report was accepted as the basis for further work by the DAZ Group. This would include setting up a programme for consultation with the community, due to take place over the coming months.

#### 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 from the Inspector in response to the Appeal against the refusal of planning consent for a housing development at Field House Farm remained outstanding. Permission had been granted by the planning authority for development at the Old Quarry site.

As requested at the last meeting, a report had been provided to Members on possible proposals for the development of a Neighbourhood Plan or Village Design Statement. The report was discussed, and it was agreed to take no action at present, but to continue to channel the views of local residents into the process of submitting comments in response to consultations on the new principal authority's Local Plan. This was due to be developed from May 2023, once North Yorkshire Council, the unitary authority, took over planning authority responsibilities from the region's districts.

#### 9. Finance Matters

The half year banking summary, including the bank reconciliation to mid-September and the 6 monthly monitoring statement, were noted. It was RESOLVED:

- (1) "THAT a donation of £50 be approved, as budgeted, for the CAB and that the Clerk be authorised to make the payment accordingly."
- (2) "THAT costs of up to £150 be approved for production of the Autumn 2022 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."

#### 10. Action Plan 2023/24

The draft Action Plan 2023/24 was received and discussed. The draft Plan, as amended, would now be used to inform the process for preparing the Budget and Precept for the next financial year.

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

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, including updates on progress being made in setting up the new unitary authority. In this regard, Cllr Neale noted that the new council's consultation events, "Let's Talk", could be used as an opportunity to record the Parish Council's support for the 20s Plenty campaign for a lower default traffic speed limit in villages. A letter from the District Council, explaining the process for nominating Legacy projects in the area, had also been circulated to Members after publication of the agenda, but in time for consideration at the meeting, and this was noted.

An oral report from the Clerk following meetings of the Yorkshire Local Council Associations, and including feedback on the recent YLCA conference, was received. In this regard, it was noted that the working group set up to discuss the terms of a Parish Charter between the new unitary authority and parish councils had started work and a first draft of the document was to be produced shortly.

Correspondence received from a resident concerned with the low water levels in Howgill Beck over the summer was noted; the situation would continue to be monitored into the following year, following the season's exceptionally dry weather conditions. A local businessman present at the meeting also raised the issue of control of dogs walked on the Roman road. This would be investigated further with the District Council.

Members noted that plans for a village event in 2023 to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III were to be developed by the Village Hall Trustees.

### 12.Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall on 12 December 2022. Agenda item: Business Continuity Planning

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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Chairman