

# **DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on Monday 6 February 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm**

Present: Ms R Binks - Chairman  
Cllr J Garnett  
Cllr B Davies  
Cllr R Neale  
Cllr S Petty  
Cllr A Turner  
Mrs J Markham – Clerk  
Absent: Cllr Coupe

In attendance: District Cllr D Pighills  
North Yorkshire Cty Cllr R Foster

Public: 3

### **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 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 12 December 2022**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 December were taken as read, and the Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

### **4. Matters Arising**

The Clerk's report, for information, was received. It was noted that Locality grant of £700 had now been received and the remaining dead and dying ash trees in the wooded area on the village green had been

removed. In response to a query raised later in the meeting, the Clerk confirmed that the Tree Officer could be contacted for initial advice as regards the condition of a large sycamore tree in the wood.

Proposals for improvements to the woodland, possibly to include commemorative planting to mark the King's Coronation would be considered at a future meeting (Minute 10 below refers).

The Clerk reported that the precept demand had been submitted to the rating authority, and that, with reference to forecast costs for energy supplies in 2023/24, North Yorkshire Highways officers has been asked to adjust the setting of the footway lights to part-time operation.

#### 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 – remaining grant funds of c£300 had been used to procure a new grass collector attachment. North Yorkshire Highways had agreed to make a back-payment to the Council for cutting the verges at the junctions onto the A65 over the last 4 years; the fee to be paid for the 2023 season had been set at £108.09 for 5 cuts per year. The Vergers had recruited an additional volunteer to help the existing team.
- (ii) Village Green – it was agreed that the contractor employed in the 2022 season to cut the green should be re-engaged for the coming season, and the Clerk was authorised to make arrangements, including negotiation of a fee per cut at or in line with the previous year's payment rates.
- (iii) History Project - Cllr Neale reported on the ongoing development of the Folk History of Draughton and noted that almost half of the chapters planned for the publication were now completed. Once in

- final form, it was anticipated that the publication would be made available electronically, and also possibly via a dedicated web page.
- (iv) North Yorkshire County double devolution pilot - the Parish Council's request to participate in the pilot was not to be pursued because of the potential financial risks for the principal authority of devolving decision-making powers for highways matters.

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

Cllr Neale and the Clerk reported on developments from the date of the last meeting.

Work continued on investigations into the options indicated by the consultants' feasibility report, and specifically, subject to the setting of an appropriate pricing structure, into the viability of installing a community-owned and operated wind turbine or solar array, by means, possibly, of identifying a major business "customer" for the energy so generated. It was accepted, in discussion, that suitable solar installations for this purpose could be mounted on the roofs of community buildings and business premises (not necessarily in Draughton itself) rather than on the ground.

Contact with the local DNO had been established in order to ascertain grid capacity in the area. The Council's proposed motion for consideration by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), as approved at the last meeting (Minute 8 12/12/22 refers), was to be progressed through the local council networks shortly. This would propose a nationwide push towards using spare capacity in each local grid in order to connect small local installations. In the meantime, Cllr Neale suggested that the new unitary authority's climate policies could be widened to embrace this proposed initiative specifically for North Yorkshire. He offered to write to the Ward Representative providing full and further details. Cllr Foster commented that the development of local "smart grids" could potentially help in this initiative by enabling communities to make use of their "own" green energy generated from local renewable installations.

#### 8. Planning

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

The following matters were agreed as follows:

- The Pines – tree works – no comments to be made

#### 9. Newsletter – Spring 2023

It was RESOLVED:

“THAT costs of up to £180 be approved for production of the Spring 2023 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. Consultations, Correspondence and Members’ Discussion Forum

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, including a report based on an SLCC survey into the future of local councils, and an update on progress being made in setting up the new unitary authority. In this regard, it was noted that the Order had now been made to establish the new authority as the sole principal authority for North Yorkshire. Work on transition arrangements continued, including the adoption of key policies, and Cllr Foster suggested that a note from the Parish Council summarising any extant planning approvals and enforcement activities would be helpful in ensuring that the new authority continued to maintain open files on any outstanding issues.

It was noted that drop-in consultation events on the new draft Parish Charter were being held throughout the County during the next few weeks; the event for Craven was to be held on 13 February at 11.30am in the Staincliffe Suite at Craven District Council.

The Clerk also reported on the recent meeting of the YLCA Joint Executive Board held on 21 January. It had been agreed at the meeting that whole council training was to be offered to member councils.

The following items of correspondence-related business, as listed on the agenda, were discussed and matters were noted and agreed as follows:

#### - **Coronation 6-8 May**

With reference to a webinar hosted by NALC, and to plans now announced by the Palace, possible arrangements for the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend from 6-8 May were being developed.

It was RESOLVED:

(1)“THAT costs of up to £60 be approved for the purchase of 2 flags for use over the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend 6-8 May 2023,

and that the Clerk be authorised to make arrangements and organise payment of invoices accordingly.”

(2)“THAT a donation of £100 be provided to the Village Hall Trustees to support the costs of planned events over the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend 6-8 May 2023, and that the Clerk be authorised to make payment, from funds budgeted 2022/23, accordingly.”

- **Bus service x64**

A member of the public, present at the meeting, was invited to explain the current fare offers for users of services, and concerns with the long term viability of the x64 service were highlighted. It was agreed that every effort should continue to be made to protect and improve this public service and the Ward Representative was asked to monitor the new unitary authority’s public transport strategies and report back to the Council as necessary.

11.Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place in the Village Hall immediately before the April meeting of the Parish Council (date for this to be confirmed – see Minute 12 below).

12.Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall on 24 April 2023.

13.Close of Meeting

In closing the meeting, the Chairman invited a member of the public, former chairman of the Council Margaret Billing, present at the meeting, to present an address on behalf of the Council. Mrs Billing thanked the retiring Ward Representative for Craven District Council for his generous help and often personal support for all the Barden Fell communities he had represented since 2016. Members of the Council recorded their thanks and appreciation for the service and outstanding work of Cllr Pighills on behalf of the Parish from his election in May 2016 to date.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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Chairman