

# **DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 10 July 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm**

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

In attendance: NYC Cllr R Foster  
Public: 1

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

None

### **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 (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 9 May 2023**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 9 May 2023 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, on matters arising from the meeting held on 9 May was received. It was noted that the new draft Parish

Charter, now in final form, was to be considered by the NYC Executive later in the month.

It was reported that the Council's responses to recent Government consultations, one on short term holiday lets and also one on community benefits for electricity network transmission, had been submitted and acknowledged. The Clerk's response, made under delegated powers on behalf of the Council, to the Government's consultation on Onshore Wind was noted.

The AGAR 2022/23 had been published together with the notice of local electors' rights to inspect the accounts. No queries had been raised by local electors.

#### 5. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report on ongoing items of business was discussed and noted.

#### 6. 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."

#### 7. Footway Lights

It was noted that an offer of grant for the costs of upgrading the lights had now been received from North Yorkshire Council. The signing of the acceptance form by the Chairman and Cllr Neale was authorised.

It was RESOLVED:

"THAT works to upgrade the footway lights in the village be procured from North Yorkshire Council and that the Clerk be authorised to issue instructions and make any arrangements as necessary."

A vote of thanks was passed to Cty Cllr Foster for his support in securing the grant.

#### 8. Village Green

The Clerk reported that the contractor engaged to cut the village green on a seasonal annual basis had been invited to quote for the costs of undertaking a programme of weed treatment around the edge of the

green, near the stone bench. The contractor had also been asked to report on the costs of clearing bramble growth in the wood, where ash trees had recently been removed, with a view to replanting into the spaces, possibly with low-growing shrubs, tolerant to shady conditions.

Quotes would be presented to the next meeting for consideration.

#### 9. Draughton Action to Zero (Climate Change Projects)

Cllr Neale updated members on progress being made on the village's climate change projects, supported by the Parish Council.

Work on the church's project continued, with roof insulation works due to start as soon as contractors were available; a project at the Village Hall had yet to be considered by the trustees.

Progress continued to be made in developing the community project Draughton Action to Zero. Discussions with two potential "customers" for a supply of locally-generated renewable energy were ongoing, and DAZ Group members were currently working on detailed analysis of overall financial viability for the 2 installations.

Work also continued to monitor and tap into regional and national networks for climate change. At the suggestion of contacts at NYC and the Local Enterprise Partnership, a preliminary application had been made to Northern Powergrid to take part in a community distribution system operation (DSO) trial as an "energy community".

The project's aims, to develop a future framework for integrating community smart local energy systems into the local grid network, were noted and the action taken to apply to take part was ratified.

A response to the application was awaited.

It was noted that the next meeting of the DAZ Working Group was to be held on 14 August. At the meeting, arrangements would be finalised for the next village consultation event, probably due to be held in September. The event would be an opportunity not only to update residents on progress with the DAZ project, but would also be used to signpost possible routes towards green energy and cost-saving home improvement measures for individual households.

## 10.Planning

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

## 11.Policies and Procedures of the Council

The Clerk introduced an updated version of the Code of Conduct, revised to reflect the provisions of the new unitary principal authority's document.

It was RESOLVED:

“THAT a new draft Code of Conduct, updated in line with the format and content of North Yorkshire Council's Code of Conduct, be adopted with immediate effect.”

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

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, including a report from the Clerk on a recent YLCA Branch meeting, and note of a consultation on sections of the YHCC's climate strategy.

A copy of YLCA's forthcoming training events in the summer, including a session on carbon literacy, had been circulated to councillors.

A Government funding scheme for rural broadband was discussed, and Cllr Foster offered to report back on the timescale for the introduction of full fibre in the village.

Preliminary arrangements for D Day 80 in June 2024 were noted.

The most recent newsletter from the National Association of Local Councils, containing a feature to promote the role of local councils, would be circulated to members for information.

A brief discussion was held on Passenger Transport's review of local bus services from April 2024 in the context of NYC's Local Transport Plan, and the Clerk was asked to complete the online survey on behalf of the Council to reflect comments made at the meeting.

At the request of Cllr Garnett, members also discussed the recent repair works by Yorkshire Water in the village, which had involved closure of the road at the top of the village. The Clerk was asked to write to YW to complain about the extent of the closure and the time taken for works to be completed.

### 13.Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall on 18 September 2023 at 7pm.

Possible agenda item: Road Safety

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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Chairman