

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 18 September 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

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

Public: 1

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 (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

(Other Interests – Code of Conduct ref. Appendix B(2) Perception):

Cllrs Petty and Garnett, and Turner (as a connected person) disclosed a potential interest, as adjoining landowners, in the planning application to be considered at agenda item 8.

After discussion, completed dispensation requests from the interested members were received by the Clerk.

It was RESOLVED “THAT requests for dispensation pursuant to paragraph 26 of the Council's Code of Conduct be received from Cllrs Petty, Garnett and Turner and that dispensation to participate in the discussion and vote on the matter listed at Agenda Item 8 be approved in the interests of the inhabitants in the Council's area.”

Additional Interests disclosed: None

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 July 2023

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 July 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 10 July was received.

It was noted that the Council's comments on bus services had been submitted to the principal authority's transport survey; revised bus timetables, effective from September, had now been published and displayed on the noticeboards.

Council was asked to note that instructions for the footway lights upgrade had been passed to the highways authority but works had not yet been carried out.

Members also noted that a letter of apology from Yorkshire Water, for the disruptions caused by recent repair works to the road at the top of the village, had been received. This was noted, but the Clerk was asked to reply to it with the Council's further comments as regards road closures in place at the time.

Cllr Neale reported that work on the History Project was now resuming after the summer period; chapters on the older houses in the village, including the pubs, as well as the history of the railway, were being drafted.

5. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report on ongoing items of business was discussed and noted, and proposals to clear undergrowth, weeds and brambles from the village green wooded area were discussed. It was suggested that the contractor could be invited to comment on the extent to which weed growth on the green could be kept under control without incurring repeated costs for treatment. The proposal was then considered for decision as follows:

Village Green Wood – following the removal of dead and dying ash trees, it was RESOLVED:

“THAT an estimate of £1260 for clearance of undergrowth in the wooded area to the side of the village green, and for re-planting the area with evergreen shrubs, be approved, and that the Clerk be authorised to procure the works accordingly.”

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. Draughton Action to Zero (Climate Change Projects)

The notes of the meeting of the DAZ Working Group, held on 14 August 2023 were received and noted.

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

The church’s project continued, with roof insulation works all but completed; the outcome of a grant application to take forward the project at the Village Hall was expected to be announced shortly.

A summary report from Cllr Neale providing an update on the community project Draughton Action to Zero had been circulated and was noted. It was noted that grant from the Government’s Shared Prosperity Fund had been received to support further investigations into the project’s feasibility, and work continued with a potential “customer” for a supply of locally-generated renewable energy. A number of initial responses to the DAZ bid to participate in Northern Powergrid’s local distribution system operation (DSO “smart grid”) trials had been received. These were being followed up.

With grant funding now available, the Clerk noted that a feasibility study into connections for a local generator could be commissioned from Northern Powergrid, and it was proposed that consultants Locogen could be asked to take this work forward on behalf of the Council. A quote for the costs was expected shortly. After discussion, it was RESOLVED:

- (1) “THAT costs of up to £5000, to be funded out of grant from the Shared Prosperity Fund, be approved for the purpose of meeting the costs of professional fees and other expenses related to the commissioning of a technical study by Northern Powergrid into the feasibility of connecting a locally-owned and installed generating

facility (wind turbine) to the National Grid, and that the Clerk be instructed and authorised to make arrangements and set up contracts with consultant advisers and Northern Powergrid accordingly.”

A draft programme for the village climate consultation event, due to held on 28 September was noted and approved, as amended. The Clerk reported that publicity costs for the village climate projects could also be included within the scope of the SPF grant.

It was RESOLVED:

(2) “THAT costs of up to £500 for climate events to be held in the village (including the costs of publicity, event facilities, room hire and refreshments) be approved.”

Within this budget, costs incurred to date, in respect of the printing of publicity material and the purchase of other items for the event on 28 September, were ratified.

8. Planning

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

The following matter was agreed as follows:

- Fishing Lakes – proposed amendment to position of 3 camping pods – no comments to be made

9. Action Plan

The draft Action Plan 2024/25 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.

As the draft Budget took shape, members would be consulted by email, and the Clerk was authorised to take decisions under the Scheme of Delegation as regards the preparation of the draft, taking account of any comments arising from councillors, for submission to the next meeting.

10. Parish Charter

A final version of the Parish Charter, as now approved by North Yorkshire Council, was received and noted.

It was RESOLVED:

“THAT the Parish Charter for partnership working between the parish sector and the new unitary authority, North Yorkshire Council, as circulated to Members and as approved by the principal council in July 2023, be adopted with immediate effect.”

It was noted that the document would be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis by a working group including members of both partner bodies.

11. Finance Matters

The half year banking summary, including the bank reconciliation to end August and the 6 monthly monitoring statement, was noted.

On the recommendation of the Clerk, it was RESOLVED:

“THAT costs of up to £900 be approved for the purchase and installation of a new computer for the Council, as required for the use of upgraded software programmes, and that the Clerk be authorised to place orders for the equipment and make arrangements for the transfer and security of data accordingly.”

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 JEB meeting, and information issued by YLCA on upcoming events and training sessions to end December 2023.

A proposed response by representative body NALC to the Government consultation on Local Plans was noted.

13. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would be held in the Village Hall on: 4 December 2023 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.17pm.

Chairman