

DRAUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 15 January 2023 **in the Village Hall at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr R Binks - Chairman
Cllr B Davies
Cllr J Garnett
Cllr J Markham (from item 3)
Cllr R Neale
Cllr S Petty (from item 3)
Cllr A Turner
Mrs A Crewe – Clerk

Public: 3 (2 from item 3)

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. Casual Vacancy

It was RESOLVED: (Proposed: the Chairman; seconded: Cllr Neale):

“THAT Mrs Markham be and she is hereby co-opted to the casual vacancy on the Council with immediate effect.”

Mrs Markham, was welcomed to the Council and invited to take her seat as a Member.

Cllr Markham signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form in the presence of the Clerk to the Council and was provided with a form for the notification of interests for completion and return to the Monitoring Office at North Yorkshire Council.

4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 December 2023

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 December 2023 were taken as read, and the Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

5. Matters arising

The Clerk's report, for information, on matters arising from the meeting held on 5 December was received.

- Footway lights - upgrade works are still to be carried out.
- Precept - The precept demand form was issued to rating authority; Budget 2024/25 published on the website.

6. Clerk's Report

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

Cllr Neale reported that work on the History Project was moving along; currently focusing on organising photos and obtaining permissions.

Discussions regarding the roll out of rural broadband will resume when Cllr Foster is next present at a meeting.

North Yorkshire Citizen's Advice and Law Centre confirmed receipt of the parish council's donation of £50 and expressed their thanks.

7. 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."

8. 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.

Awaiting interim feedback from Locogen on their current work, and once available, the DAZ Group will meet to discuss further.

A climate-themed newsletter is proposed for mid-March.

9. Planning

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

- Railway site – following a visit in December, enforcement officers required clearance of building materials from the site within 2 months.

10. Draughton Vergers

Cllr Neale proposed to revisit the seeding and planting of the verges with wildflowers, which would complement the new biodiversity policy (noted in item 11). It was suggested that ground elder needed to be dealt with, as well as growing plug plants on until later in the season before planting into the verges.

Cllr Neale reported that the new mower had been put to use.

The refurbishment of the milestones within the village was also discussed.

11. Biodiversity Policy

It was RESOLVED:

“THAT a Biodiversity Policy, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as an Appendix, be approved, as required under the Environment Act 2021 (Biodiversity Duty 2024).”

The Clerk has registered to attend a webinar: *Biodiversity: Practical measures to help enhance wildlife and address new Biodiversity Legislation for Local Councils*, on 26 February.

12. Consultations, Correspondence and Members' Discussion Forum

Newsletters and emails circulated for information were noted, including arrangements for D Day 80 in June 2024, a copy of presentation slides and a link to the recording of the virtual local plan launch event held in December as well as a link to the recording of the webinar on North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Also discussed, was an email received regarding the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) managed by Yorkshire Energy Solutions (YES) on behalf of North Yorkshire Council; the clerk is to make further enquiries and ask YES to attend the next DAZ meeting.

13.Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would be held in the Village Hall on: 18 March 2024 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Chairman