

SKELTON CUM NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Nick Reed, Clerk, 9 Little Market Place, Masham, N. Yorks HG4 4DY

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Thursday 11th January 2024
TIME: 7.00pm
LOCATION: Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure
PRESENT: Cllrs Guy Critchlow (Chair), Chris Delf, Emma Gerrard, Jane Mosley, Jim Spillings
CLERK: Nick Reed (minutes)
IN ATTENDANCE: 17 members of the public [MoP]

23.45	Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation There were none.
22.46	Apologies and consideration of reasons for absence There were none, all Councillors being present.
22.47	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th October 2023 These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
22.48	Ongoing issues from the minutes for updating (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)
22.481	Skelton Newby Hall Primary School: The Council heard that North Yorkshire Council is shortly to hand the school campus back to the Newby Estate, on completion of what is believed to be a substantial amount of work on dilapidations.
22.482	Christ the Consoler Church: The Council heard that the Friends of Christ the Consoler group is continuing to programme events aiming to “bring voice back to” the church, and raise money to enable conservation heating to keep the building temperature above 8 degrees, which will slow the damage to the priceless stained glass windows. FCTC report that the Churches Conservation Trust are contributing more than had previously been appreciated to keep the fabric of the building in repair.
22.483	Black Lion pub: The Council heard that legal issues with the cellar have now been resolved, that they are working with solicitors towards releasing the historic legal charge on the building. Exchange and completion is hoped for and expected “within weeks”, with the AGM of the pub group also to be confirmed in the near future. Finally, it was noted that more pub group volunteers, especially a bookkeeper, would be welcome.
22.484	Highways issues: The Council heard that NYC Highways did not regard the right turn into Skelton Lane from Ripon Road coming out of the city to require better signage as the Parish Council had asked. It was noted that any and all collisions or incidents should be reported to NY Police, online or via 101. It was also reported that NYC were only clearing every other drain on the main street rather than all drains.
22.485	NYC joint parishes meeting – Cllr Critchlow reported that this had been a useful gathering, especially regarding issues which are common to many parishes. The next meeting is on 8 th February.
22.49	Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors Several MoP asked about the status of the shop, with its lack of business concerning for parish facilities following the closure of the pub and school. It was noted that conversations are taking place regarding the future of the shop either on site and/or, in due course within the new pub premises.
22.50	Financial Statement and approvals for payment The Council was noted as having on hand £18,137.64 at the end of December, with recent receipts of £889.23 (pop-up pub takings) and £160 (Reading Room hire fees). It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages (Clerk Oct-Dec, Cleaner Oct-Dec); Clerk’s expenses/training qtr 3 (inc NYC Licensing £63 for pop-up pub temporary event notices) £248; HMRC

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	<p>(PAYE qtr 3); Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 1) £30+VAT; FurnitureWork UK (Reading Room chairs) £1,781+VAT; Scotton Park Electrical (RR fire alarm inspection and test) £75+VAT; and Cllr Mosley (RR expenses) £23.17.</p> <p>The Council further RESOLVED to formally approve payments necessarily agreed between meetings of £170.83+VAT to Rudgate Brewery for pop-up refreshments, £180 to Inspire Youth for the Hallowe'en session per item 23.40, and £374.95 to Cllr Critchlow for pop-up pub stock, and the Council noted direct debit payments to Scottish Water (£46.35, Reading Room supply, and £7.47, allotment supply), E.On Next (£151.49+VAT, electricity for Reading Room), and Unity Trust Bank (£36, bank charges). The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £14,568.58.</p>
23.51	<p>Planning applications and decisions</p> <p>The Council considered 23/04592/REMMAJ for approval or reserved matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the potential motorway service area [MSA] at Kirby Hill, and RESOLVED that the Council continues to oppose this development. The objection is included in these minutes as an appendix.</p> <p>There were no decisions by principal authorities to consider.</p>
23.52	<p>Budget</p> <p>The Council considered the draft budget as circulated, and RESOLVED to accept it as the budget for 2024-25, noting that the precept requirement of £2,508 remains at 50% of the 2019-20 level due to the healthy reserves.</p>
23.53	<p>Youth engagement programme</p> <p>Noting the success of the October programme delivered by Inspire Youth, the Council AGREED to pursue further activities for children and young adults within the parish, noting with thanks NYC Cllr Nick Brown's award of a £500 members discretionary grant towards future activities. The possibility of further work to the playing field was also discussed as an aspiration.</p>
23.54	<p>Reading Room hire fees</p> <p>Cllr Mosley reported that she was clamping down on non-payment and abuse of the door code system, with the door code now being changed. The Council considered the fees for 2024, and RESOLVED to set a token fee of £20pa for the established local organisations who had been given space free of charge in recent years.</p>
23.55	<p>D-Day 80</p> <p>The Council noted that Newby Hall Estate would be organising an event to celebrate this anniversary on 6th June at Cana Barns. The Council also considered the purchase of a lantern for the Reading Room foyer but decided against this on safety and security grounds.</p>
23.56	<p>Advertising</p> <p>The Council considered the recent proliferation of informal notices and advertisements, and RESOLVED that such signage would be allowed for a maximum of three weeks in public areas within the parish – two weeks before and a week after for set events, and any three-week period for non time specific advertising boards.</p> <p>On a related matter it was noted that the historic "no hawkers" sign requires refurbishment, and the Council RESOLVED to offer to cover the costs of this.</p>
23.57	<p>Bus shelter</p> <p>The Council NOTED the continued non-replacement of the bus shelter glass following its vandalism, and that the miscreant had now moved out of the village.</p> <p><i>ACTION: Clerk to contact NY Police to progress</i></p>

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23.58	Christmas lights The Council considered taking on the management of the Christmas lights at Moor End Farmhouse, minuting its grateful THANKS to the residents for providing such a warming winter show for decades. The Council RESOLVED to consult with Newby Hall about the viability of the tree, and that if the tree is suitable going forward the Council will cover the cost of replacement lights up to £500, and electricity up to £50pa, hoping that Newby Hall might donate a cherry picker and staff member to aid with the installation.
23.59	Pop-up pubs The Council RESOLVED to run a pop-up pub alongside the pub group AGM [<i>Clerk's note; this will be on 2nd February</i>], and thereafter on the last Friday of the month with the possible exception of March when that would be Good Friday.
23.60 23.601	Correspondence MoP re dog waste. A brief discussion ensued and the Council offered a hearty vote of THANKS to Pam Lithgow for her service to the community in carrying out the wonderful and not always pleasant job of maintaining the dog wate bin at the entrance to the path to Christ the Consoler.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE:

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Letter to NYC Planning regarding application 23/04592/REMAJ

Skelton-cum-Newby Parish Council discussed this matter at its meeting of 11th January 2024, and resolved that the Council objects to this application.

The Parish Council notes that the reserved matters application clashes with the outline permission ZC23/01168/DVCMAJ granted by the Council on 13th September 2023 and would cause a substantial material increase in harm to the environment and the local community compared with that envisaged at the outline stage. Also, the reserved matters application is not accompanied by an Environmental Statement and therefore our concerns as outlined in our objection to the previous application remain. For your convenience I copy the original objection below, and the Council maintains this position.

Skelton-cum-Newby Parish Council objects to the proposed development on the following planning grounds:

Planning history:

The proposed development is sufficiently different in many ways to that previously approved on appeal that in the opinion of the Parish Council it should be regarded as a new application. This is

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further backed up by current DfT statistics showing that whilst vehicle traffic has increased by 20 %s ince 2021, levels are still somewhere between 5-10% less than pre-Covid levels and therefore the traffic survey data supplied with the original application is no longer relevant or appropriate, and by the new landscape of bridge and roundabout rendering estimates of noise and lights pollution similarly void.

Nature / landscape:

The new application increases the impact on the natural features of the Vale of York. Also, the Parish Council supports the Environment Agency's objection on the basis that the applicant has not managed the risks to groundwater pollution and this site is located upon a principal aquifer, and that neither has the applicant clarified if the fuel storage tanks will be installed below the water table which would be further grounds for objection.

Design / visual appearance:

Related to this, the new raised areas of the roundabout and motorway junction will create mounds which are wholly out of keeping with the surrounding, and raise the motorway bridge to a height which will dominate the scenery in a way which the previous design would not have done. Disturbance from use: Drainage remains a problem from the previous application, with more surface water lagoons allowed for. This is not in keeping with the character of the area, and possibly a cause of environmental issues further down the line.

While accepting that comments regarding business and competition are not usually material planning considerations, the Parish Council strongly believes that that changes in circumstances need to be taken into consideration here. The 2019 application passed on appeal on the basis that a MSA between Wetherby and Durham was necessary. There is now full planning permission granted for a MSA at Catterick, with substantial rest areas opened at Exelby and Leeming Bar near junction 51, and improved facilities on both sides of the A168 at Topcliffe serving A19 traffic to and from Teesside. Bearing all that in mind, another MSA at Kirby Hill now seems entirely superfluous.

Thank you for considering the Parish Council's opinion.