

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 12th January 2023
TIME: 7.00pm
LOCATION: Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure
PRESENT: Cllrs Guy Critchlow (Chair), Chris Delf (after item 22.50), Jane Mosley, Jim Spillings
CLERK: Nick Reed (minutes)
IN ATTENDANCE: 12 members of the public [MoP]

Clerk's note: These minutes are written in agenda order, however at the meeting several items were taken early due to the availability of various relevant people

22.47	Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation There were none.
22.48	Apologies and consideration of reasons for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Lawrence Paterson.
22.49	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th October 2022 These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
22.50	Ordinary vacancy The Council RESOLVED to co-opt Chris Delf to this position, and thanked him for putting his name forward. Cllr Delf signed the acceptance of office form.
22.51 22.511	Ongoing issues from the minutes for updating (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) Black Lion pub: The Council heard that Admiral Taverns had written to Harrogate BC on 28 November noting the company's intention to dispose of the pub and thus triggering the six-month period during which under Asset of Community Value status the Black Lion Working Group has the exclusive right to purchase. The group has registered as a Community Benefit Society, set up a website at www.skeltonblacklion.com and social media pages, and sent 5,000 pledge letters out locally and towards Ripon. They have also been featured on BBC Radio York. In six weeks £128,500 has been pledged, and more fundraising and PR is planned in the near future.
22.512	Banking: The Council RESOLVED to transfer its banking arrangements from HSBC to Unity Trust Bank, on the grounds that (a) the latter could enable online payments in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, and (b) HSBC's charges were now greater than Unity Trust's which had been an issue when the change was previously discussed.
22.52	Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors NYCC Cllr Nick Brown reported that with less than three months to go before the institution of the unitary North Yorkshire Council, both the existing county and district councils were working to ensure the structure is legal and safe by then, with ongoing services, payments and planning ready to go on day one. The new authority will face a £30 million per year shortfall, which will have to be covered initially from reserves, with NYCC currently holding £132m in reserve. Savings will come from some staff not being replaced as they leave, and some of the current councils' estates being sold. Harrogate Civic Centre will however be used by the new authority.

SKELTON CUM NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL

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

	<p>Cllr Brown added that there would be seven planning committees, six based on parliamentary constituency areas and a county-wide one for major works and minerals and waste planning issues. Finally, the authority's Parish Charter would be out shortly.</p>
22.53	<p>Financial Statement and approvals for payment</p> <p>The Council was noted as having on hand £22,227.89 on 30th December 2022, with recent receipts of: £3,114 (National Lottery grant); £541.00 (pop-up pub takings); and £144.00 (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 £290.39; HMRC (PAYE qtr 3) £171.20; Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 3) £30+VAT; Plunkett Foundation £258.33+VAT (purchase of model rules for Black Lion CBS); Shawgas (heating cylinder for Reading Room) £71.43+VAT; and Spectrum Futures CIC (internal audit fee) £186.00.</p> <p>It was further RESOLVED to formally approve the following payments necessarily agreed between meetings: A Local Printer Ltd £430 (publicity materials); Rudgate Brewery Ltd (ale) £93.42+VAT; Scotton Park Electrical (fire alarm test and certification) £75+VAT; and Andrews Signs (plaque for bench) £55+VAT.</p> <p>The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £20,474.45</p>
22.54	<p>Planning applications and decisions</p> <p>There were none to consider or report.</p>
22.55	<p>Budget</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to approve the draft budget as circulated, with an anticipated turnover of £10,218 and a precept requirement of £2,508. The Council NOTED again for the minutes that this is the second of two years of halved precept agreed due to healthy reserves, and that it is anticipated that the 2024-25 precept calculation will begin at what would have been the standstill figure of £5,016.</p>
22.56	<p>Commutated sums</p> <p>The Council considered issues regarding the substantial sums now and soon available under this scheme, and agreed that clarification was necessary as to: how the sums would be transferred from Harrogate BC to the new North Yorkshire Council; whether they would then be available under commuted sums rules or the more flexible community infrastructure levy rules; and whether some or all of the sums could be claimed off proformas, given that as the sums available exceed the Council's reserve it would not be possible to incur and reclaim expenditure as would usually be the case.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to pursue with HBC officers</p>
22.57	<p>Skelton Newby Hall VE Primary School</p> <p>The Council discussed issues relating to the school, where the governors have requested its closure due to falling rolls, this proposal currently being the subject of a NYCC consultation. Points raised by councillors and MoP included: unhappiness at the nature and balance of the federation between Skelton-on-Ure and Sharow schools; concern that Skelton-on-Ure School has not been offered as an option to children from outwith the parish in recent years; that with a small village such as Skelton-on-Ure it is inevitable that numbers will ebb and flow over years; and that the NYCC open meeting as part of the consultation was to take place on Tuesday 17th January.</p> <p>The Council noted that the closure proposal reflects the current situation rather than the school's longer-term potential, particularly as it has Forest School status, and RESOLVED to submit a statement opposing closure.</p> <p>ACTION: Cllrs Critchlow and Mosley to draft a statement based on the discussion at the open meeting, and liaise with the Clerk on its submission</p>

SKELTON CUM NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL

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

22.58	Traffic calming Noting that there have been no incidents related to speeding on Skelton-on-Ure high street in recent times, that road conditions are as much a factor as speed in potential road traffic incidents, and the price for installation and upkeep of vehicle activated signage, the Council RESOLVED that there is no pressing need for VAS within the parish. It was AGREED to monitor feelings among parishioners via social media and conversation going forward.
22.59	Pop-up pubs The Council discussed further pop-ups, and AGREED that there seemed to be interest in them continuing, certainly in summer months. The Council thus RESOLVED to potentially running events monthly from April to September, plus a pre-Christmas event, until and unless of course the Black Lion should re-open. Additions to these events, or add-ons, could include a quiz, another snail race, and a coronation event on or around 6 th May. Parishioners were urged to let Cllr Mosley or the Clerk know if they are interested in helping organise any of these events.
22.60	Reading Room hire The Council RESOLVED to raise the hourly Reading Room hire fee to £10, given that the £8 rate had been in place for many years and that energy prices are unprecedentedly high. The Council further RESOLVED to allow the Women's Institute, Book Club, and Coffee Mornings to continue to use the Room free of charge for the year 2023-24.
22.61 22.611 22.612	Correspondence North Yorkshire County Council: Various documents and briefing papers concerning the transition to the new unitary authority. Smaller Authorities Auditor Appointments Ltd: Noting that PKF Littlejohn LLP will be the external auditor for North Yorkshire parish councils for a further five years until 2028.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: