

# 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 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
**TIME:** 7.00pm  
**LOCATION:** Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure  
**PRESENT:** Cllrs Jane Mosley (Chairing), Chris Delf, Jane Mosley, Jim Spillings  
**CLERK:** Nick Reed (minutes)  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** 6 members of the public [MoP]

23.01	<b>Declarations of interest</b> and requests for dispensation There were none.
22.02	<b>Apologies</b> and consideration of reasons for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Guy Critchlow and Lawrence Paterson.
22.03	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b> These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
22.04 22.041	<b>Ongoing issues from the minutes for updating</b> (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) <b>Black Lion pub:</b> The Council heard that a well-attended Q&A session in February had resulted in an immediate £15,000 uptick in pledges, with the total raise towards community purchase now being over £160,000. The campaign group has been visited by Julian Smith MP and BBC Radio York, and will create and circulate a fresh newsletter for circulation in May, with details of the business plan, pledges, and how to pledge.
22.042	<b>Highways:</b> The Council noted continued dialogue with NYC Highways over the condition of High Moor Road, on which topic NYC and parishioners remain of very differing views.
22.05	<b>Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors</b> NYC Cllr Nick Brown reported that the new authority was up and running, with few if any troubles reported during the transition. He added that he would raise highways issues with a senior officer in the near future. A MoP reported that a North Yorkshire resident had received a Humane Society bravery award for life-saving use of a defibrillator, adding that further training sessions in CPR and defibrillator use would be helpful. Noting that two well-attended sessions had already been held, the Council AGREED to look at a date for a further training / refresher session.
22.06	<b>Financial Statement and approvals for payment</b> The Council was noted as having on hand £22,053.70 at the end of the financial year on 31 <sup>st</sup> March, with recent receipts of: £1,681.93 (HMRC VAT reclaim); £280 (pop-up pub takings); and £88 (Reading Room hires) It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages (Clerk Jan-Mar, Cleaner Jan-Mar); Clerk's expenses/training qtr 4 £207.45; HMRC (PAYE qtr 4) £150.40; Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 3) £30+VAT; Yorkshire Local Councils Association (membership 2023-24) £134.00; and Cllr Mosley (£49.50 and Mr D. Pearson (£16.99) for expenses incurred on village planting It was further RESOLVED to formally approve a payment of £71.43+VAT to Shawgas for Reading Room heating gas, necessarily agreed between meetings. The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £20,857.99

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<b>23.07</b>	<b>Planning applications and decisions</b> The Council considered 23/01056/FUL for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a new two-storey detached dwelling with attached garage, at "Sunny Lea", Ripon Road, and RESOLVED that it has no objection to this application. The Council noted the granting subject to standard conditions of 22/00248/FUL, a revised scheme for various extension, roofing and fenestration works at Cherrytree House
<b>23.08</b>	<b>Emergency plan</b> The Council noted that the current plan is some years old and while basically sound needs contacts updating, and to check that it follows current best practice. Cllr Mosley offered to set off and manage this updating process.
<b>23.09</b>	<b>Skelton Newby Hall VE Primary School</b> The Council discussed issues relating to the school and its proposed closure, noting that councillors have been engaged in formal and informal consultations in an attempt to find ways to retain early years education on this site. The School Governing Board minutes of the meeting at which closure was agreed have yet to be made public, with a freedom on information request from the Clerk being turned down; this is currently being appealed. It seems to be the case that the current housing calculations with regards to existing and especially future school place requirements for the wider Boroughbridge / Ripon area are a significant underestimate. The Council RESOLVED to continue to advocate for the school to remain open, or for a similar facility to operate on the same site, taking advantage of the excellent facilities and Forest School status. Finally, it was noted that the NYC consultation on the school's future concludes on 27 <sup>th</sup> April.
<b>23.10</b>	<b>Christ the Consoler Church</b> The Council noted that a loose group, mainly of parishioners, is working with Newby Hall Estate to carry out essential work at the church, including grounds maintenance, fundraising towards heating repair works, and working with interested parties to develop a maintenance programme for the windows. A fundraising concert with a string quartet will be the first of what are hoped to be many events to support the latter two objectives.
<b>23.11</b>	<b>Community spring clean</b> The council heard that this event had been popular, with an enthusiastic group turning out to clear litter from the length of all the roads leading into the village, and also managed to clear lots of leaf mulch from the gutters, collecting more than two dozen full bags of rubbish. The Council THANKED all volunteers, and North Yorkshire Council for the loan of litterpicking equipment.
<b>23.12</b> 22.611 22.612	<b>Correspondence</b> North Yorkshire Council: Confirming the receipt in good order of the 2023-24 precept requirement North Yorkshire Council: Various documents and briefing papers concerning the transition to the new unitary authority.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

SIGNED: ..... (Chair)

DATE:

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