

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 13th January 2022
TIME: 7.00pm
LOCATION: Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure
PRESENT: Cllrs Guy Critchlow (Chair), Jane Mosley, Lawrence Paterson, Phil Tottie
CLERK: Nick Reed (minutes)
IN ATTENDANCE: 14 members of the public [MoP]

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 21.39 | Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation There were none |
| 21.40 | Apologies and consideration of reasons for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Richard Littlefair |
| 21.41 | Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th October 2021 These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair. |
| 21.42 21.421 | Ongoing issues from minutes for updating (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) Black Lion pub – The Clerk reported that a potential vendor has been in a series of talks with Admiral Taverns (the site’s current owners) and Newby Hall (who have a covenant over the land to the rear), with a view to re-opening the building as a pub and possibly café / community shop, with holiday huts / pods to the rear. Admiral Taverns now have vacant possession of the pub and are thus able to put the property on their maintenance schedule to tidy up the building and grounds. The Council and parishioners present were cautiously pleased with these developments, and Harrogate BC Cllr Nick Brown noted that he would support the continued use of the Black Lion as a hospitality business at district council level as long as that is the clear community intent. |
| 21.422 | Reading Room – The Council noted that the Reading Room has been replastered, and obvious external damp sources fixed, by Newby Hall as premises landlord, and that they had made recommendations about how to keep damp at bay in future. It was agreed that pro bono advice from a building surveyor / energy specialist should be sought. <p style="text-align: right;">ACTION: Clerk to pursue</p> |
| 21.423 | The Council then THANKED Jeff Craven for his excellent work in redecorating the Reading Room. School liaison – Cllr Paterson noted that there was nothing to report due to it being early in the school term, and it was agreed to hold the matter over to April’s meeting. |
| 21.43 | Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors A MoP raised the issue of speed monitoring tubes, and the Clerk noted that these had not yet been installed and that he would chase NYCC Highways to get the survey done. HBC Cllr Brown reported that the Harrogate Civic Centre was still not fully functional, due to Covid-related staff shortages. There is a backlog of planning applications due to staff vacancies within the planning team. Cllr Brown added that preparations for the unitary North Yorkshire Council were progressing, with information now in the public domain. <i>[Clerk’s note: please contact the Council per this letterhead for information or briefing documents.]</i> It was noted that unitary council elections, and all parish council elections, would take place in May 2022 for a five-year term including the transitional year of 2022-23. For this parish it would mean that the current councillors’ term of office would end a year early, but that no election fees would be payable to the principal authority for 2022 election administration. |

SKELTON CUM NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL

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

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 21.44 | <p>Financial Statement and approvals for payment</p> <p>The Council was noted as having on hand £26,959.80 on 31st December 2021, with recent receipts of £176 (Reading Room rental).</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages (Clerk Oct-Dec, Cleaner Oct-Dec); Clerk's expenses/training qtr 3 £155.50; HMRC (PAYE qtr 3) £137.80; Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 3) £36.00; Shawgas (propane for Reading Room) £62.00; and Cllr Mosley (expenses Reading Room) £59.54.</p> <p>Direct debit payments of £30 (R.C. Compton, Reading Room rent) and £24.32 (Business Stream, Reading Room water) were noted.</p> <p>The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £26,874.12</p> |
| 21.45 | <p>Planning applications and decisions</p> <p>The Council considered 21/05457/FUL for a single-storey extension at Great Givendale, and RESOLVED that it supports the application.</p> <p>There were no decisions or enforcement issues to note.</p> |
| 21.46 | <p>New bench plaque</p> <p>The Council considered a suitable wording for the plaque, and RESOLVED to commission a straightforward plaque noting the Village of the Year award and the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk to pursue</p> |
| 21.47 | <p>2022-23 Budget</p> <p>The Council considered the draft budget circulated ahead of the meeting, following the decision at October's meeting to halve the precept for 2022-23 and 2023-24 absent unforeseen issues. The Council RESOLVED to adopt the budget with a precept requirement of £2,508.</p> |
| 21.48 | <p>Reading Room furniture</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to approve expenditure of up to £2,500 for the purchase of new Reading Room chairs and the removal of the existing stock.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ACTION: Clerk and Cllr Mosley to progress</p> |
| 21.49 | <p>Reading Room hires</p> <p>The Council discussed the current policy of making the Reading Room available free of charge for established community groups including the WI, Church, book club and coffee mornings, and RESOLVED to keep this policy in place for 2022-23. A MoP on behalf of the WI said that the policy was really appreciated and was a significant factor in allowing small community group activities to continue in the current climate.</p> |
| 21.50 | <p>Correspondence</p> |
| 21.501 | <p>NY Police: Report noting five reported incidents between 7th October and 4th January; one police scam, one threatening message, one report of fox hunting, one case of abandoned animals, and one case of pigs on the road.</p> |
| 21.502 | <p>NYCC: update on progress towards the new unitary council per item 21.43</p> |
| 21.503 | <p>MoP: request for update on Highways issues on Back Lane and High Moor Road</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ACTION: Clerk to progress</p> |

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: