

# 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> October 2022  
**TIME:** 7.00pm  
**LOCATION:** Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure  
**PRESENT:** Cllrs Guy Critchlow (Chair), Jane Mosley, Lawrence Paterson, Jim Spillings  
**CLERK:** Nick Reed (minutes)  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** 7 members of the public [MoP]

22.32	<b>Declarations of interest</b> and requests for dispensation There were none.
22.33	<b>Apologies</b> and consideration of reasons for absence There were none, all Councillors being present
22.34	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b> These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
22.35	<b>Ordinary vacancy</b> It was NOTED that the seat of Givendale remains empty, and that a potential Councillor does not have to be resident of that extremely small ward to represent it. <i>ACTION: All to consider possible candidates for co-option at the next meeting</i>
22.36 22.361 22.362 22.363	<b>Ongoing issues from the minutes for updating</b> (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) <b>Item:</b> The Council noted and agreed with dissatisfaction from parishioners about the positioning and especially size of the new bins. Further noting an email received by the Clerk from Harrogate BC assuring the Council that the new bin would be cleaned as and when needed, the Council agreed to keep a watching brief to ensure this did indeed happen. <b>Road and pavement maintenance:</b> NYCC Highways had replied to the Council's ongoing concerns by saying that the pavement issues at Skelton-on-Ure high street were "within tolerance" and that regarding High Moor Road there were "no capital plans for this [financial] year or next" but that works would be commissioned to fix potholes as necessary. Noting that this seems a false economy but acknowledging the strain on the Highways budget, the Council agreed to continue to report issues at both these places immediately they arise. <i>ACTION: All to contact Clerk when work is seen to be necessary</i> <b>20s Plenty:</b> The Council heard that there was no Skelton-cum-Newby specific update on this campaign to be noted.
22.37	<b>Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors</b> NYCC Cllr Brown reported that preparation for the new unitary council continued to dominate North Yorkshire affairs. Sitting on the customer working group he aims to ensure that there will be one central phone number and email for all North Yorkshire Council business. Regularisation of council tax will result in Harrogate residents receiving smaller bills next year, while e.g. Hambleton's will go up. Support for communities is being setting up and this includes parish councils, while planning arrangements are currently being debated with some advocating for three planning areas across the county and some for six areas. A MoP raised concerns about speeding within Skelton-on-Ure village, and the Council agreed that this remained an issue, with moving towards a 20mph limit throughout the parish except for the B6265 remaining Council policy.

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<b>22.38</b>	<p><b>Financial Statement and approvals for payment</b></p> <p>The Council was noted as having on hand £21,214.16 on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, with recent receipts noted of: £1,254 (Harrogate BC, precept #2 of 2); £1,085 (takings from pop-up pubs); and £25 (Reading Room hires)</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages (Clerk Jul-Sep, Cleaner Jul-Sep); Clerk's expenses/training qtr 2 £233.94; HMRC (PAYE qtr 2) £140.00; Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 2) £30+VAT; Plunkett Foundation £200+VAT (membership); Rudgate Brewery £164.87+VAT (beer for pop-up pubs); Advance Fire Services £107.55+VAT (Reading Room service and refill of fire equipment); M. Konaszewicz £50.00 (window cleaning); Cllr Spillings £46.88 (pop-up pub expenses); and Cllr Mosley £73.89 (Reading Room / planting expenses).</p> <p>It was further RESOLVED to approve the following payments necessarily agreed between meetings for matters relating to the pop-up pubs and Black Lion working group: A1 Barstuff 798.73+VAT (pub equipment); Cllr Spillings £31.08 and Cllr Critchlow £421.05 (pub expenses); Rudgate Brewery £232.86+VAT (pub stock); MJD Hughes £1,500+VAT (valuation of Black Lion); and M. Ramshaw £112.11 (Black Lion expenses).</p> <p>The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £19,506.96</p>
<b>22.39</b>	<p><b>Planning applications and decisions</b></p> <p>The Council considered 22/03455/FUL for a two-storey side extension, single storey annexe replacing garage, and related works at Cherry Tree House, and RESOLVED that it has no objection to this application.</p> <p>The Council NOTED the granting of 22/01480/FUL, for extensions at Dale View, Ripon Road, and that an enforcement investigation into a dormer window at 8 Crowgarth had found that the work was within the threshold of permitted development.</p>
<b>22.40</b>	<p><b>Black Lion pub</b></p> <p>The Council heard from a member of the pub steering group that the application for registration as an Asset of Community Value has been successful. As Harrogate BC has only granted five out of 30 applications and only two of those are for pubs, this is a significant achievement and the Council congratulated the working group on it.</p> <p>The Council further heard that 150 replies had been received from the community consultation exercise, including 98 from Skelton-on-Ure, with 85% of respondents regarding a reopened Black Lion as important or very important to the community. The business valuation has been received with the site valued at £315,000. It is currently on sale at £375,000, but the valuer and the Plunkett Foundation suggest that a purchase bid at or a little over the valuation figure would be likely to succeed.</p> <p>The Plunkett Foundation, or which the Council is now a member, has offered 10.5 hours of community facility consultancy, including a half day on site.</p> <p>The Council noted that Newby Hall Estate is reacting positively to these developments and has reaffirmed its desire for a pub-based community facility to be run and flourish at this site, and the Council finally noted that more members / input on the steering group are always welcome, as a small number of people are putting in a lot of hours at the moment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION;</b> All to consider potential steering group recruits</p>
<b>22.41</b>	<p><b>Commutated sums</b></p> <p>The Council heard that commuted sums of £48,397.89 (now) and £56,049.98 (soon) would be available for capital work at the Reading Room. It was noted with regret that as these sums result from Section 106 agreements signed some years ago there is no flexibility whatsoever in the site to which these sums can be applied or the nature of work on which they can be spent.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION;</b> All to consider possible Reading Room improvement projects</p>

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22.42	<b>Banking</b> The Council considered whether to move its banking to a company/product allowing online payments under the same conditions as cheques are currently written (e.g. commissioned by the Clerk and authorised by two Councillors), and whether to open a second “trading arm” account specifically for Reading Room social events in order to maintain clarity about income and expenditure related to these events and prevent them overwhelming the Council’s core business in accounting terms. The Council AGREED that both of these developments would be desirable, and that an extraordinary meeting in November or December would enable any relevant paperwork to be completed and a draft budget prepared for approval at January’s ordinary meeting. <i>ACTION: Clerk to progress</i> [Clerk’s note: due to the amalgamation of principal councils the deadline for receipt of 2023-24 precept demands is now 31st December, so the extraordinary meeting would need to consider and approve the budget.]
22.43	<b>Pop-up pubs</b> The Council received a brief report noting that the three events held thus far had been successful both in and of themselves as social events, and in terms of community cohesion, with parishioners new to Reading Room activities coming to them. Having a fish and chip van outside had proved popular, as had the atmospheric lighting fitted for the September event. The next event was noted as being on 4 <sup>th</sup> November, with the hope of arranging an end-of-year parish gathering just before Christmas.
22.44	<b>Risk assessment</b> The Council noted the updated risk assessment as circulated and RESOLVED to approve it as a working document. The Council THANKED Cllr Mosley for her work on the risk assessment.
22.45	<b>Joint Parish Council</b> The Council noted that in 2023 Skelton-cum-Newby is due to Chair this informal but very useful group, which meets quarterly at Boroughbridge. Cllr Mosley agreed to continue to represent the Council at the JPC, with Cllr Critchlow aiming to also attend.
22.46	<b>Correspondence</b>
22.461	PKF Littlejohn LLP (external auditor): Noting the receipt in good order of the certificate of exemption from external audit and other necessary documents and that therefore the 2021-22 audit process is concluded without notes
22.462	MEWP Ltd: Further to concerns raised at the July meeting, noting that regarding potential quarrying at Givendale, “for a number of reasons [MEWP and Newby Hall Estate] have taken the decision not to pursue the matter any further at this time”.
22.463	North Yorkshire County Council: Various documents and briefing papers concerning the transition to the new unitary authority

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

SIGNED: ..... (Chair)

DATE: