

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 14th January 2021
TIME: 7.00pm
LOCATION: Online via Zoom
PRESENT: Cllrs Jane Mosley (Chair), Guy Critchlow, Lawrence Paterson, Phil Tottie
CLERK: Nick Reed (minutes)
IN ATTENDANCE: Harrogate BC Cllr Nick Brown, NYCC Cllr Robert Windass, 5 Members of the Public [MoP],

20.40	Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation There were none
20.41	Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Richard Littlefair
20.42	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th October 2020 These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
20.43	Ongoing issues from minutes for updating (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)
20.431	National Lottery funding for allotments: The Council noted that a polytunnel is now on order for communal use, as is a brush cutter. The need for a suitable means of setting the NL funding acknowledgement plaque was discussed, and a MoP kindly offered the use of a railway sleeper for this purpose. The Council RESOLVED to cover any costs incurred in setting the sleeper and the plaque.
20.432	B6265 – The Council noted a further two accidents on this stretch of road since the October meeting, and that the junction of High Moor Road with the B6265 had been highlighted as especially dangerous in terms of both road condition and visibility splays. Cllr Windass offered to speak to the lead officer for NYCC Area 6 Highways on this matter. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Action: Clerk to write to Area 6</i></p>
20.433	Black Lion pub – The Clerk thanked all councillors and the several parishioners who had submitted useful information about the pub's history and activities, which would be useful in forming the Asset of Community Value application. The Council noted that there were still two caravans left on site, which was presumably still impeding Admiral Taverns' ability to take vacant possession of the site. Cllr Brown offered any help within his power to enable the pub to proceed to being offered for lease. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Action: Clerk to progress and liaise with Cllr Brown</i></p>
20.434	School governor – Cllr Critchlow reported that he has contacts for the new Chair of Governors, and that it is possible that more parents wish to be governors than there are parent governor seats, on which case the Council could nominate any parishioner in this position to act on its behalf. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Action: Cllr Critchlow to share information with Clerk; Clerk to progress</i></p>
20.44	Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors NYCC Cllr Windass reported that Covid remains very marked across the county, with Harrogate district figures among those rising, the county council is having to draw from its resources to keep things running as normal. With that in mind, setting the 2021-22 budget is more than usually problematic, but it seems likely that council tax will rise by 1.99% and the social care element by less than the 3%

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	<p>allowed. The weather has also impacted the county over the last week, but efficient gritting has enabled all A roads and most B roads to remain open. Finally, Cllr Windass noted that the appeals against refusal of planning permission for motorway service areas at junction 50 of the A1(M) for Moto and Junction 48 for Applegreen were being held together on 16th February. With the hearing being held virtually, Cllr Windass encouraged interested parties to log in to the hearing's YouTube channel to establish the level of interest in the case.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: NR to circulate YouTube link</p> <p>Harrogate BC Cllr Brown reported that Harrogate BC has approved its 2021-22 budget, which is now before the Scrutiny Committee. With the financial challenges of Covid, including a £2.5m loss of revenue from sports and leisure facilities, it is inevitable that residents will have to pay a little more to keep services running. Cllr Brown noted however that the Council had committed to not raising sports and leisure fees when facilities reopened. Cllr Brown expressed his concern for ward residents with or at risk of Covid, particularly in making sure they are able to communicate with a responsible person to ensure they have all that they need in lockdown.</p> <p>Finally, both Cllrs Brown and Windass noted that discussions are ongoing regarding the new unitary authority/ies for North Yorkshire, and that it seemed likely that this process would result in the postponement of the county council elections set for May 2021.</p> <p>A MoP wished to minute thanks to NYCC Cllr Robert Windass and the street lighting team for enabling streetlights which were out within the parish to be swiftly restored to service.</p>
<p>20.45</p>	<p>Financial Statement and approvals for payment</p> <p>The Council was noted as having on hand £21,652.33 on 31st December 2020.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages (Clerk Oct-Dec, Cleaner Oct-Dec); Clerk's expenses/training qtr 2 £136.35; HMRC (PAYE qtr 3) £121.80; Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 2) £36.00; PKF Littlejohn (external audit 2019-20) £240.00; Scotton Park (electrical testing to Reading Room) £90.00; J. Mosley (planting expenses) £35.97; Church Buying Group (Reading Room tables and trolley) £464.03; Ripon Farm Services (brush cutter for allotments) £270; and Northern Polytunnels (polytunnel for allotments) £1,636.13.</p> <p>Direct debit payments were noted to Yorkshire Water (£32.32, Reading Room) and R. Compton (£30.00, Reading Room rent)</p> <p>The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £18,134.73</p> <p>In response to a question from a MoP, the Clerk noted that the Council's annual turnover for 2020-21 would be back under £25,000 and that therefore the Council could declare itself exempt from external audit if it wished.</p>
<p>20.46</p>	<p>Planning applications and decisions</p> <p>There were none to discuss or note.</p>
<p>20.47 20.471 20.472 20.473</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>PKF Littlejohn LLP – Reporting the conclusion of the Council's annual review for 2019-20, with no matters arising.</p> <p>ONS – information about the 2021 Census, taking place on 21st March, mostly remotely, and request for information about residents who are without internet access and/or transient communities</p> <p>MoP – Request for information about burial sites within the parish, towards a masters degree</p>

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20.474	MoP – Request for information about the history of Skelton by John Holt. A brief discussion ensued during which it was noted that such requests are received steadily Action: Clerk to investigate whether a reprint of the book would be possible or needed
20.475	E.ON Next – Informing the Council that they have taken on the Reading Room energy account from Npower
20.476	MoP – Comment about the “tired” nature of the parish website. The Council noted that BT Click are withdrawing support from the site after May 24 th , that investment would be needed in re-siting it, and that therefore that might be a good point to think again about website design and content.
20.48	Thanks Finally, the Council AGREED to send a letter of thanks to Robert Strong, for keeping the village shop open and thereby doing so much to help the community during these unpleasant and unprecedented times. Action: Cllr Mosley to draft a letter, Clerk to send

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: