

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 23rd April 2020
TIME: 7.00pm
LOCATION: Online via Zoom
PRESENT: Cllrs Jane Mosley (Chair), Guy Critchlow, Richard Littlefair, Lawrence Paterson, Phil Tottie
CLERK: Nick Reed (minutes)
IN ATTENDANCE: 3 Members of the Public [MoP], Harrogate BC Cllr Nick Brown (until 7.25pm)

To open the meeting, Cllr Mosley welcomed councillors and the public to this historic online meeting, and expressed the hope that not many meetings would have to be held this way

20.A	Standing orders The council RESOLVED to adopt the addendum to the standing orders covering the conduct of remote meetings, as circulated.
20.01	Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation There were none
20.02	Apologies There were none, all councillors being present.
20.03	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th January 2020 These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
20.04	Ongoing issues from minutes for updating (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) The Council NOTED that the VE Day 75 celebrations have been postponed, but are intended to be rescheduled at an as yet unspecified future date.
20.05	Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors District Cllr Brown reported that Harrogate BC had been relatively quiet due to the covid-19 situation. The Council offices are shut except for a skeleton staff attending on Tuesdays and Thursday, with the HBC administrative staff working from home, augmented by some staff reallocated from e.g. leisure centres which are necessarily closed. The council is busy distributing covid-19 business support grants and co-ordinating information about local support groups. Picking up on the issues regarding domestic waste collection in the parish raised at January's meeting, Cllr Brown reported, and those present agreed, that the collection had become more consistent since January, covid-19 arrangements notwithstanding. Cllr Brown also noted his concern that NYCC's household waste centres remained shut, and that this could lead to an increase in flytipping. Finally, Cllr Brown noted that the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the proposed motorway service area at Kirby Hill remained on the cards, and was pleased to hear that Gareth Owens of RAMS (Residents Against Motorway Services) was to speak on behalf of this parish council as well as others at the public inquiry. A MoP noted their thanks to those parish councillors and parishioners assisting self-isolating residents with shopping, prescriptions, etc, and said that the scheme was working very smoothly for something which was necessarily started on an emergency / ad hoc basis.

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20.06	Financial Statement and approvals for payment The Council was noted as having on hand £8,285.95 at the financial year end on 31 st March 2020. The Clerk added that this figure includes £2,830.50 in unspent ringfenced grants, but that figure is almost exactly balanced by £2,854.98 in VAT awaiting reclaim. It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages (Clerk Jan-Mar, Cleaner Jan-Mar); Clerk's expenses/training qtr 4 £150.44; HMRC (PAYE qtr 4) £118.80; Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 4) £36.00; Zurich plc (annual insurance) £533.17; YLCA (annual subscription) £128.00; and Yorkshire Ambulance Service (CPAD awareness training) £240.00. Payment of £547.26 for tables and cleaning materials, previously agreed by email, was RESOLVED to have been properly spent, and standing orders were noted of £205.09 to Npower and £27.32 (Business Stream) for Reading Room utilities. Receipts were noted for Reading Room hire (£556), and a grant from NYCC's members discretionary awards fund for Reading Room furniture and fittings (£1,000). The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £6,604.25
20.07	Planning applications and decisions There were none to discuss or note.
20.08	Noticeboards The council noted that the boards had been erected pro bono by Allan Weston, and THANKED Mr Weston for his excellent work. The council further RESOLVED to approve a payment to Mr Weston for £40 for the purchase of brackets as part of this work, and all present agreed that the new boards were more durable and attractive by far than the previous ones.
20.09	Water for allotments The council noted that water is now being supplied to allotment holders, and that in theory any water charges should be passed on to them. However, as no bill has yet been raised for supply, the question of who should pay and how much was impossible to ascertain at this stage. Action: This matter to be on the agenda for August's meeting
20.10	Annual Meetings The council discussed whether to hold the Annual Parish Council Meeting remotely, or to defer them until May 2021 as permitted by the Local Authorities and Police Crime Panels (coronavirus) [Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panels] (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. After a brief discussion, during which Cllrs Mosley and Paterson confirmed their willingness to remain Chair and Vice-Chair for another year, the council RESOLVED to defer the Annual Parish Council Meeting until May 2021. The Annual Parish Meeting was noted as not covered by the regulations, as this meeting is convened by the Chair of the Parish Council, or six electors. The council noted that it seemed pointless to hold this meeting, which is historically a social event as much as a formal one, virtually and agreed that this would be held over, absent it being triggered as above.
20.11	Newsletter The council noted that information regarding the covid-19 virus has been distributed door-to-door, on the parish noticeboards, and via the village facebook site. Given current restrictions and, per 20.10 above, the absence of annual meetings, the council RESOLVED to defer the production of a newsletter until current restrictions on movements and events have been lifted.

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20.12	<p>Christ the Consoler Church</p> <p>Cllr Critchlow reported back from a meeting with the Church Conservation Trust, which he had attended on behalf of the parish council along with representatives from Newby Hall and an interested parishioner. The CCT reported that their funds are extremely limited at the moment, and that only around 15 of the hundreds of churches in their care are receiving substantial funding. Mostly these are churches where lead has been lifted and which are therefore not watertight. They are able to cover the church's insurance and utilities both nothing else.</p> <p>The pressing need at Christ the Consoler is for a new boiler, at an estimated cost of £5,000). Without this small investment the unique and historic stained glass windows will become degraded and need refurbishment in 5-10 years at a cost of nearer £500,000. Maintenance is currently undertaken by Lucinda Compton of Newby Hall, and Jim Spillings of Skelton-on-Ure, without whom the situation would doubtless rapidly become worse.</p> <p>The Council expressed concern at the threat to this beautiful and unique part of the parish's fabric and history, and agreed to work with and robustly challenge CCT, as well as investigating other possible solutions including Newby Hall or the Diocese of Ripon taking control of the building, and supporting an Awards for All application for the new boiler once A4A is no longer supporting covid-19 projects only as is currently the case.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Cllr Critchlow and the Clerk to monitor the situation</p>
20.13	<p>Internal Audit</p> <p>The council NOTED that due to grant funding its 2019-20 turnover was over £25,000 and therefore it cannot be exempted from internal audit. The Council therefore RESOLVED to commission an internal audit from any appropriate source.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk to identify an internal auditor and submit papers for audit</p>
20.14 20.141 20.142	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>20.141 Harrogate BC Parks and Environmental: Noting that the equipment at Crowgarth play area is to be replaced on a like-for-like basis in the near future.</p> <p>20.142 MoP: Expressing concern that Newby Hall had blocked a permissive path. Councillors NOTED that a sign had been placed in error on a PROW, and that this had now been appropriately moved, and that the permissive paths remain as indicated on Newby Hall's noticeboards.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: