

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 8th October 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: 2 Members of the Public [MoP], Harrogate BC Cllr Nick Brown (until 7.20pm)

20.27	Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation There were none
20.28	Apologies There were none, all councillors being present
20.29	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th July These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
20.30 20.301	Ongoing issues from minutes for updating (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) Christ the Consoler Church: Cllr Critchlow reported that there had been no significant developments regarding the church since the last meeting.
20.31	Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors District Cllr Brown reported that Harrogate BC's virtual council and committee meetings are available on YouTube, where they are viewed live by many more people than would have attended in person previously. The planning appeal enquiry for the motorway service area at Kirby Hill has been set for early November, but following the refusal of planning permission for the service area at Baldersby and subsequent appeal against that decision, it is likely that both MSA appeals will be heard together in the new year. Cllr Brown also reported that devolution remained a live issue at both district and county level, with the options of a unitary North Yorkshire authority not including the City of York, or two authorities for the east and west of the current NYCC area, with the City of York becoming part of the eastern authority. A Government white paper on devolution had been due but has not yet been published, due mainly to there having been a change of minister. 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.
20.32	Financial Statement and approvals for payment The Council was noted as having on hand £22,847.04 on 30 th September. It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages (Clerk July-September, Cleaner July-September); Clerk's expenses/training qtr 2 £133.30 (including annual ICO registration £40; HMRC (PAYE qtr 2) £124.80; Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 2) £36.00; Advanced Fire Services (annual Reading Room fire service) £41.34; and Cosmos Supplies Ltd (defibrillator battery) £297.60. The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £21,714.65

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	<p>The Council then RESOLVED to approve the purchase of a polytunnel (estimate £1,177 +VAT) and an apple press (subject to a quote at or less than £869+VAT) for the allotments, using the balance of the National Lottery Awards for All grant.</p>
20.33	<p>Reading Room grant</p> <p>The Council noted the award of a £10,000 small business Covid support grant from Harrogate BC in respect of the Reading Room, and discussed ways in which the grant should best be allocated. Noting that the Reading Room is losing perhaps £1,500 p.a. due to being closed, it was AGREED that the grant should cover this sum for at least this financial year and next, as well as maintaining payments for utilities and cleaning, and that already-needed capital works, e.g. damp coursing, might become more urgent the longer the building remains closed.</p>
20.34	<p>2021-22 Budget and precept requirement</p> <p>The Council considered various budgetary options, and RESOLVED to adopt the budget circulated as option #1 with effectively a standstill precept (£5,015 compared to £5,021 in 2020-21). The Council further RESOLVED to raise the Clerk's hours from 3.5 to 4 per week (17.38pcm) as allowed for in this budget.</p>
20.35	<p>Planning applications and decisions</p> <p>There were none to discuss or note.</p>
20.36	<p>B6265 proposal</p> <p>A MoP introduced the proposal to advocate for a 7.5 tonne weight limit and 40mph speed limit on the B6265 between the A168 roundabout and the Marton-le-Moor junction, noting that this stretch of road had seen numerous road traffic incidents over the last 20 years, including three fatalities. It was further noted that twice this year the road had been closed following accidents, with traffic, including HGVs, diverted through Skelton-on-Ure. The MoP had been in correspondence with NYCC Highways and NY Police and noted that there was some confusion between authorities over the designation of the route, but that it was clearly a "killed and seriously injured" route. The Council RESOLVED that it was in favour of the weight limit and speed limit on the B6265 between the A168 roundabout and the Marton-le-Moor junction, and further RESOLVED to lobby for the introduction of these restrictions.</p> <p><i>ACTION: Clerk to progress, and to inform Marton-le-Moor Parish Council of this resolution</i></p>
20.37	<p>Black Lion pub</p> <p>The Clerk reported that there remains an issue with the handover of the pub following last year's sale, due to problems obtaining vacant possession of the caravan park behind it. The Council remains unclear as to the occupancy status of the pub and caravans, whether the tenant is still paying rent and if so to whom, and whether any of the remaining caravan occupants are tenants of Harrogate Borough Council. The Council NOTED its frustration with the continued closure and dilapidation of the pub.</p> <p><i>Action: Clerk to monitor progress</i></p> <p>The Clerk further reported that the registration of the Black Lion as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) had been withdrawn following advice that a more substantial body of evidence was needed of the pub's value to the community – i.e. activities taking place there, community / charitable events and fundraising. Councillors were encouraged to talk to parishioners to gather evidence of this nature in order that an application could be submitted by the end of 2021.</p> <p><i>Action: All to progress, and report findings / testimonies to the Clerk</i></p>

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20.38	School Governor The Council considered a request from the Sharow and Skelton Newby Hall Federation of Church of England Schools to nominate a governor to serve on its board. No Councillor was willing to put themselves or anyone else forward for this position, but the Council expressed an interest in hearing more about the role and its responsibilities ahead of January's meeting. <i>Action: Cllr Critchlow to liaise with the Chair of the Federation</i>
20.39	Correspondence There was none to report which was not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: