

# 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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
**TIME:** 7.30pm  
**LOCATION:** The Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure  
**PRESENT:** Cllrs Jane Mosley (Chair), Guy Critchlow, Richard Littlefair, Lawrence Paterson, Phil Tottie  
**CLERK:** Nick Reed (minutes)  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** 16 Members of the Public [MoP], Harrogate BC Cllr Nick Brown, NYCC Cllr Robert Windass (from 7.20pm)

19.40	<b>Declarations of interest</b> and requests for dispensation There were none
19.41	<b>Apologies</b> There were none, all councillors being present.
19.42	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b> These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
19.43	<b>Ongoing issues from minutes for updating</b> (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) The Council NOTED that basic defibrillator training, suitable for beginners or as a refresher course, were to be booked, and RESOLVED after a brief discussion to fund this, but not to fund a more general first aid course. <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Cllr Mosley to book defibrillator training</b></p>
19.44	<b>Questions and Comments</b> from members of the public / district and county councillors District Cllr Brown reported that Harrogate BC had been relatively quiet due to the general election being swiftly followed by the holiday period. The application for a motorway service area at Kirby Hill had been refused by the Planning Committee, and Cllr Brown encouraged parish councillors to attend the Safer Neighbourhoods Group, which is to be addressed at its next meeting by the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police. In response to a question from a MoP, Cllr Brown said he would raise the issue of irregular domestic waste collections with the relevant officers, and that he was also lobbying for increased numbers in the waste collection team to reflect the increasing number of households within the borough.  County Cllr Windass reported that gritting was going well, with 107 farmers sub-contracted to assist when necessary and 55 tons of salt in hand, and that the system had not yet faced any great challenge as the winter had thus far been mild. He reported that major improvements would shortly be starting to the exits at junction 47 of the A1(M), to which NYCC was contributing £0.5m of the total £3.1m cost. The improvements at Bond End, Knaresborough, were obvious but air quality tests to confirm this have to wait until a full year after the work was completed. The logistics are now in place to double the frequency of the Harrogate-York rail service to two trains per hour. Cllr Windass reported that school exclusions in North Yorkshire, having been well below the national average from 2014-16, were well above it from 2016-18, and that NYCC is working to ensure that exclusion is not used for spurious reasons. He reassured the meeting that the Grove Academy has a new backer and will not be closing, contrary to rumour. In response to a question from a MoP, Cllr Windass reported that the ten-year external contract to fix potholes and other highways issues was being terminated a year early due to poor performance by the contractors, and that he was hopeful that an improvement in the speed and quality of pothole filling would result.  Finally, the councillors reported that both their respective bodies were likely to set a budget for 2020-

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	<p>21 involving a 1.99% council tax rise, plus in the case of NYCC 2% for social care.</p> <p>A MoP raised the issue of potentially illegal flytipping within the village.</p> <p><b>Action: Cllr Mosley to investigate and report if necessary</b></p>
<b>19.45</b>	<p><b>FCC Community Foundation / National Lottery funded projects</b></p> <p>The council heard that the FCC (WREN) funded Reading Room improvements were now complete, with an underspend successfully reallocated to the purchase of noticeboards for outside the Reading Room and the project signed off by the funder.</p> <p>The council is currently consulting allotment holders about their wishes for the allocation remaining Awards for All funds. Any parishioners with ideas should contact Cllr Mosley or Mr Chris Delf.</p>
<b>19.46</b>	<p><b>Financial Statement and approvals for payment</b></p> <p>The Council was noted as having on hand £8,402.67 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages (Clerk Oct_Dec, Cleaner Oct-Dec); Clerk's expenses training qtr 3 £79.10; HMRC (PAYE qtr 3) £118.80; Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 1-2) £36.00; and J. Mosley (Reading Room / allotment expenses) £163.48.</p> <p>Receipts were noted for Reading Room hire (£112), and the final FCC Community Fund grant claim (£1,327.53).</p> <p>The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £7,530.00</p>
<b>19.47</b>	<p><b>Planning applications and decisions</b></p> <p>The council NOTED the approval subject to standard conditions of application 19/02837/CLOPUD for a dormer extension and roof lights at Skelton Grange (19/02837/CLOPUD), and the approval subject to a number of conditions including new tree planting of 19/04205/FUL for retrospective approval of a single storey extension at Oak Tree House. The parish council had had no objection to either proposal, but had commented to Harrogate BC Planning reiterating its longstanding opposition to the concept of retrospective applications.</p>
<b>19.48</b>	<p><b>Black Lion pub</b></p> <p>The council noted the sale of the pub, along with the rest of the Marstons Brewery estate, to Admiral Taverns. The Clerk reported that Admiral Taverns had given assurances that they were looking to appoint a tenant and re-open. Councillors and MoPs discussed aspects of this issue including: the possibility of raising money to buy the building as a community pub similar to the recent campaign in Exelby and the current one in Kirby Malzeard; the possible interest of Newby Hall in the building; and the firm policy and practice operated by Harrogate BC licensing to prevent pubs and similar buildings being sold for residential development.</p> <p><b>Action: Clerk and all to maintain a watching brief; Clerk to contact Newby Hall for comment</b></p>
<b>19.49</b>	<p><b>Committed sums</b></p> <p>The council noted that St Helen's Parochial Church Council were developing plans to light the lych gate and/or install a noticeboard in the churchyard, and RESOLVED that either of those projects were a suitable use for the committed sums allocated for churchyards within the parish.</p> <p><b>Action: Clerk to inform Harrogate BC</b></p>
<b>19.50</b>	<p><b>Local Electricity Bill</b></p> <p>The council discussed and PASSED the following motion:</p> <p>Skelton Cum Newby Parish Council notes that the Local Electricity Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• aims to address the current situation, whereby the very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• if made law, would make these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation and therefore empower councils, together with their communities, to sell locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and</li><li>• would result in councils or community organisations that set up local renewable electricity companies receiving revenues that could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities</li></ul> <p>The parish council accordingly RESOLVES to support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by a cross-party group of 115 MPs during the 2017-19 Parliamentary session; and further RESOLVES to write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at 8 Delancey Passage, Camden, London NW1 7NN or info@powerforpeople.org.uk) expressing its support.</p> <p><b>Action: Clerk to write to the organisers</b></p>
19.51	<p><b>Tackling Loneliness</b></p> <p>The council noted that both Harrogate BC and NYCC had been undertaking consultations to prepare policies to tackle loneliness, especially within rural communities, and agreed to discuss these policies once complete.</p>
19.52	<p><b>VE Day 75</b></p> <p>The council noted the nationwide activities taking place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, and agreed that possible celebrations including the national proclamation at 3pm, ringing of church bells at 6pm, and a community meal or similar event in the Reading Room, would be desirable.</p> <p><b>Action: All to consider possible activities, the matter to be on April's agenda</b></p>
19.53	<p><b>2020-21 Budget</b></p> <p>The council considered the draft budget as circulated, with a standstill precept, and, noting that reserves are towards the top end of recommended levels, RESOLVED to adopt the budget as circulated.</p> <p><b>Action: Clerk to inform Harrogate BC</b></p>
19.54 19.391	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>Harrogate BC: Noting the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) modifications consultation, taking place until 31<sup>st</sup> January, with documents available online or at Ripon Community House, Allhallowgate.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

SIGNED: ..... (Chair)

DATE: