

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 9th July 2020
TIME: 7.00pm
LOCATION: Online via Zoom
PRESENT: Cllrs Jane Mosley (Chair), Guy Critchlow, Lawrence Paterson
CLERK: Nick Reed (minutes)
IN ATTENDANCE: 2 Members of the Public [MoP], Harrogate BC Cllr Nick Brown, NYCC Cllr Robert Windass

20.14	Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation There were none
20.15	Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Richard Littlefair and Phil Tottie
20.16	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23rd April These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
20.17	Ongoing issues from minutes for updating (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) The Council NOTED that Spectrum Futures CIC had agreed to perform the internal audit, thus enabling the Annual Governance and Accountability Review to be appropriately completed. (see item 20.20).
20.18	Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors District Cllr Brown reported that Harrogate BC had just started running internal meetings, including the cabinet and security committee, with the former available to attend online. The Civic Centre would remain closed until at least September. Cllr Brown added that the Kirby Hill motorway service area inquiry was pencilled in for two weeks in November, but that the application for a service area at Baldersby would be considered by the HBC Planning Committee on 4 th August. Finally Cllr Brown said that HBC's predicted deficit as a result of Covid-19 was between £9-15 million, and that no staff had been furloughed but many reallocated, e.g. leisure centre staff to waste collection and recycling. NYCC Cllr Windass then reported that the county council was meeting via Skype. The county had seen 256 Covid-19 deaths in hospitals and 209 in care homes up to the end of June, with the worst affected area being Scarborough. NYCC was preparing contingency plans for a second spike, whether in the winter or before, and had so far spent £73 million on Covid-19 matters including £9m on PPE, with an estimated shortfall of £38.5m compared to support from government. 625 staff had been furloughed. Cllr Windass noted in view of these figures that the county council had been prudent to maintain its reserves at a healthy level rather than cutting council tax too far. Finally, Cllr Windass reported that highways maintenance programme had been able to continue almost as normal, with the lack of traffic during lockdown making maintenance easier in rural areas. The Council noted that surface dressing is badly needed in the parish on the High Street and High Moor Road, and Cllr Windass said he would look into that. <i>Action: Cllr Critchlow to email details to Cllr Windass</i>

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20.19	Financial Statement and approvals for payment The Council was noted as having on hand £9,082.40 on 30 th June. It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages (Clerk April-June, Cleaner April-June); Clerk's expenses/training qtr 1 £181.45; HMRC (PAYE qtr 1) £118.80; Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 1) £36.00; Spectrum Futures CIC (internal audit) £230.00; WEL medical (defibrillator equipment) £23.82; and Cllr Mosley (purchase of summer plants) £27.50; and MoP (purchase of dog waste bin) £15.00 Direct debits were noted of £29.93 (Yorkshire Water – Reading Room) and £136.92 (Npower – Reading Room), and the receipt was noted of £2,511 from Harrogate BC as the first part of the precept. The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being ££7,989.54
20.20	Audit matters for the year ended 31st March 2020
20.201	Approval of Annual Governance Statement. This was read out and it was RESOLVED to approve the statement.
20.202	Approval of annual receipts and payments accounts. These were considered and it was RESOLVED to approve the accounts.
20.203	Approval of the Statement of Accounts of the Annual Return. This was considered and it was RESOLVED to approve the statement.
20.21	Asset Register The Council noted the Asset Register as circulated, reflecting the replacement noticeboards and new heating equipment at the Reading Room, and RESOLVED to approve it.
20.22	Planning applications and decisions There were none to discuss or note.
20.23	Water for allotments The Clerk reported that no water bills had been received, and it was agreed to investigate with the previous addressee. <i>[Clerk's note: the supplier had not updated the contact address, but in any case the account is currently in credit.]</i>
20.24	Black Lion pub The Council discussed the currently empty pub, and noted with concern reports that the current owners still did not have vacant possession of the building or grounds after six months. It is therefore not clear how the pub would have been marketed even in normal times, let alone the current Covid situation, and nor is it clear whether the caravans behind the pub are paying rent and if so to whom. The Council RESOLVED to make a formal application to Harrogate BC for the Black Lion to be advertised as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), and to seek clarification from the current owners as to whether they have full possession of the premises, and what price they would ask for the freehold – given the amount of work which would have to be done inside and out to make it viable – to inform any potential community buyout. Finally, the Council noted with gratitude that parishioners have been keeping the area in front of the pub as clean tidy as could be hoped. Action: Clerk to progress ACV application, and discuss the other matters with the new owners

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20.25	Christ the Consoler Church The Council heard that there had not been much development in this situation since the April meeting. The Church still requires heating to protect its invaluable stained glass, but it is clearly far from the “top 15 or so” projects which the Churches Conservation Trust can realistically fund. The Council further noted the groundskeeping work currently being done and the offer of help from various parishioners, and it was AGREED to reach out to Newby Hall Estate as landowners to see if setting up a “friends of Christ the Consoler” group might be an interesting way forward. Action: Cllr Critchlow to progress this possibility and report back
20.26 20.261 20.262 20.263 20.264	Correspondence Harrogate BC: noting that the examiner’s report for the Harrogate Local Plan has been received, and recommends approval of the Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule and that the CIL come into force in October 2020. Residents Against Motorway Services: update on Kirby Hill inquiry MoP; Request for information about whether parishioners remember evacuees in Skelton village during the war MoP x 2; Reports of issues with gatepost and brash removal at Millennium Pond. <i>[Clerk’s note; Newby Hall Estate attended to both matters in a timely manner and are thanked for doing so.]</i>

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: