

SNAINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th October 2020 in the Reading Room commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr T.P. Abbey (Chairman); Cllr J Harber; Cllr P. Mainprize; Cllr D. Jeffels (NYCC & SBC); .Cllr H Phillips (SBC); J Ingham CPFA (Clerk).

Apologies for absence: - Cllr N Binks (Vice-Chairman); Cllr H Tyson.

Absent: - no-one

- 1026 Cllr Terry Abbey opened the meeting and thanked members present for their attendance.
- 1027 Apologies and the reasons for absence by Cllrs Binks and Tyson had been received prior to the meeting. *The apologies were noted, and the reasons for absence were formally approved by the Council.*
- 1028 Minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2020 were presented and were agreed as a true record.
- 1029 Matters arising: none raised
- 1030 Declarations of interest: None
- 1031 The Clerk gave a verbal report on developments with the land off Wydale Rise. The Council reaffirmed its position that it wanted to help any local group(s) to bring the land back into beneficial use, and that it considered that Beyond Housing, the land owners had abrogated their responsibilities in letting the land become overgrown and extremely untidy. However it would not take on responsibility itself without Beyond Housing granting it some form of long term 'ownership' either legal ownership, or some form of long term lease/rental. To that effect Cllr Jeffels has managed to arrange a meeting on site between the interested parties, including himself, a local community representative, and the Parish Council on Friday 16th October.
- 1032 The Clerk submitted a schedule of decisions taken under the power delegated to them in April, and *the Council resolved to approve the decisions in the schedule.*
- 1033 The Council considered the different proposed changes to Local Government in North Yorkshire, and heard opinions and views from the County Council, and Borough Council Councillors present. The Council considered that it could not support either the County or the District Council proposals in their entirety. The potential scale of a single unitary Council was felt to be excessive, despite 'soft' promises of greater devolution of powers to Parish Councils etc., and the District Council proposal had the anomaly of including the City of York, an existing Unitary Council, and overall, members felt that a simple East/West split could be the better solution. That is Scarborough/Ryedale & Hambleton in the East, and Harrogate/Craven/Richmondshire in the West, with Selby being either 'broken up' or merged with the City of York with which it has strong business and housing links. That would deliver three Unitary Councils; East, and West North Yorkshires, and the City of York. It is anticipated that the Government will make its proposals in the spring, looking for local consultation through the summer with a view to elections to the new Councils in late 2021, and changes taking effect in April 2022.

1034 Financial Matters

The Clerk presented the Schedules of payments for the period May to September 2020 which were formally approved by the Council.

The Council resolved to approve the schedule of cheque payments for May to September 2020:-

i) Administration etc.	£	4,952.75
ii) Reading Room (incl. Services & Maintenance)	£	861.92
iii) Parish (incl. Services & Maintenance)	£	6,623.30
iv) Cemetery (incl. Services & Maintenance)	£	3,187.00
v) Grants & Donations	£	175.00
vi) Loan repayment	£	0.00

Non-routine 2020/2021 accounts for authorisation & payment: -None

The Council considered a verbal report from the Clerk outlining the annual grant made to the Derwent Valley Bridge Library and Resource Centre (Derwent Valley Bridge or DVB). A grant of £500 has been made annually since 2015/16. *The Council resolved to continue with the annual grant of a minimum of £500 for the next three years (2021/22; 2022/23; 2023/24).*

The Council noted the National Pay Award for 2020.

1035 Administration: -

The Council noted the guidance from the YLCA that, in the present Covid-19 driven circumstances where it was recommended that Councils should not meet in person, that to continue to function legally, there should be an adequately wide power of authority delegated under s101 of the Local Government Act 1972 to the Clerk and / or the RFO of the Council. The Clerk had circulated a paper outlining this to members, and this had been considered by the Councillors, both electronically, and in person at the April meeting. To exercise that power to Delegate Authority requires that the Council meet to approve such a delegation of authority.

The Clerk reminded members that there were now regulations (SI2020 No 392) which enable the Council to meet remotely using tele or video conferencing for a period to end by 7th May 2021. These regulations, which came into force from 4th April, also allow the Council to defer the usual, normally mandatory, Annual Meeting of the Council.

The Council reviewed the present situation with Covid-19 and the current associated regulations covering meetings etc. After consideration the Council determined to extend the authorisation granted to the Clerk which expires on 31st October to 31st March 2021.

The Council resolves that, under the Local Government Act 1972, Section 101, the Council empowers the Clerk & RFO to do anything expedient and necessary to ensure the continuous business of the council, and to deal with mandatory undertakings in order to prevent the Council from incurring liability during the period that the delegation is applicable. The Council further resolves that the Clerk will consult with the chairman and/or vice-chairman in the decision making but the Council acknowledge that it is the Clerk that is the decision maker under this Power of Delegation.

This Power of Delegation will end at midnight (00:00 hrs) on March 31st 2021 unless the Council has, following a review, resolved to extend the Power of Delegation. The Council can also, following a review, end the Power of Delegation earlier by a formal resolution at a meeting (real or virtual) of the Council.

1036 Matters raised by Councillors which may be considered at a future meeting: -

- A Parishioner had raised their concerns that the Cemetery grounds were in need of some works as, in their opinion, standards had slipped. The Clerk advised that there was, currently in progress, an extensive scheme of works to bring the Cemetery grounds back 'up to an acceptable standard'. However this was not something that could be achieved without considerable expense, and may lead to an increased precept in future years, as the labour content of such works is quite high.
- The Clerk was asked to liaise with Cllr J Harber to bring the road visibility safety mirror on the A170 at the junction of Nettledale Lane back into use, and if required to purchase a suitable mirror to be affixed.

1037 Date and time of next formal Public Meeting; - Monday 14th December 2020 at 7:30pm. This may change, and may be revised. Any change will be published on the Council's noticeboard, its website, and Facebook page.