

WYKEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 6:00pm on Monday 12th January 2015 at the St John Office, Wykeham Business Centre.

Present:

Cllr Lady Downe (Chairman), Cllr. R Sword, Cllr. L S Day, Cllr Ashman and Mr G Parkin (Clerk).

Also present for part of the meeting were Cllr. David Jeffels (Borough Cllr.) and Mr Neil Sands, a member of the public.

Before the start of the meeting, Lady Downe made reference to the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and the Council's policy in respect of these obligations was displayed at the entrance to the venue.

No request to film or record was received or conducted and a designated area was not required.

1. Apologies for absence

Nothing to record.

2. Declaration of Interests and Register of Interests

In accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct, the Clerk may grant dispensation to any Member to allow them to contribute to the discussion of any agenda item should the meeting not be quorate as a result of a declaration of interest. This decision is in the interests of the inhabitants of the Parish and will facilitate effective consideration of the business. Voting dispensations will therefore be considered as and when they become necessary.

The Clerk advised the members of advice that had been sought from YLCA with regard to the Precept process and the differing approach that many parish councils take with regard to member's interests.

All members expressed a declaration of interest with regard to Agenda item 6 (Draft budget and Precept for 2015/6) and asked for dispensations under the aforementioned Code of Conduct to be considered.

Noting the requests and the content of the subject matter under consideration, the Clerk granted dispensations for all members for a period of 4 years. The decision was based on advice that the Clerk had received from YLCA and with reference to the Code of Conduct.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 17th November 2014

The Minutes were AGREED to be true records and were duly signed by Lady Downe.

4. Matters arising

- The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Ashman had completed the Register of Interests and this had been duly submitted to Monitoring Officer at Scarborough within the 28 day requirement.
- The Clerk confirmed that a New Year card had been sent to Justin Terry on behalf of the members.
- Comments and revised maps detailing the views of the council were forwarded to Cllr Jeffels for onward consideration by NYCC – Cllr Jeffels confirmed this by email on 28th November.
- The Clerk confirmed that the Model Agreement had been submitted with the re-aligned expenditure figures. The ongoing situation with regard to 2015 Grass Cutting would be discussed under Agenda item 6 – Draft Budget 2015/6 & Precept.
- The Clerk confirmed that the concerns over the Hedge Removal Notice had been forwarded to NYMNPA. Cllr Sword advised members that the proposal was given approval by NYMNPA.
- The Clerk confirmed that member's comments with regard to the York Potash Planning Application had been submitted and acknowledged and that he had received a communication from Sirius Minerals thanking the Parish Council for its support and offered to provide a presentation about the project at any future meeting if required.

5. Police Report

The current report was briefly reviewed and it was thought that it would be more beneficial to have a commentary from PCSO Newcombe to give more insight behind the statistics. The agenda item was suspended to await the arrival of PC Newcombe but presumably for operational reasons, he was not able to attend.

6. Finance

Members received the latest financial statement (Appendix 1) and noted Receipts and Payments made since the last meeting on 19 November 2014. Requests for payments were noted and cheques duly authorised.

The Clerk presented the second draft of the financial budget for 2015/16 incorporating the changes from the first draft and the provision of precept funding derived from scenario 2 of the briefing note on NYCC Grass Cutting Grant (Appendix 2).

Cllr Sword requested the inclusion of a rental figure of £250 p.a. in respect of Quarry Field although it was noted that no tenancy agreement had yet been agreed or sought.

The members discussed the implications arising from the loss of funding from NYCC for Grass Cutting with respect to the budget and precept. Cllr Day and the Clerk had met with the current contractor to discuss the situation and the general consensus was that the Council should consider a reduction in the scope of the contract and also the frequency of the cut. It was also noted that NYCC were responsible for the verge maintenance of the A170.

It was AGREED that the scope of the grass cutting contract be reduced to exclude the A170 and the frequency be maintained but also consider some further reduction to the scope of the remaining areas if possible.

The Clerk produced a briefing note illustrating the proposed precept demand in comparison to the other local parish councils in the area. It was noted that even with the proposed increase, the precept demand still compares very favorably.

The council AGREED to increase the precept demand to make up the shortfall as it was felt that all mitigating actions had been taken to limit the increase.

It was also AGREED that the funding that is currently on offer by NYCC to cut verges on their behalf whereby they have a statutory duty to maintain through road safety, be rejected as it is clearly not in the financial best interest of the council to accept this responsibility for a grant amounting to £16.26 per annum.

The Clerk passed a communication detailing the Revised National Joint Council Pay Scales recommendations 2014-2016. It was AGREED that the members would discuss this after the meeting and the outcome advised to the clerk in due course.

ACTION – The Clerk to amend Budget to include provision of rental income of £250 for Quarry Field.

7. General Correspondence

Choices4 Energy - initiative for resident's cooperative purchase of fuel oil at competitive rates.

YLCA - Local Government Act 1972, Section limit confirmed at £7.36 per elector.

Sirius Minerals - Email to thank the council for supporting the Potash Application and offer of presentation at a future meeting if required.

YLCA/SBC - Draft proposals to make any increase above 2% on council tax/precept subject to referendum. YLCA asked for all parish councils to object to the proposal either directly or YLCA.

It was AGREED that the Clerk forward a letter to express the Parish Council's concern with the proposal to YLCA for onward submission to the relevant Government Department.

ACTION – The Clerk to forward letter per above item.

8. Public Question Time

Mr Neil Sands asked the council to consider 2 points:

- Potholes in Ruston
- Fibre Optic Broadband availability for Ruston

Cllr Jeffels made note of the first issue and would pass the concern onto Highways.

With regard to the second point raised, it was felt that the number of households wanting fibre optic broadband would be below the required threshold even with the support of the council.

Cllr Jeffels provided a brief update on several topics:

- There will be an increase in funds available from NY Highways for road repairs.
- The Potash application is unlikely to go before planning until after April as York Potash were intending to submit further documentation.
- Confirmed that A64 road improvements at Hopgrove roundabout near York to be funded under Road Improvement program.
- Development of new business park near Government Science Lab.
- Bridge closure on Forge Valley road near to Hackness.

The assistance of Cllr Jeffels was also requested on the following items:

- Possibility of formal speed restriction and erection of village signs for North Moor.
- Assistance from community payback teams to renovate the bus shelters/seating.
- Do Parish Councils receive any of the business rates returned to Scarborough BC by the Government?

ACTION – Review the above points at the next meeting.

9. Date and Time of next meeting

Confirmed : Monday 23rd March 2015 at 6:00 pm
St John's Office, Wykeham

Duly signed by Lady Downe (Chairman) 23rd March 2015