

TERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2020 at 7:30 pm in Terrington Village Hall

1. Attendance :

Cllr Winning (Chair), Cllr Barnett, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Stockdale, Cllr Taylor – all in person - Cllr Watson (by Jitsi link)

2. Minutes of previous meeting :

minutes of the caucus meetings held by Cllr Winning and Cllr Barnett under delegated powers on 4 August and earlier on 15 September were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Ongoing issues :

Cllr Winning has enquired about the status of the telephone box but not yet received a response.

4. Budget 2020/21 :

Cllr Barnett explained that good practise required the Council to have an annual budget and to regularly review performance against this. To this end Cllr Barnett as RFO distributed historical back data and a proposed budget for 2020/21. Cllr Barnett noted that the budget was closely in line with previous year's average income and expenditure. Cllr Barnett observed that the Council have been running a deficit of around £500 on average over the last few years and while finances were presently strong this trend needed to be addressed for them to remain strong. The budget was approved by the meeting (proposed Cllr Taylor, seconded Cllr Watson), all in favour.

5. Financial situation :

Cllr Barnett distributed a Financial Review of the Council's position as at 14.08.20 reconciled to the bank statement of that date. This was reviewed by the Chair and meeting, found to be correctly reconciled and both the statement and the bank account signed by the Chair.

6. Review of policies :

Cllr Winning as Chair explained that coming out of the AGAR process earlier in the year it had become apparent that an overhaul of the Council's key policies and documentation was needed. Cllr Winning and Cllr Barnett have undertaken this over the last few months and the updated policies proposed (and in some instances adopted on a provisional basis) had been circulated to all over the last few weeks for consideration. These were considered individually and adopted as follows:

Standing Orders :

Proposed Cllr Lewis, seconded Cllr Barnett, all agreed

Code of Conduct :

Proposed Cllr Winning, seconded Cllr Taylor, all agreed

Complaints Procedure :

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Lewis, all agreed

Financial Risk Assessment Policy :

Proposed Cllr Barnett, seconded Cllr Stockdale, all agreed

Risk Assessment Policy :

Proposed Cllr Stockdale, seconded Cllr Lewis, all agreed

Health and Safety Policy :

Proposed Cllr Lewis, seconded Cllr Taylor, all agreed

7. Road centre line at Little Terrington :

Cllr Winning informed the meeting that some time ago a longstanding resident of Terrington had contacted him to draw attention to the lack of a centre line at the brow of the hill at Little Terrington. The resident felt this was a dangerous stretch of road as drivers were often not well positioned going over the hill brow. Indeed, many years ago there had been a double fatality at this hill brow.

Cllr Winning and Cllr Barnett had discussed the situation in devolved meeting and agreed, as a result of which Cllr Winning had contacted NYCC and been assured that a new centre line would be painted.

8. Safety notice for the plump :

Cllr Winning observed that he had seen instances of people jumping off the wall surrounding the Plump and felt that it may be desirable to have an advisory notice for people ascending by the steps to draw attention to the drop around the Plump. Meeting agreed an advisory sign is desirable. Cllr Stockdale was asked to investigate the possibility of purchasing a sign in the same style of that at the cemetery. Cllr Winning and Cllr Barnett to consider and propose wording.

9. Website :

Cllr Winning drew the attention of the meeting to the revised website that is now operational after a comprehensive overhaul.

10. Unitary authority and possible abolition of Ryedale DC :

All Cllrs are aware of this possibility and regretted the potential demise of Ryedale DC, which was felt to offer good balance of higher level consolidation with awareness and sensitivity to village issues. It was felt that any proposal to this effect was likely to be imposed by central government with little if any consideration of local opinion.

11. Future meetings in a Covid environment :

After some discussion it was decided to hold a full Council meeting using Zoom

technology on Tuesday 10 November at 7:30 pm. However, it was agreed that the devolved powers should be retained.

12. Matters for inclusion on the next agenda / any other business :

Next agenda (for full meeting)

Conditions for access to the cemetery and burial fees.

Other business – assets of community value.

The village pub has been closed for many years and most residents would welcome it re-commencing trading. Contrary to some residents' beliefs the Council have no right of compulsory purchase over the pub in order to re-commence trading. Nor is it seen as the Council's role to become directly involved in any such attempt to re-trade.

However, the Council can register the pub as an asset of community value, which ensures there is a window of opportunity for residents to come together to raise funds for the purchase of the pub should it come up for sale. It must be emphasised that registration in no way obliges the vendor to accept any offer made by residents, but simply prohibits sale for defined periods of time.

When the pub and the question of registration was previously considered by council it was felt unnecessary as residents were felt likely to be comfortable with any purchaser who bought the pub within its present user status. However, should any change of use notice be received (typically the case in normal circumstances for anyone looking to re-develop prior to them making an offer) then the council would have time to apply for registration.

Two factors lead council to revise its view. Firstly, a local pub recently sold within days of coming on the market and with no change of use application and secondly the hospitality industry is under considerable financial strain at present and the possibility of the current owner looking for a quick sale, possibly at a very competitive price, is much increased.

It was therefore agreed that an application to register the pub as an asset of community value would be made immediately. In the meantime, the issue of the pub would be kept under review.

Meeting closed at 8:35.