

MINUTES: of the Meeting of Seamer Parish Council held virtually by Zoom on 9 February 2021 commencing at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor L Wallis (Chairman) in the Chair;
Councillors T Groves, H Mallory, V Milner (Vice-Chairman), WH Smith, J Stockdale and J White;
County Councillor D Jeffels, 2 members of the public and the clerk.

82 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED that:

- (a) apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting by Councillor D Raine be received.
- (b) the previously circulated reasons given for absence by Councillor Raine be approved.
- (c) it be noted Councillor Stockdale would be joining the meeting but had apologised for being delayed.

83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED that it be noted only interests not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or Members' Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests need be declared.

84 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters raised.

85 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the previously circulated minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 January 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

86 ROAD SAFETY: B1261 CROSSGATES

Further to minute 68 of the last meeting, the Council considered the reply of the County Council's Corporate Director of Business & Environmental Services [Highways] to Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP, which was forwarded to and received by the Council from a Parishioner.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP be requested to write to the Leader and Chief Executive of the County Council emphasising the unsuitability of the inappropriately high 40 mph speed limit, itself, rather than the breaking of the speed limit, within the busy, residential community area between Centurion Way and Cayton Low Road / Station Road / Byward Drive, Crossgates.
- (ii) further to minute 14(vi) of 13 October 2020, relocation of the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) mounting forward from Lighting column No. 159 opposite Crab Lane to Lighting column No. 164 opposite Southgate, be considered at a future meeting, following implementation of the County Council's Scarborough Road 40mph Speed Limit Order.
- (iii) the VAS be moved from Main Street to Stoney Haggs Road, Seamer and from B1261 Crossgates to Cayton Low Road, in accordance with the deployment schedule within the installation agreement with the County Council.

Councillor Stockdale joined the meeting at this point.

87 JUBILEE ALLOTMENTS

(a) Track repairs

Further to minute 69(c) of the last meeting, the Council considered a verbal report by the clerk.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) it be noted, with thanks, an allotment tenant had filled in the potholes satisfactorily for the time being.
- (ii) maintenance of the track be reviewed by the Allotments Working Group in the Spring.

(b) Fees

Further to minute 13 of 8 March 2016, the Council considered a report by the clerk, reviewed charges to tenants for rent and water, and considered the setting of fees for 2021/22.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) charges for all tenants be simplified and standardised, reflecting current regulations.

- (ii) charges for 2021/22 be:

All Tenants	Water	Rent	Total
Full Plot	£17.00	£19.00	£36.00
Half Plot	£10.00	£12.00	£22.00

88 GOVERNANCE AND POLICY DOCUMENTS

(a) Code of Conduct

Further to minute 70(a) of the last meeting, the Council considered approving and adopting an updated Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Code of Conduct be received, approved and adopted.
- (ii) in accordance with paragraph 6, within 28 days, each Member of the Council register with the clerk, on behalf of the Monitoring Officer, their interests which fall within the categories set out in Appendices A and B.

(b) Standing Orders

Further to minute 70(a) of the last meeting, the Council considered approving and adopting updated Standing Orders.

RESOLVED that the Standing Orders be received, approved and adopted.

(c) Health and Safety Policy

RESOLVED that, further to minute 70(b)(i) of the last meeting, this item be deferred for consideration and recommendation by the clerk, and consideration by the Council at the next meeting.

89 COUNCIL VACANCIES

Further to minute 71 of the last meeting, the Council considered a verbal report by the clerk.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) it be noted:
 - (1) notices of the vacancies were published on 13 January 2021 and no request for an election was received by the Borough Council's Returning Officer by 2 February 2021.
 - (2) further notices of the vacancies were published on 3 February 2021, inviting letters of application for co-option, to be received by the clerk on or before 24 February 2021.
 - (3) with local government restructuring to replace the County and Borough Councils with large Unitary authorities, increased funding and powers were likely to be devolved to Parish Councils and local representation would become even more important.
- (ii) copies of the current notices of the vacancies:
 - (1) be provided with a request for display to Proudfoot's Seamer store.
 - (2) be distributed to the clerk's e-mail contacts.
- (iii) following the closing date for letters of application, the Chairman, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the clerk, consider the need for an additional meeting of the Council to consider co-opting one or more applicants.

90 TREE PLANTING

Councillor Jeffels joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

Further to minute 197 of 11 February 2020, the Council considered:

- (a) correspondence of 8 January 2021, including indicative costs, from the Borough Council's Technical Assistant.
- (b) a verbal report by Councillor Stockdale.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) there be in principle agreement to the project, for the benefit of inhabitants.
- (ii) Councillor White's offer to assist Councillor Stockdale with the project be accepted with thanks.
- (iii) Councillor Mallory's offer to discuss the project with the School be accepted with thanks.
- (iv) the Council receive a further verbal report from Councillor Stockdale at the next meeting.

- (v) any updated indicative and actual costs be reported, as soon as possible, for consideration by the Council.

91 CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Jeffels was welcomed to the meeting.

The Council considered the following correspondence/communications received since the last meeting:

- (a) Report of County Councillor Jeffels:
Councillor Jeffels was invited to speak and add to his reports:
 - (i) Parish Councils Update – January 28th.
 - (ii) February No 1 Parish notes.
- (b) Monthly Police Report.
- (c) Letter and information from the Borough Council re: Heating and Vulnerable Residents – Air Source Heat Pumps for off gas properties.
- (d) E-mail from London Hearts re: a grant towards a further Defibrillator.
- (e) Highways England A64 Weekend closure leaflet.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the reports and correspondence be received.
- (ii) further to minute 61(ii)(2) of 8 December 2020, it be noted the signage gateways were installed in Long Lane and joint publicity was being finalised between the Parish and County Councils and the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, promoting safe, considerate, respectful driver behaviour and shared use of the space.
- (iii) further to minute 49(a) of 8 December 2020, it be noted the Environment Agency's investigation concerning the possible storage of tyres without a licence and compliance with relevant procedures off Metes Lane was delayed due to current Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions and guidance, but the Environment Agency had been provided with details of the location and the people understood to be involved.

Councillor Jeffels left the meeting at this point.

92 PLANNING MATTERS

None received.

93 OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA)

(i) Training

RESOLVED that, further to minute 54(a)(ii)(4) of 29 December 2020, it be noted no Members' attendance at training had been requested or approved under delegation since the last meeting.

(ii) Survey on the power to hold remote meetings

RESOLVED that the survey be responded to, as follows:

- (1) The Council supports having a permanent legislative power to hold remote meetings.
- (2) Reason: Flexibility, including during any further lockdown or extreme weather.
- (3) The Council supports having a permanent legislative power to hold hybrid meetings
- (4) Reason: Flexibility, including lack of mobility, ill health and different impact of weather for different people.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) The Parish is situated in the North of Yorkshire.

(iii) Consultation on the proposed public Right to Regenerate, to replace the Right to Contest (concerning vacant, derelict or underutilised land in public ownership)

RESOLVED that the survey be noted.

(b) Monthly Police Meeting

The Council considered a verbal report by the Vice-Chairman.

RESOLVED that it be noted:

- (i) further to minute 14(vii) of 13 October 2020, the Chairman received verbal assurance Police Support Volunteers would be in touch to conduct site assessments and consider options to deliver training to the local Community Speed Watch volunteers, as soon as possible when Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions and guidance permitted.
- (ii) reports of the butchering of sheep on Carr Lane, East Ayton had been received.
- (iii) following illegal trail-bike motorcycling in forests, across land and on lanes, the public were requested to report sightings of trail-bikes being unloaded from vans in rural areas, including taking a photograph of the vans and their number plates when safe to do so but not to approach those involved.

94 FINANCIAL MATTERS**(a) Accounts for payment and income received**

RESOLVED that the accounts received for payment and income received since the last meeting be approved.

(b) Bank Accounts

RESOLVED that, further to minute 75(b)(ii) of the last meeting, it be noted the changes to the mandate for the Council's Community Account with Barclays had been made and confirmed.

(c) Electronic/internet banking

Further to minute 75(e)(iv) of the last meeting, the Council considered approving arrangements for internet banking.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the signatories to the Council's Community Account with Barclays and the clerk be authorised to make arrangements to manage the account through internet banking.
- (ii) the Council receive necessary amendments to Financial Regulations at the next meeting, for consideration of approving and adopting such amendments, prior to the undertaking of any transactions by internet banking.

(d) Grants to support repair and conservation of war memorials

Further to minute 74(ii) of the last meeting, the Council considered information on War Memorials Trust grants to support repair and conservation of war memorials.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

95 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting and no person may report on the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:

- (a) relating to any individual (minutes 96 and 98(a), below).
- (b) relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (minutes 96, 97, 98(a) & (b) and 99, below).

96 OLD SCHOOL HOUSE: IMPROVEMENT

RESOLVED that, further to minute 77(iii) & (iv) of the last meeting:

- (i) the increase in cost due to change in PVC prices from January 2021 be noted.
- (ii) a delay in the supply chain due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic be noted.
- (iii) the award of the works and confirmation of the order to JW Joinery Limited under delegation be noted.

97 INTERNAL AUDITOR

Further to minute 75(e)(iii) of the last meeting, the Council considered the appointment of an Internal Auditor for the current financial year, 2020/21.

RESOLVED that Town Parish Audit be appointment Internal Auditor for 2020/21.

98 JUBILEE ALLOTMENTS**(a) Plot 9**

Further to minute 69(a) of the last meeting, the Council considered a verbal report by the clerk, concerning arrangements for splitting the plot.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the wood pile and the rubbish inside the gate be removed.
- (ii) the plot be split by fence posts/stakes perpendicular to the B1261 road.
- (iii) a dividing fence, which be the choice and responsibility of the tenants, be not provided.
- (iv) a gate to the new half-Plot 9B, which be the choice and responsibility of the tenant, be not provided.
- (v) Councillor Stockdale's offer to remove the wood pile and rubbish, and install the dividing fence posts/stakes be accepted with thanks.

(b) Tenancy Agreement

Further to minute 69(b)(iii) of the last meeting, the Council considered approving and adopting a revised Tenancy Agreement.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the written professional advice of the clerk be received and noted.
- (ii) it be noted:
 - (1) further to minutes 94 of 13 September 2016, 110 of 10 October 2017, 130 of 14 November 2017, 149(ii) of 12 December 2017 and 177(a) of 13 February 2018, the Council had incurred expenditure to resolve rat infestation at the Jubilee Allotments, including that directly associated with the keeping of hens by tenants.
 - (2) the Jubilee Allotments site was located:
 - (a) approximately 1 mile away from the Seamer Carr household waste recycling (landfill) site and national fast-food outlets.
 - (b) surrounded by agricultural land.
 - (c) within an area of dikes, drains and ditches.
 - (3) further to minutes 186(a)(ii)(b) of 14 January 2020, 202(a)(iii) of 11 February 2020 and 34(ii) of 10 November 2020, regular, on-going reports were received from County Councillor Jeffels and correspondence received by the Council from a Parishioner, concerning a significant, on-going problem with littering and fly-tipping in the area.
 - (4) Councillor Mallory had on-going and current direct experience of rats and their impact on hen keeping in the immediate area.
- (iii) for the reasons set out in paragraphs (ii)(1) to (4) above, the keeping of hens and/or rabbits be considered to be likely to cause an on-going nuisance and environmental health issue and, therefore, be not permitted.
- (iv) the Tenancy Agreement, as amended within the meeting, be approved and adopted for all new tenancies with immediate effect and for all tenancies from 1 April 2021.

99 REPAIR AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Further to minute 80 of the last meeting, the Council considered:

- (a) verbal reports by Councillor Stockdale and the clerk of the site meetings held with the current contractor's Inspection and Maintenance Manager on 14 January 2021, concerning:
 - (i) satisfactory repairs completed at the Recreation Ground on 27 November 2020.
 - (ii) unsatisfactory repairs to corrosion and paintwork on the Multiplay Toddler and to the grass matting under the Swing Junior 1 Bay 2 Seat at The Green on 27 November 2020.
- (b) the current contractor's confirmation by e-mail of 14:47 15 January 2021 of:
 - (i) full annual inspections of The Green and Recreation Ground sites conducted on 14 January 2021 and reporting of these to the Council, to be free of charge.

- (ii) proposed attendance by the Inspection and Maintenance Manager in April 2021 to rectify paintwork on the steps of the Multiplay Toddler at the Green.
- (iii) proposed quarterly inspections in April, July and October 2021 and annual inspection in January 2022, each at the Recreation Ground and The Green by the Inspection and Maintenance Manager, subject to acceptance of quotation and contract.
- (c) a verbal report by the clerk of the delay in the current contractor's provision of the Inspection and Maintenance Manager's report(s) from 14 January 2021 due to a software issue, advised on enquiry by the Council on 2 February 2021 and nothing received in the intervening period.
- (d) the reports of Play Safety Limited's urgent annual inspections of the Recreation Ground and The Green on 1 February 2021, reporting.
 - (i) recent improvements completed to a good standard at the Recreation Ground.
 - (ii) paintwork on the Multiplay Toddler at The Green in poor condition, with a need to de-scale back to good base material and coat with lead free paint, noting repairs may be necessary where corrosion is severe and, while the steps had been painted, other areas could benefit from further painting eg crawl tube and underside of steps.
 - (iii) the grass matting under the Swing Junior 1 Bay 2 Seat at The Green was uneven, with a need to re-lay / re-fix matting.
- (e) any further arrangements.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Council had lost trust and confidence in the current contractor.
- (ii) the current contractor's proposed remedy to the outstanding works at The Green and quotation for further inspections be not accepted.
- (iii) a substantial refund of the current contractor's Invoice No. INV-12752 be sought, based on the specification provided and accepted quotation Q6454, to de-scale and repaint corroded areas with lead free paint with the potential to repair where corrosion was severe on the Multiplay Toddler and to re-lay and re-fit grass matting where required under the Swing Junior 1 Bay 2 Seat at The Green.
- (iv) the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) be requested to enquire, of its members, their experience of contracting with local providers to maintain paintwork on children's playground equipment.
- (v) the Council consider Play Safety Limited's urgent annual inspection reports and actions further at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

The next meeting of the Council will be held virtually by Zoom,
on Tuesday 9 March 2021 commencing at 7.00pm

Chairman

9 March 2021