

**Minutes of the Meeting of Denby Dale Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 July 2017 in the Civic Chamber, Council Offices, Skelmanthorpe**

**Members Present:** Cllrs: Polly Ann Flinders, Richard Brook, Kelvyn Waites, Eddie Shaw, Billy Jewitt, Cynthia Naylor Janet Depledge, Ray Gott, Mike Wood, Maggie Blanshard, Lynn Hardy and Neil Gemmell

**Members Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Turner, Hellewell, Denby, Slater, Summers, Kemp & Cook

**16/495 Chairman's Opening Remarks**

Cllr Depledge welcomed the councillors and members of the public to the meeting and informed them of a very interesting meeting held between the Leader of Kirklees Council David Sheard, Graham Turner and town and parish councils to discuss the issues being faced and the importance of working together in harmony. One of the main issues faced was adult social care, and Cllr Depledge stated how important this was in our rural area.

**16/496 Declarations of interest/disclosable pecuniary interests**

No Declarations of interest were received.

**16/497 Open Session**

Members of Denby Dale District Lions spoke to the meeting about their need for storage. It was suggested that they contact Kirklees Council (via Cllr Turner) about the possibility of an asset transfer of the garages next to their current storage. They could then approach the parish council for a grant to refurbish these.

**16/498 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Turner, Hellewell, Denby, Slater, Summers, Kemp & Cook  
**RESOLVED** that the reasons submitted be approved.

**16/499 Admission of the Public**

**RESOLVED** that no items needed to be taken in private.

**16/500 Minutes of the last meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the following minutes be approved:

Full Council – 6 June

Finance & General Purposes Committee – 13 June

Plans Scrutiny Committee – 27 June

**16/501 Neale Wallace from Metro and the MD of Yorkshire Tiger Bus Service**

Neale Wallace spoke to the meeting about his role at West Yorkshire Combined Authority (no longer 'Metro') which included:

- Transport and Economic Growth
- Looking after public transport assets, such as stock, shelters, Real Time Information (RTI), bus station and infrastructure
- Managing the access bus service for those with difficulties who cannot access conventional transport
- Support socially necessary bus services, which are not necessarily commercially viable for example they subsidise a number of early morning services, Sundays and evenings for social need and for getting to employment. Services such as the 435 and 436 Holmfirth to Wakefield are fully supported. Areas such as High Flatts, Lower Cumberworth and Emley are supported as they are considered more isolated and not commercially viable. Priority is therefore given to more isolated communities, early services to enable people to commute and therefore be economically productive and then evening/Sundays around leisure activities. If the cost per passenger is too high it is less likely a service can run.
- Partnership role with Yorkshire Tiger Bus Service to give the best possible service.

In answer to councillor questions, Neal Wallace stated:

- There was a programme in place to replace the faint RTI over the next 2 years.
- Under the old franchise, integrated rail and bus timetables were funded, however this cost is now too high and under the new franchise there is no funding. They have pressed the rail operators to provide them again

Simon Finnie, MD of Yorkshire Tiger then spoke to the council and provided a handout of the service changes from 24 July

- Highlighted the challenges at the moment. All services operated from the Waterloo depot. Due to the general age of vehicles there was a need for investment. There had also been staffing issues with fitters not being as highly skilled as they would have wished. There had been repeat problems with buses being sent back out 'patched up'.
- They now had newer vehicles being re-furbished which would start to enter the service over the next month. No vehicle was on the road which is unsafe. Reliability is the only issue. Additional staff and resources were being put in place. The importance of punctuality and reliability particular in rural areas was recognised and Simon was confident this would be improved.

In answer to councillor questions: there was work to do on drivers checks each day to ensure reliability. Breakdowns cannot always be 'made safe' out of a dangerous area as once the engine stops running the brakes lock automatically as a safety feature. There are not more older buses in this area, Huddersfield has a younger profile than Elland/Calderdale. Neale and Roger Mason, head of operations at Tiger, left their contact details should councillors have any other questions, Cllr Depledge thanked the speakers for their honesty and time to attend.

Cllr Waites would continue to investigate the new service provision, which wasn't as bad as first thought, however concerns were expressed about the worsening service between Birdsedge and Upper Denby and Upper and Lower Cumberworth. Cllr Waites also expressed concern that there was little public notification of the coming changes.

### **16/502 Ward Councillor's Report**

Cllr Turner sent a written report:

- The library consultation date not yet confirmed due to the election
- Decision on future of children's services also delayed due to the election
- Local Plan is progressing with two inspectors being appointed and brown field site register to be in place by 2020
- Men's Sheds project progressing well with an opening day on 30 September and equipment and members required
- Meeting with local ward PC Caroline Newsome regularly and speed checks in the ward to be undertaken

Councillors asked that Cllr Turner be asked about cladding on Kirklees buildings, though it was thought that there was none.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

### **16/503 Report from Dave Wilde, Countryside Officer**

The Countryside Officer sent a written report. The Clerk highlighted the issue with trees which was being dealt with through the correct channels with Kirklees. The Clerk was asked to contact Andy Gardner at Kirklees about footpaths opposite Scissett baths to Spring Grove and Pennine Way to the School which were overgrown.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received

### **16/504 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk provided a written report: The Clerk was asked to contact the clock repair company to get a final start date or to cancel the work due to the time elapsed since this was agreed.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

### **16/506 Finance Matters**

- Orders for Payment: **RESOLVED** that the orders for payment No 685 be approved for payment, totalling £16,407.52.
- To Authorise Payment of Salary: **RESOLVED** that the payment of Clerk's and Countryside Officer's salaries, WYPF and HMRC be authorised for July and August 2017

- Unity Trust Bank Signatories:  
**RESOLVED** that the bank signatories would be: Cllrs Brook, Waites, Jewitt, Flinders, Shaw, Cook, Depledge and Turner along with the Clerk, and that the internet bank signatories would be: Cllrs Brook, Depledge, Turner, Flinders and the Clerk.

### **16/507 Business Plan**

Cllr Depledge noted the need to update the Business Plan due to many changes such as the successful establishment of the allotments and a heritage website, and asked for a group of councillors to look at future needs.

**RESOLVED** that Cllrs Brook, Wood and Flinders would form the new Business Plan Sub Group

### **16/508 Matters Raised by Councillors**

- Clayton West Recreation Ground: Cllr Hardy reported on the danger caused by children making a hole in the hedge onto a lane used by tractors and other farm vehicles.  
**RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to Kirklees Council to support the request for fencing the whole length of hedge as current measures (a stone) was making the situation worse.
- Litterbin at CW ground: Deferred
- Parish Council Powers: Cllr Brook reminded councillors of the NALC circular sent by the Clerk in light of the changing role of parish councils taking over additional responsibilities from District Authorities. He reminded councillors that the parish council may have the powers to act, but not necessarily the resources. He noted that some parish councils funded rural bus services, public rights of way and community libraries, for example.
- YLCA Report: Cllr Shaw gave a verbal report including the issue of district authority and parish council budget setting with some district authorities declining to set their budgets until they had sight of parish budgets.
- Noticeboard at Emley: Cllr Wood had received two quotes for £682.00 and £240 + VAT and requested that the council approve the second quote so he could organise this when appropriate. **RESOLVED** that the quote of £240 + VAT was acceptable (General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011)
- Working with schools on road safety: Cllr Kemp and Depledge had positive suggestions for working with schools and had been in touch with ROSPA who were very impressed with the initiative. In primary schools this could be in the form of a song to promote road safety and in middle and high schools a road safety video. **RESOLVED** that the council gave approval for this initiative to be followed up.

### **16/509 Heritage Working Party/EPIP Report**

Cllr Brook reported that the grant received from HLF included to form links with other organisations and in line with this a touchscreen was now operating in the library to access other local history websites.

Cllr Brook reported that the next EPIP meeting would be held in council chambers next Wednesday.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

### **16/510 Working Party on Public Transport Report**

Cllr Brook reported that the planning application by Naylor's for the removal of clay at Denby Dale station would hopefully be going ahead as issues were being resolved.

### **16/511 Churchfield Update**

No further update

### **16/512 Rural District Committee Meeting**

Cllr Brook reported that the committee was being disbanded due to the cost.

### **16/513 Skelmanthorpe Council Building Update**

Cllr Jewitt requested permission to access the loft space to keep an eye on the roof, as this would need replacing and would need to be discussed in the future.

**16/514 September Council Meeting Items:** None received

**16/515 Dates of next meetings:**

- Plans Scrutiny Committee – 25 July
- Plans Scrutiny Committee – 29 August
- Full Council – 5 September

Signed.....  
CHAIRMAN