

**Minutes of the Meeting of Denby Dale Parish Council held on Tuesday 7 January 2019 in the Civic Chamber, Council Offices, Skelmanthorpe**

**Members Present:** Cllrs: Richard Brook, Ray Gott, Maggie Blanshard, Eddie Shaw, Stuart Merry, Polly Flinders, Will Simpson, Graham Turner, Mike Wood, Neil Denby, Lin Newton, Cynthia Naylor & Steven Slater

**19/0151 Chairman's Opening Remarks**

Cllr Gott welcomed Councillors to the meeting and informed them of the passing of former Chairman of the parish council, Mr Chris Harpin.

**19/0152 Declarations of interest/disclosable pecuniary interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**19/0153 Open Session**

There were no members of the public present.

**19/0154 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Cook, K Waites, A Baskeyfield, N Gemmell, and J Patterson. Cllr S Hellewell was absent.

**RESOLVED** that the reasons submitted be approved.

**19/0155 Admission of the Public**

**RESOLVED** that there were no items to be taken in private.

**19/0156 Community Voices** (Laura Beesley) (*Item brought forward*)

Laura Beesley informed councillors of the 'Community Voices' programme, a joint venture running across Kirklees. There would be a three day training programme for volunteers developed by CV and the NHS, which would prepare volunteers to take part in consultation events on behalf of their local communities. At present most organisations were based in Huddersfield and the programme now aimed to include rural areas. The events were free and open to anyone interested, and covered information on the NHS and their legal duty to consult with the public, how to engage the public, run focus groups, complete surveys...this can also generate income for charities as the Clinical Commissioning Group pay them between £3 and £5 for surveys completed. Surveys could include issues such as access to services for the elderly or disabled, GP changes, A&E experiences... for example.

Laura also spoke to councillors about the NHS winter messaging campaign, aimed at the most vulnerable such as under 5's and over 65s or those with longer term health conditions. They could provide information on support alternative to A&E, such as Walk-in Centres, the 111 advice line or local chemists.

All information could be obtained from Laura via the Clerk, and the item would be put on the agenda for February for any volunteers from the council.

**19/0157 Minutes of the last meeting**

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

Full Council – 3 December

Plans Scrutiny Committee – 17 December

**19/0158 Ward Councillor's Report**

Cllr Simpson gave a verbal report:

- There had been concerns about the current state of the former Chartist pub. Planning permission had been granted in July for offices and an extension, with some changes to this requested. Reassuringly, the owners seemed to be progressing this quickly but did have up to 3 years before the council could step in.
- Denby Dale train station – work would commence on the 15 February for 3-4 weeks on extending the platform for the newer trains. Work had to take place at night due to the legal duty to limit interference with the running of the services.
- Work was on-going at Skelmanthorpe playground.

- The rejection of the Emley planning application had been upheld by the Planning Inspectorate. This was due to the access issue.
- Denby Dale Pie Hall remained open due to the community response and events to raise funds. Cllrs Simpson and Turner would welcome any ideas or help to continue supporting them.
- The Christmas lights in Skelmanthorpe and Denby Dale had been very well received and Cllr Simpson stated that any other villages interested could ask himself or Cllr Turner for support and they would do their best.
- Station Road planning application had gone to Heavy Woollen committee. Both Cllrs Turner and Simpson had objected to this application.
- The Wildflower planting was going ahead over 3 sites in Clayton West and Denby Dale.

Cllr Turner gave a verbal report:

- The budget process was going ahead and there would be a draft budget in a few weeks time, prior to the Chancellors' budget in March, which may result in some 'in year spending'.
- There are no cap proposals on parish councils this year, and no further information or indication of any cap on future years.
- The rates system was under review, and may result in a review every 3 years instead of the current every 5 years.
- A meeting would be held on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan at 7pm at the Youth and Community Centre to discuss the anti-social behaviour issue. This was open to all public.

**RESOLVED** that the reports be received

**19/0159 Report from Dave Wilde, Countryside Officer (and item 14.6 brought forward – Bench at Churchfield for Billy Jewitt's work.**

The Countryside Officer tabled a report.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received

Cllr Gott requested that item 14.6 be highlighted as advice could be sought from the Countryside officer on the possible siting of a bench to note the work of former Cllr Jewitt. Cllr Gott had received verbal approval for the bench, and councillors offered to get quotes from Men's Shed's, 10 Villages volunteer and one from a local supplier.

**RESOLVED** that councillors were in favour of a bench with a simple brass plaque, such as 'Billy's Bench' to acknowledge the amount of work he had undertaken at Churchfields.

**19/0160 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk tabled a report.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received

**19/0161 Vacancy in the Clayton West Ward:**

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Patterson be changed from Clayton West to Emley ward

The Clerk formally notified councillors of the vacancy in the Clayton West Ward, and that as no election had been called, this vacancy would now go to co-option.

**19/0162 Finance Matters**

- Orders for Payment: **RESOLVED** that the orders for payment no 750 be approved for payment, totalling £788.71
- To Authorise Payment of Salaries: **RESOLVED** that the payment of Clerk's and Countryside Officer's salaries, WYPF and HMRC be authorised for January 2020.
- Schools Grants: **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £1000 to St Aidan's Academy towards a defibrillator once assurances of full accessibility to the general public was confirmed. Grant awarded using the General Power of Competence provided by the Localism Act 2011.

**19/0163 Skelmanthorpe Council Building:** work on the new lighting system was on-going and all was progressing well.

**19/0164 Matters Raised by Councillors**

- Local Electricity Bill – Cllr Denby requested that the council expressed support in principle, however, this bill new not yet become law. **RESOLVED** that the parish council notes and supports the bill, as per the draft wording on the document sent.
- Strengthening Police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments – Cllr Gott suggested that councillors send in their own individual responses to this questionnaire.
- Footpath at Ponker Lane (*deferred until February meeting*)
- Relate Provision – **RESOLVED** that though councillors support the work of relate, it was not felt appropriate according to council regulations, to support this financially.
- Noticeboard Provision – no further progress was noted.

**19/0165 Heritage Working Party**

Cllr Brook informed councillors that the Skelmanthorpe Heritage & Textile Centre would continue to open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month from 2pm – 4pm.

**19/0166 Working Party on Public Transport Report** – Cllr Turner informed councillors that he had made contact with someone at Naylor's, following the departure of the previous contact. They advised that at the moment plans were up in the air, and that they would communicate with us again in 18 months. Cllr Turner stated that he would go back to them sooner than this. Cllr Brook advised that landscaping work had been undertaken and would go and investigate this further.

**19/0167 February Council Meeting Items:**

**19/0168 Dates of next meetings:**

- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 14 January
- Plans Scrutiny Committee meeting – 28 January
- Full Council – 4 February

Signed.....

CHAIRMAN