

Minutes of the Meeting of Denby Dale Parish Council held on Tuesday 7 July 2020

Members Present: Cllrs: Carolyn Newton, Neil Gemmell, Susan Hellewell, Maggie Blanshard, Steven Slater, Richard Brook, Eddie Shaw, Stuart Merry, Polly Flinders, Will Simpson, Graham Turner, Mike Wood, Neil Denby, Kelvyn Waites, Cynthia Naylor, Alison Baskeyfield, Jeremy Patterson & Kevin Carr

20/014 Chairman's Opening Remarks

Cllr Denby welcomed Councillors to the meeting. He mentioned that additional grants had been added to the agenda, within the legal timeframe. He also referred to the information received from Library Services regarding their risk assessments. As no user groups had asked to resume this summer, he suggested the item on re-opening the building be deferred.

20/015 Declarations of interest/disclosable pecuniary interests

Cllr Blanshard declared an interest in the grant application from Denby Dale Cricket Club, as a trustee.

20/016 Open Session

There were no members of the public present.

20/017 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Cook.

RESOLVED that the reasons submitted be approved.

20/018 Admission of the Public

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

20/019 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved:

Full Council – 2 June

Plans Scrutiny Committee – 30 June

20/020 Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Simpson gave a verbal report:

- Play areas were ready to re-open, in line with Government guidelines. The new playground at Skelmanthorpe was also now complete, with the necessary mitigations in place.
- The wildflower areas in Denby Dale were now in full bloom, and he asked for any suggestions for other areas to be planted.
- Regarding the travellers at Cross Lane, due to Covid, this action had to be mitigated to ensure public health issues were addressed, but once the courts were active the travellers had moved on within 24 hours and the site had been cleared up and secured.

Cllr Turner gave a verbal report:

- There had been a lot of work undertaken by Kirklees officers at all levels to deal with the pandemic, with many switching jobs to re-direct services to dealing with the implications of Covid, which had been done without complaint and in an exemplary fashion.
- The financial implications were great – a new strategy needed to be developed and a more flexible budget was necessary with knock on effects in the coming years. Income had been lost from various services which would need to be addressed, however some £25million had been received from Govt, with a further £4 million in the second tranche. More financial support had been promised to local authorities to reimburse for their increased expenditure.
- There was much work on-going with partner organisations, universities, colleges...with conversations around the impact on them. Local authorities had an expectation to drive economic recovery.

- Kirklees Council would also be bringing Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing back into Kirklees to manage their own social housing. They would be consulting with tenants around this.
- West Yorkshire Authority Devolution deal was out to consultation, therefore there may be an elected mayor next year.
- Challenges were faced by Library Services, a recovery plan was being looked at and the Chief librarian was actively engaging in talks with Government.
- Digital inclusion had been noted as an issue, and this would also be benefited by the re-opening of libraries.
- The Denby Dale Centre continued to do a great job, and Cllrs Simpson and Turner had provided extra investment, and a national lottery grant application had been made.

RESOLVED that the reports be received

20/021 Report from Dave Wilde, Countryside Officer

The Countryside Officer gave a verbal report.

RESOLVED that the report be received

Risk Assessment: RESOLVED to adopt the allotments revised risk assessment

20/022 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave a verbal report on delegated decisions made since the last Full Council meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

20/023 Finance Matters

- Orders for Payment: **RESOLVED** that the orders for payment no 761 be approved for payment, totalling £13,269.87
- Budget Outturn: **RESOLVED** to accept the outturn to date.
- To Authorise Payment of Salaries: **RESOLVED** that the payment of Clerk's and Countryside Officer's salaries, WYPF and HMRC be authorised for July & August 2020.
- Community Grant Applications: (all awarded using Power of General Competence provided by Localism Act 2011)
 - **RESOLVED** to award a grant to Skelmanthorpe Bowling Club for £1369.00 towards a new mower
 - **RESOLVED** to award a grant to Clayton West Bowling Club for £1,000 towards kitchen equipment
 - **RESOLVED** to award a grant to Upper Dearne Valley Navigators for £800 towards social distancing equipment
 - **RESOLVED** to award a grant to Denby Dale Cricket Club for £9,000 towards drainage.
- Schools Grant Applications:
 - **RESOLVED** to award a grant to Birdsedge First School for £1000 towards Kindles
 - **RESOLVED** to award a grant to Scissett Middle School for £1000 towards Kindles
 - **RESOLVED** to award a grant application from Scissett First School for £860.53 towards gardening materials.
- HWP Accounts: **RESOLVED** to accept the HWP accounts for 2019-20
- Training Requests: To approve planning training requests – none received

20/024 Skelmanthorpe Council Building:

- **Opening of the Council Building – RESOLVED** that due to the complexities faced by the library services in re-opening libraries, and due to no user groups approaching the council to re-commence during the summer, that the opening of the Council Building be postponed and the item deferred for discussion at the September Full Council meeting.

20/025 Climate Emergency Working Group

Councillor Simpson stated that he hoped that when the group can resume, they will hopefully regain the momentum they had before lockdown.

20/026 Matters Raised by Councillors

- **Dog Waste bag dispenser – RESOLVED** that a dispenser be purchased to be sited at the top of Leak Hall Lane, Denby Dale.

20/027 Heritage Working Party

No update received

20/028 Working Party on Public Transport Report – Cllr Waites referred to the on-going reductions which had been made necessary, and questioned the future of public transport. Cllr Carr requested that this be put on the September agenda to see if the parish council could support public transport somehow.

20/029 September Council Meeting Items: (No meeting in August)

- The re-opening of the Council Building
- Public Transport support (Cllr Carr)

20/030 Dates of next meetings:

- Plans Scrutiny Committee meeting – 25 August
- Full Council – 1 September

Signed.....

CHAIRMAN