

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Denby Dale Parish Council held on Tuesday 1 December 2020**

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

### **20/084 Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman informed the Council that local Covid cases were falling back towards average levels but that there were still issues around the test and trace system. He also asked councillors with school contacts to encourage them to take up the Eco Schools Grant which the Council had now instigated.

### **20/085 Declarations of interest/disclosable pecuniary interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **20/086 Open Session**

There were no members of the public present.

### **20/087 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cook and Patterson.

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

### **20/088 Admission of the Public**

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

### **20/089 Minutes of the last meeting**

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

Full Council – 3 November

Finance & General Purposes Committee – 17 November

Plans Scrutiny Committee – 24 November

### **20/090 Ward Councillor's Report**

Cllr Turner gave a verbal report:

- Last week the Devolution statement was approved and was now to go to Parliament, with a new Mayor to be elected then in May.
- Cllr Turner stated that with the potential vaccine roll-out, there would be huge demand on Kirklees staff and resources which would be needed to take on the task of the double dose vaccine, which would inevitably lead to other services being suspended. Procedures were already in place ready for the roll-out.
- Cllr Turner referred to the Autumn Statement which was only a 1-year statement which would lead to difficulties for council to plan long-term. There was also an announcement of a 3% Adult Social Precept over 2 years with councils left to decide on how to issue this payment. There had disappointingly been no reference to the national problem on spending on young people. He did welcome the extension on payments for lost income due to Covid, and stated that the council continued to pay grants to those on certain benefits who had to self-isolate and to local businesses.
- Cllr Simpson deferred his verbal report to the climate change agenda item.

**RESOLVED** that the reports be received

### **20/091 Report from Dave Wilde, Countryside Officer**

The Countryside Officer gave a verbal report to support the written report circulated. He highlighted that skilled volunteer labour was costed at £12.50 per hour and he would now be adding the monetary value of this to his volunteer hours.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received

### **20/092 Clerk's Report/Delegated Decisions**

No delegated decisions received.

### 20/093 Finance Matters

- Orders for Payment: **RESOLVED** that the orders for payment no 771 be approved for payment, totalling £1580.43
- Budget Outturn: Cllr Brook noted that although some budget lines had been affected by Covid, overall, 2/3 of the budget had now been spent at 2/3 of the way through the year therefore spending was on track. **RESOLVED** that the budget outturn was noted.
- Budget 2021-2022 – Cllr Brook stated that discussions had taken place between the Chairman of the Council, Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance Committee and the Clerk prior to the last F&GP, and had concluded that a stand still budget with the additional budget line of £11,000 for Climate Emergency under the delegation of the Countryside Officer be recommended. **RESOLVED** that the budget for 2021-22 proposed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee of £217,410 be adopted, which could be amended at a later date.
- Reserves: - Cllr Brook reminded councillors of the decision taken 12 months ago to revise the reserves policy to reduce the level of reserves held. In brief, this would result in £200K of general reserves equating to 12 months running costs), earmarked reserves of £40K for unspecified Building expenses, £60K for large grants, £12K for election costs and specific earmarked reserves for other grants such as £30K for Emley Moor ARL and any unspent grants from previous years. This had led to a reduction in the level of reserves of £50K this year and the policy would be reviewed again in a year. **RESOLVED** that the existing Reserves Policy be re-confirmed.
- To Authorise Payment of Salaries: **RESOLVED** that the payment of Clerk's and Countryside Officer's salaries, WYPF and HMRC be authorised for December 2020.
- Small Grants Applications: (awarded using Power of General Competence provided by Localism Act 2011)  
**RESOLVED** to award the High Flatts & District Heritage & Environmental Group a grant of £1,000 towards safety handrails on the Forty Steps in High Flatts.
- Archives Website: Cllr Brook referred to the quote circulated and the discussions held by F&GP, where it had been agreed in principle to upgrade the existing Archive website to make it more user friendly and increase its impact. He stated that the Kirkburton PC would be discussing their input into the website at their next meeting, but proposed that, subject to their continued involvement, Denby Dale PC accept the upgrade at a cost of 50% running costs with Kirkburton, and 90% of the set-up costs to reflect Denby Dale's 90% content of the website. If Kirkburton do not take this forward, this council would have to review the situation  
**RESOLVED** that the council accept the upgrade, at a cost of 50% of the running costs with Kirkburton, and at 90% of the set-up costs to reflect Denby Dale's 90% content of the website, dependent on Kirkburton PC's involvement, to be reviewed.

### 20/094 Skelmanthorpe Council Building

**RESOLVED** that no changes were necessary at this point to the Covid Risk Assessment and no access was needed by user groups. It was noted that the Library would continue with its current service.

**RESOLVED** that Centurion Alarms be appointed to install and maintain the alarm system for the building as per the agreed quote Option 1.

### 20/095 Climate Emergency Working Group

Cllr Simpson spoke to councillors about the Parkgate project which Kirklees council officers would be running along with Dave Wilde and Cllrs Turner and himself. The masterplan was now available for consultation and it was hoped the area would become an important site for tree planting, habitats, biodiversity and a place of engagement for the local community. Other ideas included around a play space, events mining heritage, species re-introductions, wetlands and watercourses. They would like to hear from people who use the site now, and what it is currently used for, and what they would like to see in the future. A tree planting event would also be held in

the new year. Accessibility was raised as a potential issue due to the topography, but it was noted that this was essential to consider.

**20/095 Matters Raised by Councillors**

- Litterbins at Emley- Cllr Shaw informed councillors of the rusty and poor quality bins at Emley and requested updated cast metal bins. It was agreed that Cllrs Shaw and Wood would provide further information to Cllr Simpson who would investigate if it was possible to replace them.
- Emley First School - Parking & road markings – Cllr Wood reminded councillors of his position on behalf of the council on a working group with the school who were investigating this, and remarked that, understandably, little had been done, however the issue of parking around the school remained. Cllr Turner stated that this was being progressed with Highways officers, the TRO had originally been put in to do with another area which would have saved costs however the other TRO was not now going ahead so the one at Emley would progress now on it's own.

**20/096 Heritage Working Party**

No update given.

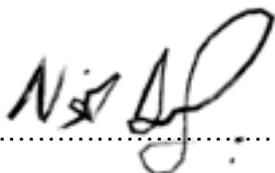
**20/097 Working Party on Public Transport Report – no further update**

**20/098 January Council Meeting Items:** Councillors reminded to get these to the Clerk early by the 17 Dec. due to the Christmas break.

**20/099 Dates of next meetings:**

- Plans Scrutiny Committee – 15 December
- Full Council – 5 January 2021
- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 19 January 2021
- Plans Scrutiny Committee - 26 January 2021

Signed.....



CHAIRMAN