

Minutes of the Meeting of Denby Dale Parish Council held on Tuesday 2 February 2021

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

20/0118 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed the Council and expressed his thanks to all the Kirklees staff and volunteers who had set up the vaccination centre at the John Smiths Stadium which had been extremely well organised.

20/0119 Declarations of interest/disclosable pecuniary interests

There were no declarations of interest.

20/0120 Open Session

There were no members of the public present.

20/0121 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Merry, Baskeyfield, Pink, Slater and Cook. Late apologies due to poor internet connection were received from Cllr Naylor. The Chairman noted that Cllr Cook was still very involved with council working and was keeping in touch.

RESOLVED that the reasons submitted be approved.

20/0122 Admission of the Public

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

20/0123 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved:

- Full Council Minutes – 5 January
- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 19 January
- Plans Scrutiny Committee Minutes – 26 January

20/0124 Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Simpson gave a verbal report:

- Stated that Cllr Turner would pick up on the John Smiths vaccination centre, however he stated that all over 70's had now been uploaded onto the national system. Anyone not contacted could either book into the John Smiths stadium or could wait and they would be contacted by their GP to attend a more local centre.
- The tree planting planned at Parkgate, Skelmanthorpe had been delayed due to the current lockdown, in the meantime the trees would be looked after elsewhere and planting would go ahead with staff only at a later date
- A Community Orchard was to be progressed at land near Butties in Skelmanthorpe with an order for fruit trees having been completed. This work would then be done by Andy Wickham of Kirklees and Dave Wilde.
- The green space improvements consultation had come up with two sites with two local community groups in Clayton West and Cumberworth.
- The wall over the River Dearne in Clayton West which had a damaged timber fence had had a temporary repair and now will shortly have a permanent masonry repair done.
- Environmental improvements at Colliers Way in Clayton West had begun following issues with quad bikes there.
- Denby Dale Centre continued to do a fantastic job and was now involved in transport to vaccination centres for those experiencing difficulties.

Cllr Turner sent in a written report, apologising for not being able to communicate due to internet issues:

- Budget – this has been agreed by Cabinet and will be discussed and voted on next Wednesday, the head line is the proposal to increase council tax by the maximum allowed at 4.99%. 3% of this increase is ringfenced to pay for adult social care.
- Vaccinations - John Smiths stadium site is up and running and performing well, thanks must go to all those who have been helping with the vaccinations, the NHS staff and volunteers and the military. Also those who have worked hard in getting all the relevant infrastructure in place over the last few weeks, it's been a challenge to get all the relevant equipment etc in place. There has been some misleading information in the public domain, and confusion about who gets the vaccine and how they go about getting it. Cllr Turner had a conversation with the Director of Public Health about this yesterday, and following that they issued a statement to try to clear things up. He has also had another conversation this afternoon with the Director about the issue of posting invites out, when there are limited post staff to deliver them. It is not clear what can be done as it's an NHS process, but she is going to see if doctors can do phone calls and texts to people.
- We are still issuing grants to qualifying businesses at a pace and have done nearly 11,000 since the 24/11 2020 and paid out just short of 25 million pounds.
- Cabinet have also approved the 15 million unclassified road budget and agreed the roads that will be done in the next 3 years, we have 3 projects in the ward.

RESOLVED that the reports be received

20/0125 Report from Dave Wilde, Countryside Officer

The Countryside Officer sent a written report as he was unable to attend.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

20/0126 Clerk's Report/Delegated Decisions

The Clerk noted that she had taken delegated responsibility for the councillor training for Cllr Pink. She also noted that work to the alarm system on the council building was now complete.

RESOLVED to accept the Clerk's report.

20/0127 Finance Matters

- Orders for Payment: **RESOLVED** that the orders for payment no 776 be approved for payment, totalling £2422.92
- Precept – **RESOLVED** that a precept of £151,000 be raised as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.
- Community Grant Application: **RESOLVED** to award Skelmanthorpe UJFC £2911.80 towards a mower and line marking equipment using the General Power of Competence provided by the Localism Act 2011.
- To Authorise Payment of Salaries: **RESOLVED** that the payment of Clerk's and Countryside Officer's salaries, WYPF and HMRC be authorised for February 2021.

20/0128 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. Cllr Denby noted that the library may re-start its 'click and collect' service in the future as already agreed and in line with the risk assessment.

20/0129 Climate Emergency Working Group

Cllr Simpson stated that the group would try and meet prior to the next Full Council to take stock of what needed picking up.

20/0130 Matters Raised by Councillors

No matters were raised.

20/0131 Heritage Working Party

Cllr Brook stated that work had been delayed on the archive website but it would hopefully be complete by mid-March.

20/0132 Working Party on Public Transport Report – no further update however it was noted that existing services were running well.

20/0133 February Council Meeting Items: none received at the meeting.

20/0134 Dates of next meetings:

- Plans Scrutiny Committee meeting – 23 February
- Full Council meeting – 2 March
- Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting – 16 March

Signed.....

CHAIRMAN