

## Minutes of the Meeting of Denby Dale Parish Council held on Tuesday 1 February 2022

**Members Present:** Cllrs: Stuart Merry, Mike Wood, Cynthia Naylor, Eddie Shaw, Hannah McKerchar, Polly Flinders, Richard Brook, Graham Turner, David Pearson, Susan Hellewell, Alison Baskeyfield, Kelvyn Waites & Kevin Carr

### 21/098 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed the Council to the meeting, and asked for a minute's silence in memory of Cllr Neil Gemmell, who sadly passed away.

### 21/099 Declarations of interest/disclosable pecuniary interests

No Declarations of Interest were received.

### 21/0100 Open Session

No members of the public were present.

### 21/0102 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs: Blanshard, Patterson, Simpson, Cook, Slater & Denby  
**RESOLVED** that the reasons submitted be approved.

### 21/0103 Admission of the Public

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

### 21/0104 Minutes of the last meeting

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

Full Council Minutes – 7 December

Finance & General Purposes Committee – 18 January

Plans Scrutiny Committee – 25 January

### 21/0105 Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Simpson was absent so no report was presented

### 21/0106 Report from Dave Wilde, Countryside Officer

The Countryside Officer submitted a written report.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

### 21/0107 Clerk's Report

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk's report be received.

**21/0108 To formally report the sad passing of Cllr Neil Gemmell** – The Clerk informed councillors of the next steps in notifying Electoral Services at Kirklees Council.

### 21/0109 Finance Matters

- Orders for Payment: **RESOLVED** that the orders for payment no 799 be approved for payment, totalling £1225.14
- To Authorise Payment of Salaries: **RESOLVED** that the payment of Clerk's and Countryside Officer's salaries, WYPF and HMRC be authorised for January & February 2022
- Outturn & Budget 2022-23: Cllr Brook referred to the budget outturn and stated that expenditure exceeded income and with two months left to go of this financial year the council were on target to reduce reserves significantly, however, due to the pandemic, some budget lines had not been spent such as for Citizens Advice Bureau, and there was an underspend on grants due to community groups not being able to operate normally. He also referred council to the amount of community grants which had been taken from earmarked reserves.  
The budget for 2022/23 was **RESOLVED** as unchanged.
- Precept: Cllr Brook referred councillors to the discussion paper and the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. He noted that the taxbase was higher this year, resulting in an increase of over £200. This would mean that if council decided upon Option 2, as recommended by the F&GP, it would allow council to hold the council tax at the same level as last year, with an

addition of £5,000 to the council to spend. This would also allow for reserves to continue to be reduced, without the need for a large increase to council tax in the future. He also reminded councillors that, although it was not suggested as yet, the Government had not capped parish council spending yet, and that the National Association of Local Councils continued to lobby for a multi-year agreement rather than 1 year to allow for secure financial planning. He also reminded councillors that the high level of reserves had occurred in the past due to the taking up of the council building, employment of a full-time Countryside Officer, plus associated costs such as the council vehicle, and due to the loss of Area Committees at Kirklees which had led to an expected increase in expenditure to fill the gaps left, which had not occurred as much as anticipated, although the parish council had put in large amounts to the Denby Dale Library and grants to Emley ARLFC and Cumberworth AFC amongst others.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would precept **£156,000 (Option 2)** as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

- Councillor Training: the retrospective training for Cllrs McKerchar and Pearson and for David Wilde were **RESOLVED**.

#### **21/0110 Skelmanthorpe Building**

- Covid Risk Assessment for the Building – **RESOLVED** that councillors would still be requested to wear masks at council meetings.

**RESOLVED** that the risk assessment for the Building would return as 'recommended' to wear face masks rather than 'must' in line with the Government recommendations.

#### **21/0111 Climate Emergency Working Group**

**RESOLVED** that the Climate Emergency Working Group would use the next issue of the newsletter to highlight what the group were doing, to go out at the end of March, following circulation to the Full Council.

**RESOLVED** that the group would also produce a leaflet of advice/resources for residents. It was also requested that attendance at the Working Group by Councillors was essential, and that if any other councillors wished to attend they could inform the Clerk who would add this to the next month's full council agenda.

#### **21/0112 Matters Raised by Councillors**

No matters were raised.

#### **21/0113 Heritage Working Party**

No update was given

#### **21/0114 Working Party on Public Transport Report**

No major changes to bus services were noted.

#### **21/0115 March Council Meeting Items:**

##### **21/0116 Dates of next meetings:**

- Plans Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 22 February
- Full Council – 1 March

Signed.....

CHAIRMAN