**WHORLTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

PRESENT: Steve Brisley, Dolly Hannon (Chair), and Alistair Wright.

ALSO PRESENT Clerk: Angela Livingstone, Cllr Hugill and Cllr Griffiths, 6 residents.

Due to covid-19 restrictions in the room, residents had been asked to register in advance for the meeting.

21.33 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES and approve reasons for absence and receive any declarations of interest**

21.33.1 There were apologies from Howard Tribick and Jenny Tribick for the meeting. These were accepted. Cllr Wright informed of a planning application, Whorlton House Farm in which he had an interest.

21.34 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2021 AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD**

21.34.1 The minutes of the meeting of the 16 June 2021 were proposed as correct and approved, these would be signed by the Chair and the Clerk would be added to the council website.  **ACTION: Clerk**

21.35 **PUBLIC FORUM** – The Chair explained the law of the parish council meeting, the Parish Council were not allowed to debate or vote on a matter that was not already on the agenda but may ask questions or provide information.

21.35.1 A resident stated that he had a complaint regarding the Chair of the Parish Council and that she would need to leave the meeting. The Clerk informed that this was not possible as this would deem the meeting inquorate. The resident was asked if he wished to defer this to a time when the Chair could leave the meeting. The resident went on to inform his accusation that the Chair had abused her position on which he stated that he had a trail of evidence. It was felt that this issue of grassed land to the rear of the Chair’s property was a neighbour dispute, not a parish council matter and that any concern about the Chair should be referred to Hambleton Council, Standards committee.

21.35.2 The resident went on to state that he believed that the Parish Council had rolled over their terms and re-elected themselves during the Covid pandemic. The Clerk informed that there had been no election since 2019. The resident informed that he believed that he could invoke an election. The Clerk informed that advise on this could be gained from YLCA. Supporters of the resident stated that they were unhappy with the flippant response from some of the councillors in the meeting and the lack of resolution possible.

21.35.4 A resident questioned the changes to Hambleton council under the devolution proposals. Cllr Griffiths informed that local work would still be pushed down to area committee level. He advised that Parish and Town Councils could if they had necessary resources take on local facilities. He advised of a Government Boundary review with a proposal of up to 90 Councillors.

21.35.5 A resident questioned the Parish Council views on Climate Change, it was advised this had not been an agenda item.

21.35.6 The Neighbourhood Plan was questioned. The Chair confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan was part of the formal planning system, different from a Parish Plan which had been started without meeting the Parish Council transparency codes. Cllr Griffiths informed that Hutton Rudby had a plan going through the process at present if residents wished to look online at this.

21.36 **TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** – All matters covered on agenda.

21.37 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Planning applications had been received for Whorlton House Farm, Glebe House Cottage and Throston House. Councillors agreed that they had no concerns regarding the applications and were happy to leave the applications to be looked at by the Development Control Officer.

21.38 **CLERKS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

21.38.1 The Clerk had forwarded correspondence received: To note - NYMNPA Swainby Conservation area – photographic survey, NYMNPA re reorganisation, Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan consultation, NYMNPA re street lighting, CAB letter 13 people used service from the village, enquiry re Whorlton Castle from paranormal group, complaint from resident re bike race, the Chair clarified that the Parish Council had stated support for the trail race not the bike race on which the Parish Council had not been consulted. A compliment had been received re Potto bridge and an email had been received from the Village Hall requesting the Parish Councils support for applying for a grant from the National Park to replace windows. There were no objections to this. Chair to inform. **ACTION: Chair**

21.39 **PLAYING FIELDS** – No report.

21.40 **POLICE REPORT** – A Report had been received recently indicating 14/07/2021 - 11/08/2021 - 1 ASB Personal, 1 ASB Nuisance, 6 Auto crime, 1 Residential burglary, 1 theft, 1 Other crimes, inc drugs. 12/08/2021 – 07/09/2021 – 1 ASB Personal, 1 Residential burglary, 1 Violence against the person. Enquiries were still ongoing to the burglary and auto crimes. Cllr Griffiths confirmed he had questioned why some items stated not applicable to the meeting and was informed that this was where there were private issues. He stated that the Parish Council could question the Police and Crime Commission on this.

21.41 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

21.41.1 The Clerk presented the financial report, which was approved by all members.

Income to bank – HMRC VAT return £910.56, SPFA £235.62, Toilet donations £ 155.00

Expenditure paid – Clerk monthly salary, EDF Energy monthly direct debit, following reading this had reduced from £43 to £31 per month with an account balance of £3 in debit, SPFA- JM Barnfather £235.62.

To approve- J Beadle £30.06 (grass cutting/toilet consumables, Mrs Hannon £181.19 toilet rolls/paint for benches, SFPA- Playdale £334.79, SFPA -Oliver Cornforth £120.00, SFPA VAT return £223.56, Chuhan & Singh £36.00, additional requests received after the agenda had been posted from AC Hannon toilet rolls £20.12, and Vision ICT £150.00. These payments were approved. **ACTION: Clerk**

21.41.2 The Clerk informed that a grant request for the toilets had been sent to NYMNPA for £861.87, this was half of the operating cost of £1723.75.

*Cllr Hugill entered the meeting.*

21.42 COUNTY COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

21.42.1 Cllr Griffiths informed that the preparations for the Unitary authority were going to the Executive committee to be finalised on 21st September. He stated that most wards would be single member wards and were prescriptive on how they were set up. He added that there would be election in May 2022 for positions to run until the following year when the unitary authority took over.

21.42.2 Cllr Hugill informed that the Making a Difference fund was opening, he advised that applications should be made early to ensure they were acceptable before a full application was made. He added that the prison site and crematorium were progressing well. He stated that National Parks were involved with progressing Bilsdale mast.

21.43 COMMUNITY FIBRE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The Chair informed that she had informed of the need to include Scugdale in costings and revised costs showed an estimate for the whole Parish of £287,000. This was across 193 premises and equated to £1489 per property if all homes signed up for the scheme. It was questioned if the supply was underground. The Chair informed that costs were based on existing infrastructure which was used where possible. Cllr Brisley questioned if there were guaranteed speeds for every user, the chair was unsure of this. All agreed the need to encourage all households to sign up as this would increase the home value even if the existing user did not use. BT/Openreach were to organise a public meeting. The Chair informed that if every homeowner signed up for the voucher from the government the scheme would be free of charge, but the total cost was a high amount before the Parish Council could be confident that sufficient homeowners signed up and this was affordable. Vouchers were available of £1500 for homeowners and £3000 for businesses.

21.44 SCHOOL SITE

The Chair updated that the Developer had informed of a delay in the start date to Spring 2022. This was due to a lack of materials and contractors. The demolition had also been delayed but was likely to happen before the end of the year.

21.45 PUBLIC BENCHES

The Chair informed that there had been a good turnout of volunteers, two packs of paint and brushes were out with volunteers, only two benches remained to be painted. There had been a larger sum than expected spent on paint due to the response. She stated thanks to the volunteers for the work. Cllr Brisley and Wright agreed to paint the benches on Scugdale and at Whorlton Castle. **ACTION Cllr Brisley / Cllr Wright**

21.46 PINFOLD

21.46.1 The Chair reminded of the discussions to refurbish the Pinfold after the work had become too much for the previous volunteers. She stated that the costs were not vast with the previous ideas to take away the current paving and replace with gravel, a tree pit and a decorative tree. It was questioned if this was a possible application for the Making a Difference grant, but it was felt that the costs were too low and this should be progressed without this support.

21.46.2 Cllr Wright questioned if the grant may be possible for works on riverbanks as the block sandstone was falling into the river. Cllr Hugill agreed that management of watercourses was important. Cllr Hugill to inform of timescale.

21.47 NEXT MEETING - Date of next meeting scheduled Wednesday October 20th at 7.30pm.

*Attendees were asked to leave the meeting whilst the council discussed commercial and financial information of which the minutes would show an outcome.*

21.48 VILLAGE TREES – CLOSED MATTER

21.48.1 Three members of the Arboricultural Association had been asked for quotations to commence the works this winter and approvals and information had been received from environmental services, only two had submitted a tender. These had been circulated without the company details and set criteria had been shown on both. **Resolved:** The Parish Council agreed to accept the lower quotation, it was assumed that the works would be of good quality due to the company being part of the relevant Association. It was agreed that notices needed to be posted as some people did not read the Parish Council information. The Chair reminded that the second part of the works had not yet been costed but there had been previous agreement that these would be commission if costs allowed and the work undertaken was of a good standard.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Whorlton Parish Council