

SKELTON CUM NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Nick Reed, Clerk, 9 Little Market Place, Masham, N. Yorks HG4 4DY

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Thursday 9th May 2024
TIME: 7.15pm (following the Annual Parish Council Meeting)
LOCATION: Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure
PRESENT: Cllrs Guy Critchlow (Chair), Emma Gerrard, Jane Mosley, Jim Spillings
CLERK: Nick Reed (minutes)
IN ATTENDANCE: 5 members of the public [MoP]

24.13	Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation There were none.
24.14	Apologies and consideration of reasons for absence Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Delf, and the reason for absence accepted.
24.15	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th April 2024 These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
24.16	Ongoing issues from the minutes for updating (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)
24.161	Parish caretaker: The Council heard that there had been no applicants yet for role of parish caretaker, and agreed to extend the application period and place an advertisement on the Skelton village facebook page. In response to a question, it was affirmed that volunteer help around the parish on maintaining verges, planters etc would remain very welcome.
24.162	Highways issues: Cllr Mosley reported that she had met a North Yorkshire Council highways engineer to talk through various issues reported at Parish Council meetings <i>passim</i> . The engineer understood the issues at the High Moor Lane / Ripon Road junction, and said they would arrange to get the junction swept and the lines renewed, and reported that it was possible the parish's potholes would be on the NYC list for attention in 2025-26. Foliage overhanging the highways was reiterated as being the responsibility of the landowner, and there is no reason for the Parish Council not to point that out to the landowner and request their attention. Finally, the Council agreed that keeping road signs clean and clear could be a responsibility for the parish caretaker, rather than relying on NYC's ever further stretched resources.
24.17	Reports from parish organisations / activities (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)
24.171	School site: The Council heard that planning permission had been sought for change of use from school to nursery. While this is regarded as a formality, parishioners were urged to support the application via the NYC planning website as a gesture of welcome to the nursery. It was noted that possession of the site is still timetabled for August and opening for September, and that some works to the roof would be needed ahead of this.
24.172	Black Lion pub and community hub: A MoP from the Black Lion Group reported that it is "still all systems go" as the building is being brought back into a useable state, helped by "a lot of hard graft" by many enthusiastic volunteers clearing out and making good. The chimneys have been re-pointed and renewed, and an electrician and heating engineer are shortly to attend, following which other tradespeople will be able to start work. There would be another open day towards the end of May and any parishioners with time and energy to spare were asked to consider giving their time. A MoP asked whether motorhomes would be allowed on site while work was ongoing, as some motorhome owners may wish to volunteer assistance, but it has not yet been decided whether this will be possible.
24.173	Christ the Consoler: The campaign is now about halfway towards its financial target for heating reinstatement at the church, and Newby Hall Estate has confirmed that in any case they will facilitate this taking place "this year" and provide fuel for some time onwards, providing that the existing

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	<p>pipework remains serviceable. Three further fundraising events are planned in June and July, featuring international musical talent and a licensed bar, with parishioners entitled to a discount on tickets by using the code "skelton" on the ticketing website. There would also be a harvest festival / celebration of farming at the church on a September date tbc.</p>
24.18	<p>Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors / NY Police</p> <p>A MoP stated that the North Yorkshire Council newsletter was of poor quality compared to those of the former Harrogate Borough Council, and queried the necessity of separating recycling when this process takes place at Allerton Park with recycling collection vans seemingly putting all recycling in together. It was agreed for the Council's delegates to raise this at the next Joint Parishes Meeting.</p> <p>Another MoP raised the issue of speeding within Skelton-on-Ure village and on the surrounding roads. It was noted that the 2022 survey had not identified a significant problem with speeding on the high street, and that with the surrounding roads set at the national speed limit of 60mph there is sadly no way of preventing driving which is inappropriate but not illegal, although dashcam evidence of reckless driving should always be sent to North Yorkshire Police.</p> <p>Finally, a MoP reported that the benches near the Millennium Pond were in need of refurbishment, and the Council agreed to get this work priced up for consideration at the July meeting.</p>
24.19	<p>Financial Statement and approvals for payment</p> <p>The Council was noted as having on hand £16,123.66 at 30th April, with recent receipts of £15 (Reading Room hire fees), and £2,508 (NYC precept for the whole year).</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (£30+VAT, payroll admin); Ian Smithson CPFA (£120, internal audit for 2023-24); and Cllr Mosley (£84.52+VAT, expenses re Reading Room and parish maintenance).</p> <p>The Council further RESOLVED to formally approve payments necessarily agreed between meetings of £683.92 to Zurich Municipal for 2024-25 insurance, £71.43+VAT to Shawgas for Reading Room heating gas, and £85.42+VAT to Rudgate Brewery for pop-up refreshments, and NOTED a direct debit payment to the Compton Estate of £30 for Reading Room rent.</p> <p>The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £15,083.08.</p> <p>Cllr Spillings started that the rise in the cost of insurance (£23.39 / 3.54%) was excessive on top of rises in previous years. Noting that this is the final year of a fixed-term agreement, the Council AGREED to ask its delegates to suggest at the Joint Parishes Meeting that forming an insurance buying group for the area's smaller councils should be considered.</p>
24.20	<p>Parish Caretaker</p> <p>The Council did not raise any urgent issues around the parish for the consideration of a caretaker if and when appointed.</p>
24.21	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There was none to consider.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 11th July, at 7.00pm in the Skelton-on-Ure Reading Room

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: