

## Summary Notes of January 2018 Ordinary Parish Meeting

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**Date of Meeting** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**Time of Meeting** 1900

**Location of Meeting** Church Hall

**Present**

Cllr Neal Yates (Chair)

Cllr Pat Braithwaite

Cllr Eileen Neale

Cllr Neil Ball

Cllr Denise Kempton

Andrew Crabbe (Clerk)

**Apologies**

Cllr James Neale

Cllr Kevin Wild

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**1 Declarations of Interest:**

None made

**2 Report on finance and budget for the months of November and December 2017**

Clerk advised that in October the Parish was still waiting for a cheque book and so no cheques were issued. A new cheque book was issued for the November meeting; however it subsequently transpired that this had an old sort code on the cheques, meaning that all that were issued at the November meeting were rejected. The bank has now issued a correct cheque book and the Clerk has previously provided a reconciliation sheet to Cllrs showing the transfer of payments to the November meeting.

The reconciliation sheet will be shown on the financial page of the website and Clerk confirmed that none of the above had cost the Council any loss of money.

**Action:** Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should look into other Banks and compare services, interest rates and costs compared with current provider.

Note: Cllrs agreed to reimburse Cllr Yates for purchase of Christmas tree – This will be shown on next month's financial report as invoice was too late go on this month's report.



Cllrs noted that George Fillingham who had taken down the old tree had received a couple of negative comments from passers-by whilst he was doing this, as they felt the old tree looked really nice. However, once George had explained the situation the concerns seemed to have been satisfied.

Cllr Kempton explained that due to being left out in the open a lot of the transformers had been eroded and so there were not as many lights as the previous year. Meeting agreed that a long term storage of electrics needed looking into – meeting noted one resident of the village worked for SDC as an electrician and Clerk suggested speaking to him for advice on how to go about this. Cllrs agreed.

## **5.2 Decision on Precept for 2017/18**

Clerk provided the Cllrs with various options with regard to the annual precept. He commented that the parish finances were in a strong position, but that this was through careful management by the Parish Council on behalf of the village, and that this did not mean anyone should be complacent as there were a number of challenges in the next few years.

Cllrs were asked to consider two points:

i Were finances in a good enough position to pay for ongoing costs such as grass cutting, street light repairs, general maintenance etc. Clerk stated he believed they were.

ii Also were finances in a good enough position to cover some of the bigger projects the Parish Council wanted to look at going forward – for instance CCTV for the park, a possible skate-park/general improvements to the park area, repairs to Council owned property such as bus-shelters and street lights.

Both the Clerk and Cllr Jordan reminded the meeting that the SDC grant would soon be ending, and also the Parish faced possible increased costs for street lighting with the decision by NYCC not to replace sox light fittings when they failed over the next few years.

Cllrs noted that families faced increased costs generally and agreed that a big increase in the precept might not be popular in the village. Meeting also noted that in his absence, Cllr Wilde had advised that he was recommending an increase relevant to the current inflation rate.

However the meeting discussed that any increase would remain in the village - what is collected stays in the village, and would only be spent on the village. If financial situation remained strong after this year, the Parish Council could look at lowering the precept next year, but it was in the interest of the village as a whole to ensure we had sufficient finances to meet any challenges which may arise.

**Resolved:** Cllrs were asked to vote on the precept for 2018-19 and agreed a 7% increase on the funding requirement. This would mean an annual increase to Council tax bills of £3.00 (Band D).

## **5.3 Discussion on damaged park fence**

Following a complaint from a resident, Clerk provided photos of the park fence facing onto Oakland Crescent which was bowing/leaning over. Clerk advised Cllrs that the photos clearly showed bushes and shrubs in residents gardens were coming through the lattices on the fence and were pushing against the fence itself.

**Action** Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should write to residents of Oakland Crescent and ask them to cut back the bushes which were pressing against the fence

#### **5.4 Decision on repair or replacement of Bus Shelter on Croft Road junction**

Clerk had previously provided a quote for repairs to the bus shelter roof, costing £920, all in – the new roof would be shatter proof and have anti vandal fittings. Cllrs discussed and agreed that although this was very expensive, it was used and needed by the village.

**Resolved:** Clerk was authorised to instruct the builder to proceed with the repairs.

#### **5.5 Discussion on tender for Grass cutting contract in 2018**

Clerk advised that the Council needed to put out tender invites for grass cutting and general maintenance for the village with the new contract commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Cllrs advised that this should include keeping the bus shelter opposite the Cosmo pub free of vegetation and also keeping the bushes in the playground to a low level so any anti-social behaviour could be more easily seen, especially in light of the proposed CCTV in the park. The tender should also include litter picking in the gardens in the village.

**Resolved:** Clerk to draft tender notice and provide to Cllrs before going onto website and notice boards.

#### **5.6 Confirmation of proposal to increase allotment rents in 2018**

Clerk noted a recommendation from last year of a proposed increase in rents for the allotments.

**Resolved:** Cllrs agreed to a £5 increase for the purposes of considering any improvements to the allotment. Clerk to advise tenants and request suggestions for improvement .

### **6 Correspondence and any new or outstanding matters raised by Cllrs and update on actions**

#### **6.1 Drax Power Station**

Clerk noted that Drax were commencing a consultation period with regard to proposed changes to the power plant. He had previously provided the Cllrs with dates of consultation meetings – it was understood that individual households had also received correspondence advising of this

#### **6.2 Skateboard Park**

Clerk confirmed that he had contacted Drax following Cllr Kempton providing him with a contact who might be able to help with possible financial support for a new skate park, and that the contact had replied to advise this would be referred to the next Community Meeting. Cllr Kempton noted that it was agreed that CCTV in the park was a greater priority; however she still wished to at least have a plan ready to put to the Council at some point.

Clerk confirmed he had contacted Streetscape in Selby for them to come out to the village and assess the site and possible costings. Cllr Jordan advised that the Parish might want to contact Chris Hayley Norris of NYCC and who worked for the local AVS – she would be able to provide ideas for funding of various projects.

**6.3 Brigg Lane Street Sign**

It was noted that the Brigg Lane street sign was still not replaced. Clerk had provided copies of emails sent to SDC chasing this up.

No further business was conducted and the meeting ended at 2030

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**Date of next ordinary meeting to be**                      Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018

**Signed as a true record** ..... **Date** .....