

Little Smeaton Parish Council

Little Smeaton Parish Council Meeting January 12th 2022

MINUTES

Present – Cllr G Ivey (Chair), Cllr R Brown (Clerk), Cllr C. Atkinson (Vice Chair), Cllr A. Hancock, Cllr J. Howdle

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declarations of interest.

Councillor Hancock declared a non-pecuniary interest in drainage for New Road.

3. Minutes from previous meeting

That the minutes of the meetings held on 17th November 2021 and the 28th December 2021, with a small amendment to the minutes of the 28th December should be signed as a true and correct record was proposed by Councillor Hancock and seconded by Councillor Atkinson. All in favour.

4. Public Forum. Questions and concerns raised by the public.

No members of the public were in attendance.

5. Financial Matters

5.1. Councillor Hancock confirmed that the bank reconciliations as at 1st January 2022, had been checked and could be signed by the Chairman as true and correct.

5.2 Councillor Hancock confirmed that the current Internal Control audit had taken place, and that, with the noting of two items at this meeting, all matters were correctly undertaken in line with the financial regulations.

5.3 The current finance sheet as at 1st January 2022 was therefore, signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

5.4 The 2021/22 budget updated as at 31st December 2021, and the Anticipated Income and Expenditure Report updated as at 31st December 2021 were received by the meeting for information, following clarification of a number of points.

5.5 The VAT spreadsheet as at 1st January 2022 was received by the meeting for information.

5.6 The draft budget for 2022/23 was presented by the Clerk, who took the meeting through the budget line by line. The Clerk to look again at the anticipated cost of dog poo bags and to, as required, update the amount allocated in the budget for the next financial year. With that provisor acceptance of the budget for 2022/23 was proposed by Councillor Hancock and seconded by Councillor Howdle. All in favour.

5.7 The precept for 2022/3, as agreed at the meeting on the 28th December 2021, was noted. The Clerk to submit our requirement to SDC. The Clerk to also draft a short paragraph for inclusion in the next edition of the magazine and send this to the editor by the 16th January 2022.

5.8 The appointment of Paul Clarke as LSPC internal auditor for 2021/22 was proposed by Councillor Ivey and seconded by Councillor Hancock. All in favour.

5.9 Approval of future budget, spend and payment of:

- £75.00 to Kirk and Little Smeaton Development Group for room hire (November, January and March). Budget line P £153.78, £100 remaining.
- £21.00 for gift to say “thank you” to the Brotherhood for the donation of a Christmas tree, both this year and last. Payment to be reimbursed to the Chair on receipt of the appropriate paperwork.
- £26.52 to Wicksteed for a clamp for playground equipment. Budget line I £4350.55, £1158.96 remaining.
- Up to £2900 to Wicksteed for ravine bridge rope

was proposed by Councillor Howdle and seconded by Councillor Atkinson. All in favour

5.10 The previous payment of

- £2200.00 to C W Roofing (Wakefield) Ltd, for the repairs to the roof of Hillside Cottage. Budget and spend agreed at meeting on 28th October 2021, budget line E Property Maintenance. £3326.40. Payment approved between meetings by Chair and Clerk to comply with the due date.

And the budget, spend and payment of:

- £25.00 to the British Legion for wreath, budget line G £25.00. Chair and Clerk having signed appropriate affordability and spend authority between meetings to meet the required timeframe.

was noted and acceptance proposed by Councillor Howdle and seconded by Councillor Atkinson. All in favour.

6. Official hosting of Remembrance Sunday wreath laying

It was agreed that in future, the Act of Remembrance at 11.00am on Remembrance Sunday would be officially arranged and hosted jointly by the two Parish Councils. The Clerk to confirm this decision with KSPC.

7. Measures to increase the security of residents in Kirk and Little Smeaton

Following the recent burglary in Kirk Smeaton, Councillors considered what actions the Parish Council could take to better safeguard residents. Following discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Atkinson would follow up his contact with NY Police, and seek, with KSPC to arrange a public meeting, asking the Police and SDC to attend. The police have suggested that ANPR cameras could be considered. Councillors would support this, if possible. Councillor Atkinson will also enquire about the Crime Reduction Partnership and see whether we can join one for this area.

8. Affordable Housing.

Councillors considered the draft survey provided by SDC, which could, with the Parish Council's support be used to ascertain the need for further affordable housing in the village. After discussion a vote was held to decide whether to go ahead with the survey or not. The vote was 1 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention. In view of this the Clerk to write to Matthew Brown, Rural Housing Enabler to explain the Parish Council's decision

9. Green Agenda

The results of the recent survey were presented to the meeting by Councillor Atkinson. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would inform KSPC that, in the opinion of LSPC, whilst the survey suggests enough interest in the village to arrange a 'one off' meeting, there is probably not enough interest to set up an independent working party. If KSPC are in agreement Clerk to contact SDC to find out if an official could attend such a meeting to give residents more information about "green" alternatives.

10. Protecting Brockadale

Councillor Ivey informed the meeting that she has heard nothing further about the possibility of erecting a height barrier to deter fly tipping at the Brockadale nature reserve. If Yorkshire Wildlife Trust wish to continue with this idea, then, it was proposed by Councillor Ivey and seconded by Councillor Howdle that LSPC would contribute up to £100 from the community support budget towards the cost.

11. Contract for Grass Cutting 2022/3

Councillor Ivey presented to the meeting a draft revised contract for grass cutting in 2022/23. Following discussion some further revisions were agreed. Councillor Ivey to finalise the contract to allow the Clerk to advertise it to perspective bidders.

12. Virtual meetings and Covid lockdown restrictions

Further “lockdown” restrictions now seem unlikely, although measures still need to be taken to manage the risk to Councillors and the public during meetings. Change.Org is seeking signatures to a petition to ask the Government to allow remote meetings in the future. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would sign this petition on behalf of the Parish Council. Any Councillor who wishes to sign the petition as an individual to contact the Clerk for the details.

13. Wentedge Quarry

Councillor Ivey, updated the Councillors about the current position with regards to the expansion of the quarry, and expressed concern that the liaison committee has not, as yet been established as required. Councillor Ivey will continue to monitor the situation and keep Councillors updated.

14. Review of Ground Maintenance plan

The Clerk updated Councillors on the Ground Maintenance plan for 2021/2. All items agreed have been completed other than paying for the removal of saplings for which no invoice has yet been received and the removal of the moles on the football field which is still ongoing.

15. Review of Playground Plan

The Clerk and Councillor Atkinson updated Councillors on the playground plan for 2021/2. All items have now been completed, except for the replacement of the ravine ropes will be ordered following this meeting. The meeting noted that these ropes may cost less than expected. Councillor Atkinson and the Clerk to complete the required outcome report for NYCC. A further report will be required for SDC once the ravine ropes have been delivered and fitted.

16. 40-mile speed limit on Quarry Lane.

The order to reduce the speed limit on Quarry Lane was made on the 1st December. However, whilst the sign by New Road has been changed the one by Hodge Lane has not. The Clerk to ask the Highways Department of NYCC to rectify this.

17. Highway Drainage on New Road and Main Street

No further update on the NYCC highways project to improve drainage on New Road is available. Funding is still awaited. The Clerk to ask if this might become available before the end of this financial year.

18. Planning applications.

Two planning applications have been notified to LSPC.

- Riverside Farm, Kirk Smeaton. Comment sent: Councillors in Little Smeaton are concerned about the large amount of glass proposed for the rear of the house, and wonder if it might cause a problem with sun reflection.
- Barnsdale Bar Great North Road. Comment sent: Whilst we have no objections to this proposed development, the Parish Council is concerned about the potential for a significant increase in litter in the area. We would ask that consideration be given to including, in any permission for development, the need for the businesses concerned to take responsibility for clearing any litter or other detritus.

19. Correspondence Received

- 20s Plenty email

Was noted by Councillors along with an update received from the Clerk that NYCC County Council had, on the 11th January decided against the adoption of a default 20mph policy, and opted instead for a “targeted” 20mph policy.

- A1 upgrade email

Was noted by Councillors, along with the notification that, whilst an upgrade to the A1 between Darrington and Doncaster is being considered, no firm decision has been made as yet. However local landowners along the proposed route will be contacted to facilitate better understanding of how the land is currently being used.

- YLCA consent form to receive information.

The Clerk informed the meeting that YLCA is seeking the consent of Councillors to contact them directly. The Clerk has copies of the relevant form, if required, but members indicated their unwillingness to give their consent, preferring to stay with the existing arrangements

20. Date of next meeting

16th March 2021

21. Dates for meetings in 2022/3

May 18th, July 13th, Sept 7th, November 9th 2022 and Jan 11th, March 29th 2023

In Private Session

22. Hillside Cottage

22.1 Rent Review. Following a request from the tenant, Councillors considered the current rent for Hillside Cottage. The Clerk to contact the tenant with the outcome of the discussion.

22.2 The current position with regards to repairs was outlined by the Clerk. The roofing work has been completed but this has left a problem with the guttering. In addition, the wooden railings are yet to be replaced due to the illness of the contractor. Clerk to contact him to see if he is able to undertake these two jobs. Clerk to visit the cottage to meet with the tenants and look with them at next steps.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm