

ASKHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12th 2016

Present

Mr Lowther (in the chair), Mr Cann, Mrs Harker, Dr Smith, Mr Ireland, Mrs Robinson.

Mr Slee (EDC), Mr Hughes (CCC)

Mrs Drinkwater (Clerk)

67.1 Apologies for absence.

Mr MacInnes (LDNPA parishes' rep.)

Mr Hughes apologised for having to leave early.

67.2 Declarations of interest in agenda items.

None were made.

67.3 Minutes of the meeting held on July 11th

Having been circulated the minutes were taken as read. They were approved as a correct record and signed as such by Mr Lowther.

67.4 Public comments and concerns.

No members of the public were present but Mr Slee, as a parishioner, reported that there had been a problem of plastic water containers being dumped on the highway. It was being dealt with by CCC.

67.5 EDC and CCC reports.

EDC Mr Slee informed the council about the Heart of Cumbria, a private company set up by EDC to attract and support new investment in the district. There would be EDC councillors on the board.

CCC Mr Hughes reported that the council had received a bid for funding for the pool. Various road closures that had affected parishioners had not been notified to Askham PC because the work area was outside the parish and policy dictated that only the actual councils in the area where the work was being done were notified in advance. He would try to get this policy altered. Mr Hughes left the meeting.

Police. A news bulletin from the local PCSO was circulated.

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67.6 Finance.

Bank balance at 29/7/16 11,211.75

To be paid;- Clerk's salary 375.00

Payment was authorised and the cheque signed by Mr Cann and Mrs Harker.

Bank balance following clearance;- 10,836.75

The Clerk reported that the external audit had been successfully completed and the necessary notices displayed. There was only one remark from the auditors - the accounting and governance statements had been minuted in the incorrect order. This would be done correctly next year.

67.7 Mower.

Mr Lowther had circulated councillors with the options for the future of the mower.

Purchase of a new machine - between 6,000.00 and 6500.00

Repair of the current machine - c2757.00

Employing a contractor to mow all the greens - Lowther would charge 2,500 to mow every two or three weeks.

There was considerable discussion.

Mr Slee reminded councillors that grant funding was still available from the EDC Community Fund.

Mr Cann proposed that the council should go ahead with the purchase of a new machine as a matter of urgency. Mr Ireland seconded the proposal and it was agreed unanimously.

Mr Lowther was authorised to get information regarding the EDC grant and to apply on behalf of the council.

67.8 Updates.

a) Notice boards.

Mr Ireland reported that since the last meeting he had met with Mrs Robinson and Mr Lowther to discuss the options for informative notice boards in the village. They considered that the best option would be for one large central board and several smaller, satellite, ones at strategic sites in the village. The boards would contain information covering topics such as natural history, social history, archaeology, landscape/geology and local facilities. Various local people with expert knowledge would be approached for information. Mrs Robinson was investigating

TSA

sources of funding for the project. Other parishes with similar boards would be visited.

Mr Lowther would inspect the existing notice boards and repair the downspout on the bus shelter.

b) Footway lighting

Mr Cann reported that the project to install LED lighting on a property in the village was still on hold, pending the identification of a suitable site, although a lighting system was ready for use. He and Dr Smith would walk around the village to try and identify a site.

c) Bus shelter

Considerable work had been done to improve the shelter and Mrs Harker said that she would like to purchase more paint to renovate the seats. This was agreed.

d) Community Centre.

Mr Cann reported that the centre had been designated as a CIO rather than a charity which meant that trustees were no longer personally liable to cover any losses. The pool had made a trading surplus during the season.

67.9 New financial regulations

The new model regulations from NALC had been circulated to councillors and it was agreed that the Clerk should work on an amended and shorter version that was more appropriate to the council. She would forward the newer version to councillors when completed.

67.10 Pension regulations

The Clerk explained that the new pension regulations were currently not applicable to the council but may be in the future if a younger clerk were to be employed. She would inform the pension regulator of the council's position prior to the staging date of July 2017.

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67.11 Planning.

7/2016/3108 Beech House, Askham. Change of use and conversions of two attached barns with extensions and alterations and erection of small detached outbuilding. Councillors had no objections.

T/2016/0108 Green View, Helton. Felling of one tree. No objections were raised.

Holly Cottage, Helton. Tree felling. No objections were raised.

67.12 Councillors' concerns.

None were raised.

67.12 Items for the next agenda.

½ yearly financial report.

Budget setting.

67.13 Date of the next meeting.

Monday November 14th.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.30pm.

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14/11/2016