

PRESTON-UNDER-SCAR PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 2.30pm on 13 January 2022

Present: Councillor Brooks (Chairman), Councillors Amsden, Fletcher, and Knights
Clerk: Linda Stevens

In attendance: 2 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: None

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29 November 2021

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29 November 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman subject to the reference in Minute 7 to “Long” Lane, being amended to “Light” Lane.

3. To declare Councillors’ interests in items on the agenda: None

4. Budget and Precept for the financial year 2022/23

Councillors were invited to consider the Parish Council’s draft budget for 2022/23 and the proposed precept of £3,920. The draft budget, which included the precept required, had been circulated and published on the website, with the agenda for this meeting.

The proposed budget included funding of £500 to support any village event held to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee but did not include provision for the replacement of the flagpole, the likely price of which, based on quotes obtained by the Clerk, was considered uneconomic.

Resolved:

(1) That the draft Parish Council budget for 2022/23, as circulated with the agenda for this meeting, be approved.

(2) That the Clerk be authorised to apply on the Parish Council’s behalf to Richmondshire District Council for a precept of £3,920 for 2022/23, as set out in the draft budget circulated with the agenda for this meeting.

5. COVID-19 – Continuation of the effective business of the Council, delegation of powers to the Parish Clerk and Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972

Councillors were invited to consider and, if satisfied, approve arrangements which were designed to secure the lawful continuation of the effective business of the Council for the duration of the COVID 19 pandemic. The proposed arrangements were based on those adopted by North Yorkshire County Council and would enable the Council to continue to hold some of its meetings remotely for the purposes of making recommendations in relation to its business to the Clerk.

It was noted that the Council would need to hold its Annual Meeting and at least three further meetings (of which this meeting was the first) in person during the 2022 calendar year.

Resolved:

- 1. That, having regard to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, subject to compliance with Paragraphs 7 and 8 of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 (which, respectively, require the Council to hold an Annual Meeting and at least three other meetings in every year), all meetings of the Council during the relevant period shall be remote meetings unless, in relation to any meeting, the Clerk, following consultation with Councillors, decides that the meeting shall be an in-person meeting.**
- 2. That all meetings of the Council during the relevant period shall be held on such days, at such times and in such places as the Clerk, following consultation with Councillors shall determine.**
- 3. That, during the relevant period, the following powers be delegated to the Clerk:**
 - (a) To authorise payment of invoices for work undertaken for, and services provided to, the Council, subject to being satisfied that payment is due in accordance with the invoice details;**
 - (b) Following consultation with the Chairman, to do anything expedient or necessary in the interests of the Council or to ensure the continuation of the effective or proper business of the Council, subject to any action taken under these powers being reported to the next available meeting of the Council;**

- (c) To take any decision following any recommendation of the Council made at a remote meeting of the Council;**

Provided that neither of the delegations at (a) and (b) above shall amend, modify or affect the approved signatories required to authorise payment from the Council's bank account.

4. That, for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972:

- (a) the Council approves, in relation to each and every member of the Council, during the relevant period, attendance at a remote meeting of the Council as a reason for a failure to attend an in-person meeting of the Council;**
- (b) the Clerk be authorised, in relation to any specific member of the Council, to approve a reason for the failure of that member to attend a meeting or meetings of the Council where the failure to attend would not be covered under (a) above.**

5. That, for the purposes of 1 to 4 above:

“Chairman” means the Chairman of the Council;

“Clerk” means the Clerk to the Council.

“Meeting” means an in-person meeting or a remote meeting;

“In-person meeting” means a meeting of the Council, or of any committee or sub-committee of the Council, at which members of the Council come together in person and which is held in accordance with Paragraph 10 of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972;

“Remote meeting” means an informal meeting of the Council, or of any committee or sub-committee of the Council, where the members of the Council do not come together in person and which is held in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020 notwithstanding that these Regulations ceased to have effect on 7 May 2021;

“Relevant period” means the period from the passing of this Resolution until 31 May 2023 unless earlier terminated or amended by the Council.

The meeting closed at 14.40hrs.

Chairman

