

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Denby Dale Parish Council held on Tuesday 1 November 2016 in the Civic Chamber, Council Offices, Skelmanthorpe**

**Members Present:** Cllrs: Polly Ann Flinders, Richard Brook, Cynthia Naylor, Kelvyn Waites, Paula Kemp, Maggie Blanshard, Neil Denby, Eddie Shaw, Lynne Hardy, Stuart Merry, Mike Wood, John Cook, Graham Turner, Neil Gemmell and Billy Jewitt

**Members Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllrs S Hellewell, J Depledge, R Gott and S Slater.

### **16/327 Chairman's Opening Remarks**

Cllr Jewitt welcomed the councillors to the meeting.

### **16/328 Declarations of interest/disclosable pecuniary interests**

Cllr J Cook declared an interest in Item 11: Denby Cricket Club grant application.

### **16/329 Open Session**

Julie Maxwell spoke on behalf of concerned villagers in Birds Edge regarding the proposed quarry site, stating that it would have an adverse effect on the local environment, amenity, wildlife, ancient monument and would affect health and cause nuisance, road safety and noise issues. Ian Hutchinson spoke on behalf of the Upper Dearne Valley Environment Trust and concerned residents expressing concerns around the selling of a ransom strip near Scissett Baths and stated that the Trustees were not acting in the best interests of the local community.

### **16/330 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hellewell, Depledge, Gott and Slater. Cllr Summers was absent.

**RESOLVED** that the reasons submitted be approved.

### **16/331 Admission of the Public**

**RESOLVED** that no items needed to be taken in private.

### **16/332 Minutes of the last meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the following minutes be approved:

Full Council – 4 October

Staffing Committee – 18 October

Plans Scrutiny Committee – 25 October

### **16/333 Ward Councillor's Report**

Cllr Turner gave a verbal report:

- The decision had been made to close Dewsbury and Redhouse museums, with expressions of interest requested for both buildings from local community groups. Cllr Turner assured councillors that the artefacts would be carefully archived or displayed elsewhere, and would only be assessed by curators/qualified staff. A replacement site for Tolson Museum was also discussed.
- Young People Services consultation was now active ([www.kirkleestalk.org](http://www.kirkleestalk.org)) with events at the Savoy, Skelmanthorpe on 8 November 3.30-4.30pm, Clayton West Darby & Joan on 15 November 3 – 4pm and Denby Dale Pie Hall on the 17 November 10-11am.
- The Local Plan would be out for technical consultation for 6 weeks from the 7 November, Cllr Turner stressed that though this plan was not perfect, it was imperative that a Local Plan was in place. Cllr Turner also stated that he would find out on Monday whether this would involve any public consultation at this stage and feed back to councillors.
- The OFSTED inspection on Children's Services was now complete but until the report was available councillors couldn't speculate on the findings however Cllr Turner stated that child protection was taken very seriously and they would act accordingly.
- Next year's budget was now being worked on with many difficult decisions to come.

- Changes to the Library Service were progressing well with good volunteer support.
- The 'Men with Sheds' project group would be meeting on Friday, this aimed to reduce social isolation of retirement-age men.
- Cllr Turner would be chairing the new asset liaison group to review council assets and make sure that they are in the right place and of the right capacity.
- Cllr Turner stated he had been meeting with the police and local residents over concerns around anti-social behaviour in Skelmanthorpe.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

#### **16/334 Report from Dave Wilde, Countryside Officer**

The Countryside Officer sent in a written report. It was noted that Dave was now full time effective from 1 November.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

#### **16/335 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk provided a written report:

- Cllr Denby commented that Kirklees Enforcement had agreed that the Denby Dale Nursery site was dangerous and were attempting to trace the owners. He also requested the copy of the parish council letter to Kirklees Council be circulated.
- Cllr Blanshard volunteered to put notices up on the new Denby Dale noticeboard when it was installed.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

#### **16/336 Probationary Period for the Countryside Officer**

**RESOLVED** the report (minutes) confirming the successful completion of the probationary period by Dave Wilde be received.

#### **16/337 Finance Matters**

- Orders for Payment: **RESOLVED** that the orders for payment No 666 be approved for payment, totalling £2,494.03
- To Authorise Payment of Salary: **RESOLVED** that the payment of Clerk's and Countryside Officer's salaries, WYPF and HMRC be authorised for November.
- Heritage Working Party Funds: **RESOLVED** the report submitted by Cllr Brook be accepted.
- Community Grants: **RESOLVED** that Denby Cricket Club be awarded a grant of £3,000 towards renovations using the General Power of Competence provided by the Localism Act, 2011.
- Direct Debits: **RESOLVED** to formally note the setting up of a monthly direct debit for the Countryside Officer's mobile phone account with EE, and Yorkshire Water for the Council Offices. It was requested that the Clerk investigate a water meter.
- Training Request: **RESOLVED** to approve Cllr Denby's attendance at the National Association of Local Council's 'Changing Places' Conference on 30 November at a cost of £210 + VAT + travel expenses, using the General Power of Competence provided by the Localism Act 2011.

#### **16/338 Matters Raised by Councillors**

- Removal of post box in Scissett – **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to request that the post box opposite the old post office on Wakefield Road, Scissett be reinstated.
- Council Christmas tree at Holy Trinity Church, Denby Dale – removed from agenda
- Road signs at Firth Lane, High Flatts – **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to request the reinstatement of the two signs for 'Firth Lane'.
- Christmas Tree Festival, Skelmanthorpe – **RESOLVED** that councillors were happy to have a parish council Christmas Tree as previous, and that a pop-up stand could be displayed in the council offices foyer.
- Rubble Skip at the Council Tip – Cllr Hardy expressed concern over the lack of a rubble skip leading to possible fly tipping and felt that the skip should be retained. Cllr Turner

stated that so far there had been no increase in fly tipping, and that any instances could be reported and prosecuted. He stated there was no legal duty to remove rubble, and, in line with other local authorities, Kirklees had had to stop this due to the costs involved. There was now a £5 per visit charge on household waste disposal, with a different charge for white goods. Cllr Hardy asked that how to report fly tipping be included in the next newsletter.

- Local Plan Consultation -Cllr Kemp asked if the technical consultation was to be public, how would the council get it out to the public. Cllr Turner stated he would be meeting the officer concerned on Monday and would seek to identify the technical review process, which would follow legislation. He agreed to report back on Monday and circulate his response.

#### **16/339 Working Party on Public Transport Report**

Cllr Waites reported that bus timetables through Skelmanthorpe had changed at the weekend with time adjustments meaning there was more allowance and therefore a more reliable service.

#### **16/340 Kirklees Public Rights of Way Forum**

Cllr Brook stated that he had attended a meeting of the group last week, where it was highlighted that the PROW team had been cut from approx. 30 officers down to 13. The Definitive Map team had a large back log of modification orders. Some work was being completed such as clearance at Tipping Lane, Emley, and a step at Kitchenroyd. Kirklees Council were still looking for volunteers to help clearance work. The Walkers Are Welcome group 'adopt a path' scheme was also looking for more volunteers.

#### **16/341 Heritage Working Party/EPIP Report**

Cllr Brook reported that the Government had stated that the current EPIP programme and funding would continue until we leave the EU, therefore new applications for grants could be submitted. The Walkers Are Welcome Group had submitted a successful outline application and could now put forward a full application to improve the surface on two bridleway on the link to the Transpennine Trail.

Cllr Brook informed councillors that the Textile and Heritage Centre in Skelmanthorpe now had a project officer working 2 days a week to formulate activities for local schools attendance.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

#### **16/342 Discussion on Scissett Baths Ransom Strip**

During the public session, it had been requested that the Parish Council write to the Charities Commission expressing disquiet about how the charity was run and requesting the removal of the trustees. During discussions, it was felt that there was a need for more facts around the issue before the council could get involved and make any decision. The Trust (incorporating Save Our Scissett) had recently written to the Charities Commission themselves and it was felt that the council should wait for their reply to be brought back to a further meeting before any more discussion could take place.

#### **16/343 Churchfield Update**

Cllr Jewitt reported work was progressing well with the top gate on and the bottom completed. Cllr Turner reported that allotment holders had been helping clear and mark out the plots.

#### **16/344 Rural District Committee Meeting**

Cllr Brook reported that the Walkers Are Welcome group had applied to the RDC for a New Homes Bonus Grant for path re-surfacing near Denby Dale Station and were awaiting decision. The next public meeting was to be on 22 November.

#### **16/345 Skelmanthorpe Library Building Update**

Councillors were reminded that they were invited to attend the open day on the 12 November between 11am and 3pm.

#### **16/346 Denby Dale Community Project Update**

The water and electricity had now been connected and the building was now expected to open in January.

**16/347 Calendar of Meetings 2017/18:**

**RESOLVED** to accept the calendar of meetings for 2017/18

**16/348 December Council Meeting Items:**

No items were received.

**16/349 Dates of next meetings:**

- Finance & General Purposes – 15 November
- Plans Scrutiny Committee – 29 November
- Full Council – 6 December

Signed.....  
CHAIRMAN