

MINUTES of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

held on Monday 18th January 2022 at 7pm in Scholes Pavilion.

PRESENT: Councillor Claire Hassell (Chair)
Councillors Mike Brunt Graham Slater
Phil Maude Stella Walsh
Paul Remmer

In attendance: Cllr. Ragg and the Clerk.

1 APOLOGIES. Cllr. Ward.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST. None.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING. It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Committee meeting (8/2021) held on 14th December 2021 (47-48) having been circulated, be approved, subject to the fourth sentence from paragraph 4.3 (Scholes Lodge Lane) being removed so that this now read “. . . retrospective corrective action would only be taken in the event of a complaint leading to enforcement action. There had”.

4. UPDATES ON MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED

4.1 Benches consultation

That afternoon, Cllr. Brunt had circulated an email with his proposals for the consultation and seeking comments from councillors prior to taking this further. He had set up a dedicated email address for consultation responses. The proposed wording of the consultation would ask residents to tell the PC where they stand on this issue. There were proposals to use the newsletter, social media and the website as platforms for the consultation. The consultation would run until mid-March to allow for newsletter publication deadlines.

4.2 Skelton Lane

A formal response on this issue was still awaited.

4.3 Crossland Mews

Cllrs. Hassell and Walsh had visited the site and noted the situation. Flagstones needing to be repaired or removed had been marked with chalk, there were five on each side and two which needed repositioning. They suggested gravel or wood chip be used to replace removed flagstones and that these flagstones could be relocated to Scholes Lodge Field near to the lecterns or the stile.

4.4 Ditch at Hall Tower Hill

Cllrs. Hassell and Maude would soon be having an onsite meeting with Heritage England.

4.5 Tree Report

The Clerk reported that he had had a conversation with the tree surgeon regarding the tree on Jack Heaps Field which had been identified for felling. The tree surgeon would be doing the work later that month.

4.6 Verity Strip

Cllr. Maude reported on a meeting with Barwick Cricket Club who had agreed to pay the cost of the repairs and would claim a 50% grant from the PC. They had a recommended contractor and would make arrangements accordingly. This was subject to approval at their Annual General Meeting being held week commencing 24th January. They were not seeking any formal agreement regarding rights of access. Cllr. Remmer had provided advice on drainage.

5. WORK REQUESTS

5.1 Newsletter budget for the current financial year.

It was noted that the newsletter had overspent on its budget and that the PC had delegated consideration of this to the Committee. The Committee felt that no further action was required on the budget and that the cost of the February newsletter would most likely fall in the next financial year but in the event it did note the additional expenditure was approved

5.2 Automated payments

The Committee considered a report of all payments taken by direct debit or continuous credit card payments and were satisfied that such payments should remain in place. However, there was a query regarding garage hire and whether this should continue. It was **resolved** that the hire of the garage should continue until such time as an inventory of items currently stored in the garage had been completed and alternative arrangements (such as sharing the Barwick in Bloom storage container) had been explored, all in favour.

5.3 Pavilion matters

The Clerk was in the process of obtaining quotations for repair/levelling of flagstones which could be considered at next week's Pavilion subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee would also consider an access ramp for those with mobility issues. It was suggested as well that the contractor doing the multi-use games area (MUGA) could be asked to price for removal of the flagstones and therefore extending the area to be tarmacked, Cllr. Remmer would pursue this. There was also discussion about disabled access to the toilets and washroom. The Clerk would ask the subcommittee to amend its agenda accordingly.

The report by Cllr. Remmer regarding maintenance issues was considered. Cllr. Slater reported that Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) had now been completed. It was suggested that a safety inspection tick list be produced. It was reported that items from the Santa's Grotto had still not been cleared away and were stored in one of the changing rooms. Cllr. Walsh would pursue this with the hirer. Options regarding using a lengthsman for ad hoc repairs were considered. The agenda of the next pavilion subcommittee would consider the loose cupboard door and ad hoc repairs as they occur.

5.4 Precept and finalisation on the budget

Cllr. Ragg had produced a report which showed all those items for which the budgeted amount for 2022/23 was less than the amount budgeted for 2021/22. Each of these items was considered in turn. In each case there were valid reasons why the 2022/23 amount was lower and there was therefore no need to make further adjustments to the budget. The Scholes Lodge Farm amount of £3,435 did not include a 2021-22 £350 grant for bulbs. Cllr. Maude agreed to produce a report on the precept increase for the next newsletter. There was discussion about the level of reserves noting that these should be between three and fourteen months' worth of expenditure. A proposal to increase the precept by 4.5% was not supported. It was **resolved** to make a recommendation to the PC that precept be increased by 5.1% (noting that due to the removal of the Skelton's Lane development from the Parish, residents of the remaining properties would see slightly higher increase in their precept). The 2022/23 precept would therefore be £39,444.

6. TO RECEIVE THE ACTION TRACKER

Items on the action tracker had been discussed as part of agenda item 4 above.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 22nd February 2022 at 7pm in the Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Signed

Chair

