

DRAFT MINUTES
SOUTH WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2021

Present:

Cllr P Elliott (Chair)

Cllr D Challenger

Cllr M Edmundson

Cllr P Ferguson

Cllr M Ferguson

Cllr R Fry (ELDC)

Cllr P Bradwell (LCC)

Clerk - S Asquith

Residents' Forum:

No residents joined the meeting and no issues had been submitted via email.

1 Apologies for absence:

None

2 Declarations of interest in any items on this agenda:

None.

3 To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020

The minutes were agreed as a true record and will be signed by the Chair at the next suitable meeting.

4 Matters arising from the meeting held on 18 November 2020

The Clerk had completed and returned the precept form at the increased level of £900 as requested.

5 Financial matters

The financial report had been circulated by email prior to the meeting and the Chair confirmed that the bank statement tallied. The report was approved. There had not

been much financial activity recently apart from the £165 grant for the solar lighting in the bus stop, which was under research.

6 Draft budget 2021/2022

A draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Elliott explained that any leftover balances would carry forward. Items of expenditure were the same as the previous year's but the bus stop and phone box allocations had been reduced slightly as the potential carry forward from 2020/21 allocation would bump it up again. He explained that the budget surplus was required to be at least 50 per cent of the precept and would, therefore, need to be ring-fenced. He said that he did not envisage any need to reduce the regular donations made by the Parish Council to local groups.

The future financial requirement for the newsletter remained unknown. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of the current editorial group, thought to involve Dave Nutten, Chris Washer and members of the history group, alongside Nigel Spencer, to take it forward. The meeting said that it was in favour of continuing a simple publication if at all possible. **Action: Cllr P Ferguson would contact Nigel Spencer to discuss the future production of the newsletter.**

The meeting was happy with the draft budget and it would come back to the next meeting for finalisation.

7 Risk Management

Cllr Edmundson reported no issues with current assets. The Clerk said that she and her husband had put out salt around the bus shelter, post box and junction on several nights during the hard frosts. The meeting asked if she would continue to do this when necessary, to which she agreed.

8 Planning matters

Details of the application for the erection of a car port at Woodbine Cottage had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk explained that the application for listed building consent had been withdrawn as it did not apply in this case. The meeting agreed to support the application.

9 Parish Council initiatives

Planters: Cllr P Ferguson had contacted Jo Rouston, the landscape gardener, regarding enhanced planting. She would fit this work into her schedule when possible. He said that the planters would need another coat of oil shortly. He has been strimming back the weeds.

Bus shelter: Now that the grant had been received Cllr P Ferguson would order the solar light.

Phone box: The light had been repaired and the back boarded out. He reported that the history group had not got any further with ideas for a display. He commented that

Shirley Asquith was interested in replacing the Perspex panels with glass at some point but it was suggested that this wait until something to enhance the interior had been agreed on.

Cllr Bradwell asked whether the Parish Council was keeping in touch with lone residents during the pandemic. Cllr Elliott confirmed that a support group had been initiated at the beginning of the outbreak but had not been called on very often as residents seemed to have created their own support networks. Cllr Bradwell suggested that a village party could be planned when the pandemic was over as a nice way of bringing the community together.

Cllr Fry said he asked how people were when he was out on walks around his village and said that he found Parish Council meetings were quite valuable at this time.

There was discussion about the state of the roads around the village, particularly around the village sign on the Barkwith Road. Cllr P Ferguson said that some potholes had been marked up some time ago but on a very few had been mended. Cllr M Ferguson had spoken to contractors working at the T-junction who said they had been told only to mend the potholes there. Cllr Bradwell said that work on the potholes in the village had been on a list for completion some time ago and that she would look into it again. The Clerk said that the culvert was flooded again on the Donington Road. Cllr Bradwell said that the Council had had some success double-piping culverts and that it was much easier that replacing the original pipe, which required bridge work. Cllr P Ferguson said that the footpath to Hainton had disappeared under a layer of mulch. The standing water in the dip on the Benniworth Road was also cited as a problem as there seemed to be nowhere for it to drain. Cllr Bradwell asked for a list of works to be sent to her via email. **Action: Councillors to submit ideas to Cllr Elliott in the next couple of days for him to compile a list of works to send to Cllr Bradwell for attention.**

10 Correspondence

Cllr Elliott raised the issue of the Biscathorpe oil drilling proposal. He was aware of a consultation period and he would circulate the details to councillors. He listed possible consequences of the site being developed such as increased tanker traffic on the Caistor High Street and a permanent gas flare and said that those individuals who were not in favour of the development needed to be well-informed.

The Clerk said that she was pinning up relevant information from ELDC, particularly about Covid-19, in the bus shelter as a central point. Most recently regarding the opening of the Boston vaccination centre.

11 Items for next agenda

Finalisation of draft budget.

12 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 17 March 2021.

The Chair thanked Cllrs Fry and Bradwell for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman: