

Skelton Parish Council

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Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Skelton Parish Council held on Thursday 19th December 2024 in Skelton Village Hall at 1930.

Present:

Councillors: Cllrs. J. Watson, C. Linfoot, J. Linfoot, K Hayton and T. Stead.

Ward Councillor : Cllr. A. Hook.

Members of the Public 4

Clerk: Colin Ellis

24/069 Chair's welcome.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and wished all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

24/070a To receive and note apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

Apologies received from Cllr. N. Lansell. It was noted Cllr. L. Mansell was absent.

24/070b To consider the approval of reasons given for absence.

It was RESOLVED to accept Cllr. N. Lansell's reason for absence. It was RESOLVED to note no reason for absence had been received from Cllr. L. Mansell.

24/070c To consider the co-option of any eligible candidates to a vacancy on Skelton Parish Council.

A resident had indicated an interest in being co-opted to the Council. In accordance with the Council's Co-Option Policy the Clerk handed to the applicant an introductory letter on becoming a Parish Councillor together with the required application form and associated documents that require to be completed. It was noted that the applicant had previously attended at least two council meetings. Following completion of the application, the next council meeting will have an agenda item to consider the written application for the office of Parish Councillor with a view to co-option to fill an existing vacancy.

24/071 To receive any declarations of interests not already under the Council's Code of Conduct or a member's Register of Disclosable Pecuniary interests.

None disclosed.

24/072 To resolve to adjourn the meeting to hold the Open Forum.

It was RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting to hold the Open Forum to discuss the following items:

1. To receive any latest incident reports from North Yorkshire Police.

The Clerk had circulated the reports for October and November. October two incidents, a theft of a Northern PowerGrid Polaris vehicle from works site down Hurns Lane and theft of drain covers on Burtree Avenue (prevalent throughout York) whilst in November damage to a Ford transit van, window smashed, ignition interfered with on Shipton Road.

2. To receive a report from the Ward Councillors.

a. Flood signage problems Stripe Lane.

A resident has contacted the Ward Councillors direct by email indicating that the flood

new sign was too high for anyone to reach requesting that the sign be lowered to within reach so that the public could open and close the sign when necessary. Cllr Hook reported that CYC had replied that they do not want members of the public having access to the flap. Cllr Hook had advised CYC that they need to ensure that someone should be responsible for lowering the flap when needed.

3. To receive the Litter Picker's report.

Litter Picker had little to report other than it was evident that dog fouling notices placed on lampposts had been pulled off and that there was a derelict looking property on Brecksfield, the outside appearance environmentally not in keeping with the character of the village. Clerk to follow up, thought to be a YHA property. On Park Close vegetation was obscuring streetlight no 2. Clerk would have a look to see whether it would be possible for Sleightholm Landscapes to undertake the work.

4. To receive resident questions.

There were no resident questions.

24/073 To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Skelton Parish Council held on 24th October 2024 as a true and correct record.

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Skelton Parish Council held on 24th October 2024 as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

24/074 To receive information on the latest ongoing issues and decide further necessary action on village and playground matters to include: -

1. To receive and consider progress on construction of the additional planter on the corner of Fairfields Drive Drive/A19 and to consider providing a planter next to newly positioned Pasture Bench.

Cllr. T. Stead informed the Council that he would progress the purchase of the materials and construction of the planter to the same dimension as that on the corner of St Giles Road/A19.

2. To receive update and consider any necessary actions to replace the path at the pond and to provide lighting with progress on any grant funding options.

Having heard nothing, The Clerk had followed up the application to the National Lottery submitted on 16th May by speaking to an advisor who informed that a decision was made at the end of May, and the Council had been informed, although not received. The decision has now been received again and disappointingly the application has not been successful as National Lottery do not fund infrastructure improvements. It was RESOLVED that the Council will reconsider the project in 2025 looking at the possibility of funding the improvement from reserves. It was suggested that Yorkshire Green may be an avenue to apply for grant funding.

3. To confirm the date for the next walk around the village by councillors/clerk

It was RESOLVED that the next walk around the village would be held in April with a date to be arranged.

4. To consider and decide on either repair or replacement of the vandalised notice board in the playground.

It was RESOLVED not to site a notice board in the playground and that the "Rules for Playground Use" would be placed on the wooden notice board at the opposite end to the school on Brecksfield, this would be continually replaced if taken down.

5. To review the Residents Christmas Lunch and consider arrangements for 2025.

The Resident's Christmas Lunch held on 6th December funded by the Council in partnership with Mandy's Community Café was universally considered to be a tremendous success. It was RESOLVED that the same arrangements should be organised next year date 5th December.

6. To consider the pruning of the Oak Tree in the Playground without the knowledge of the Council.

It was RESOLVED to note that The Clerk had contacted CYC Tree Officer Matthew Stubbings asking if he was aware of this recent development which was first brought to the attention of the council in a report that it was a contributory factor in causing subsidence to the property at 137 Brecksfield. The Clerk had spoken at length with the

Tree Officer who confirmed that there was no TPO on this tree and as the land ownership was YHA could only conclude that arrangements had been made between them and the Insurers of the property involved in the subsidence to have the tree pruned, probably the least damaging effect. The Council RESOLVED to note but expressed surprise that the Council had not been informed out of courtesy but acknowledged that the contractor had done a neat job.

7. To consider and decide on action regarding the uneven path/flagstones and unsightly condition of the walled planters at the front of the Village Store/Post Office.

It was RESOLVED to note that The Clerk reported that he had tried to speak to the owner without success but had followed it up by letter demanding that action be taken over these issues. Waiting for a response.

8. To receive update on playground repairs recommended by ROSPA.

It was RESOLVED to note that repairs had been carried out by Streetscape Products to replace the chains and shackles and fit new seats to the Junior – 1 Bay – Seats Swing and that the surface matting on the Rocker – Sweeping Jigsaw – Gyro Spiral equipment as well as the Combination goal would be completed when the weather allows hopefully early in the new year.

9. To receive update on bulbs planted around the village at various locations.

It was RESOLVED to note that bulbs had been planted around the village at various locations.

10. To note and receive update on the action taken over the fallen tree in the playground.

This had been reported by a resident as leaning on his fence over his driveway. It was RESOLVED to note that Cllr Stead had cut up the tree and would remove the debris within the week. However following the walkabout of Councillors last Friday and visit to the playground to view the debris from the fallen tree it was decided that action to remove was urgent and the Clerk was asked to obtain a quote from Sleightholm Landscapes with a view removing the debris (substantial) and to extend the work to remove the remains of the stump to ground level and at the same time completely remove the adjacent tree to ground level which is dead and covered in Ivy. A verbal quote had been received for the complete works £520 or just for the removal of the adjacent tree and stump of the Hawthorn to ground level between £320-£350. Work could be completed this Friday. The Clerk reported that over the weekend he had received a complaint from a resident (playground user) that the debris should be removed urgently as it is a safety issue to children. The Chair thanked Cllr. Stead for subsequently clearing some of the debris from the fallen tree but It was RESOLVED to engage Sleightholm Landscapes to clear the remaining debris from the fallen tree, remove the remaining stump to ground level and at the same time to fell the adjacent Hawthorn tree covered in Ivy to ground level and to remove all resultant debris. Clerk arranged for all this work to be carried out the day after.

24/075 Financial Matters and Governance

1. To receive the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring reports as of October and November 2024.

It was RESOLVED to approve the financial reports as of 30th October and 29th November 2024.

2. To note the following receipts

a. Barclays Bank Interest 2 nd Sept-1 st Dec	£	215.62
TOTAL	£	215.62

3. To confirm the following payments of invoices: -

a. Salaries, oncosts, and mileage- October	(BP) £	1119.82
b. Home working allowance Clerk- October	£	26.00
c. Giffgaff monthly charges- October	(DC) £	6.00
d. Clerks' printer contract allowance	£	11.50
e. Microsoft Business Basic 365 monthly charge – September 24	(DC) £	12.36
f. Cuttlefish Multimedia Ltd – website license & domain renewal	(BP) £	702.00

g. SLCC Membership renewal for Clerk	(BP) £	183.00
h. ROSPA Play Safety – Annual Inspection	(BP) £	132.00
i. City of York Council – Cemetery Waste Charge	(DD) £	52.38
j. Salaries, oncosts, and mileage- November	(BP) £	1142.32.
k. Home working allowance Clerk- November	£	26.00
l. Giffgaff monthly charges- November	(DC) £	6.00
m. Clerks’ printer contract allowance	£	6.50
n. Microsoft Business Basic 365 monthly charge – October24	(DC) £	12.36
o. Sleightholm Landscapes – Grass and Hedge Cutting	(BP) £	1656.00
p. Amazon Business – Bulb planter	(DC)£	44.49
q. Business Stream – Cemetery Water Charges	(DD) £	21.62
r. The Range – Bulbs for planter/village	(DC) £	43.19
s. Skelton Garden Centre – Bark for planter 60 litre	(DC) £	31.96
	TOTAL	£ 5235.50

It was RESOLVED to confirm payment of the above invoices.

4. To approve the following payments:

a. Salaries, oncosts, and mileage- December (incl Arrears)	(BP) £	1581.11
b. Home working allowance Clerk- December	£	26.00
c. Giffgaff monthly charges- December	(DC) £	6.00
d. Clerks’ printer contract allowance	£	6.50
e. Microsoft Business Basic 365 monthly charge – December 24	(DC) £	12.36
f. YLCA Webinar Training – Cemetery Management - Chair	(BP) £	35.10
g. Booker – Residents Christmas Lunch provisions	(DC) £	108.80
h. Tesco – Residents Christmas Lunch provisions	(DC) £	60.03
i. Browns Nurseries – Plants for gifts	(DC) £	40.00
j. Tesco – Residents Christmas Lunch provisions	(DC) £	110.38
k. Costo Wholesale – Residents Christmas Lunch provisions	(DC) £	94.23
l. Aldi – Residents Christmas Lunch provisions	(DC) £	34.71
m. Playsmart UK – Playground safety surfaces	(BP) £	1560.00
n. Streetscape Products – Playground repairs	(BP) £	912.00
o. Sainsbury’s – Office printer supplies	(DC) £	11.25
p. Leef Seeds (Groundscare) Ltd – Winter pressure wash playground	(BP) £	576.00
	TOTAL	£ 5174.47

It was RESOLVED to approve payment of the above invoices.

- 5 To review the Council’s Scheme of Delegation. Consider amending 7(a) change to £3000 (from £1500) plus vat and to give delegated power to the RFO to transfer funds both ways between the Council current and savings bank accounts. It was RESOLVED to adopt the revised Scheme of Delegation as amended.**

24/076 Planning

- To consider a response to the following planning applications:
 - 24/01820/FUL – 2 The Mews, St Catherine’s House, Skelton, York YO30 1YH – Change of use from residential (Class 3) to Acupuncture Clinic (Class E) – No objection**
 - 24/01993/FUL – 16A Brecksfield, Skelton, York, YO30 1YD – Two storey side/rear extension and single storey front and side extensions – No objection.**
 - 24/02056/TCA – Latrigg, St Giles Road, Skelton, York YO30 1XR – 30% reduction and crown balancing of 2no Pissard Plum and up to 20% reduction of 1no Pissard Plum – trees in a conservation area – No objection.**
 - 24/02063/TPO – 11 The Vale, Skelton, York, YO30 1YH – Up to 4m reduction to previous points on Southern side of crown of 1no Sycamore protected by TPO**

1973/107-A1 – No objection.

e 24/02026/EIASN – Land to the South and East of Hurns Lane, Skelton – Screening opinion in respect of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated grid connection infrastructure – No objection.

f 24/02168/TPO – 2 The Vale, Skelton, York YO30 1YH – Fell 1no Walnut Tree protected by TPO 5 – It was RESOLVED to object to this planning proposal on the basis of needing to preserve trees that had a TPO and as a consequence more justification was required before such drastic action was taken.

g 24/02202/TPO – 27 The Vale, Skelton, York, YO30 1YH – Pollard 1no Sycamore to leave 2m high stem- tree protected by TPO 1973/107 – No objection.

2. To note details of planning applications decided by City of York Council and decide on any necessary action:

a.24/01338/FUL – Greene King Pub and Carvery, Riverside Farm, Shipton Road, Skelton YO30 1XJ – Canopy extension to entrance, single storey side extension, timber cladding to exterior and re-use of hard standing for car park after demolition of outbuildings – Approved 25th October 2024.

b. 24/01797/TPO – Ings House, Shipton Road, Rawcliffe, York YO30 1XJ. – Remedial pruning of 5no Oak Trees protected by TPO 158/90 for clearance of footpath/cycle track. – Approved 26th November 2024.

c. 24/01425/TPO – Yorkshire Ambulance NHS Trust, Fairfields, Shipton – Lateral reduction on lower primary branch by approx. 2.5m to 1no Oak Tree protected by TPO 125/1989. – Approved 5th November 2024.

24/077 To consider correspondence received and decide action where necessary to include: -

1. **To receive emails from YLCA: -**

a. White Rose Updates, Law and Governance and E-training bulletins.

b. 2024-25 National Salary Award agreed by National Joint Council (NJC) retrospective to 1st April 2024.

2. **To receive emails from NALC.**

None

3. **To receive correspondence from City of York Council.**

a. Residents update – December 2024.

b. Business update - December 2024.

4. **To receive correspondence from other organisations.**

a. Noted letter received by the Chair from Luke Charters MP appreciating the hard work and dedication by Parish Councillors with an invitation to a coffee morning, to be arranged.

24/078 To receive reports from the Council's representatives on external bodies and to consider any action.

a. York YLCA Branch Meeting - No meeting

b. Kyle and Ouse Internal Drainage Board - Ward Councillor attended. Next meeting scheduled for 3rd February 2025.

c. Village Hall – No report.

24/079 To receive Councillors request for items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council.

The Chair reminded Councillors to let the Clerk have any items for the next meeting before the deadline although two items were tabled as:

a. Consider alteration to Village Hall contribution.

b. Need a strategy to ring fence the use of reserves for a specific project.

24/080 To consider a date change to the February 2025 meeting due to the Clerk's unavoidable absence.

It was RESOLVED to note the Clerk's unavoidable absence for the February meeting date.

It was RESOLVED to consider whether a meeting in February is required following the next meeting in January.

24/081 To confirm that the next meeting of Skelton Parish Council will be the held on Thursday 23rd January 2025 at 7.30pm

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting of Skelton parish Council would be held on

Thursday 23rd January at 7.30pm.
The Chair closed the meeting at 2022.

Signed -----Chair Skelton Parish Council

Date-----

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