

SKILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Grantham, Lincolnshire

Chairman: Graham Page Vice-Chairman: Richard Wrigley

Councillors: Neville Clark, Francis Disney, Stuart Millington, Anita Sheehan.

Parish Clerk: Vicky Page (Mrs), The Old School, Colsterworth Road, Skillington, Lincs. NG33 5HF

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Skillington Village Hall on Monday, 9th January 2017 2016 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr G. Page (Chairman), Cllrs N. Clark, F. Disney, S. Millington, A. Sheehan and R Wrigley

In attendance: Cllr Bob Adams (LCC & SKDC) and Mrs V. Page (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence: none

2. Notes of the Parish Council Meeting on 5th December 2016: were agreed and signed into Minutes by the Chairman. Cllr Wrigley noted that the Council had not expressed regret at the meeting following the Clerk's announcement of her planned retirement but that she would be missed.

3. Councillors' Declarations of Interest: none

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

- 4.1. 13.5/12.1 Neighbourhood Plan – the responses to the comments made during the Pre-Submission Consultation are almost complete and the revised draft should be ready for submission to SKDC by the end of January. Bob Keith has prepared the extra reports required. Corrections on the list of Positive Unlisted Buildings are being made.

Cllr Millington joined the meeting at 7.38pm

- 4.2. 16.10/11.4 Casual Vacancy on Parish Council: the Chairman urged the Councillors to encourage any possible volunteers.
- 4.3. 16.12/8.7 Retirement of Parish Clerk: a preference for a candidate from within the village was expressed, however if this is not possible it was noted that there might be interest from clerks working for small parishes locally. The Chairman and Cllr Sheehan will prepare a draft contract of employment; the Clerk to prepare a job description.
- 4.4. 16.12/9.1 2017/18 Budget – discussed later in the meeting.
- 4.5. 16.10/11.2 Hedge on corner of Grantham Road: has been cut back a small amount but is still obscuring the street light, the Chairman will follow this up.
- 4.6. 16.11/9.1 Proposal to extend Council Tax referendum principles to parish councils: notification received that council tax referendum principles have not been extended to parish and town councils in 2017/18

5. Planning applications:

- 5.1. S16/2668 Mr William Murdoch – steel framed span from an existing shed as an extension to the building at Manor Farm – the Clerk reported that she had spoken with the planning officer, Joe Mitson regarding this application for Prior Approval rather than Planning Permission. The Council expressed concern at the lack of detail in the application which made it difficult to judge the size of the proposed extension and its proximity to houses, particularly in Colsterworth Road. The Clerk will report these concerns to Mr Mitson.

6. Cemetery:

- 6.1. Cemetery Scale of Charges 2017 – It was agreed that the Scale of Charges for the Cemetery should remain unchanged for 2017, see attached. Proposed by Cllr Wrigley, seconded by Cllr Sheehan and agreed unanimously.
- 6.2. Maintenance:
- 6.2.1. Following a complaint received regarding a missing memorial stone and the movement of a vase in the area where maintenance has been carried out, and the condition of a grave on the left hand side of the Cemetery, it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should meet the relative concerned to discuss this matter further. It was also noted that several of the headstones were no longer upright and a 'tilt test' should probably be undertaken. The Clerk will contact the local stonemasons and undertakers to seek help.
- 6.2.2. Ground maintenance contract not completed in 2016: the Council expressed its dissatisfaction with the maintenance work carried out in 2016. It was agreed that a sum of £300 should be paid for the incomplete work, the original quote being £525.
- 6.2.3. Planned maintenance in 2017: the quotation from Paul Mumby for turfing areas around graves on chapel side and treatment of ants has been accepted, and will be undertaken during the winter; grass seeding remainder of chapel side to be done in the Spring.
- 6.2.4. 16.12/6.1.2 Shed roof: confirmation has been received that roof is probably 'Asbestos Cement Corrugated Sheeting in a poor condition and especially with the heavy overgrowth'; quotation for removal and replacement awaited.
- 6.3. An interment of Ashes took place in December.

Signed: Chairman

Date

7. Payments and Accounts:7.1. Bank Balances at 31st December:7.1.1. *Yorkshire Bank a/c: £10,114.93 (debit £208.00) (includes Grant for Neighbourhood Grant)*7.1.2. *HSBC Community a/c: £0*7.1.3. *Melton Mowbray Business 100 Day Notice a/c £13,756.63*

7.2. Q3 Accounts – were presented to the Council

7.3. Payments received in December:

<i>Date of Invoice</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Total Amount £</i>
27.11.16	Mrs C. Meadows	Purchase of Cemetery Plot and interment of Ashes	Invoice 200628	175.00

7.4. Invoices for payment January: cheques signed by the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Wrigley and Cllr Sheehan

<i>Date of Invoice</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Date & Minute No. of Approval</i>	<i>Net Amount £</i>	<i>VAT £</i>	<i>Total Amount £</i>
31.12.16	Colsterworth & District Parish Council	Community Cleaner: December 2016 (including emptying of 4 dog bins @ £2.50/bin/2 x month	6.10.14 Page 2091 Item 8.6.	115.46		115.46
31.12.16	Mrs V. Page	Clerk's Salary & Expenses Oct-Dec 16	2.5.15 Page 2098 Item 4.5 & 4.4.16 Page 2128 Item 8.6	675.79	3.99	679.78

8. Clerk's Report:

8.1. 16.10/9.2 Relocation of Dog Waste Bin: the bin in Colsterworth Road has been relocated to Grantham Road. The Chairman has thanked Mark Fryer for doing this for the Council.

8.2. Highways Issues: potholes in Lords Lane and Buckminster Lane have been reported and notification received that this work will be done during the first week in March with Lords Lane being closed at the junction with Colsterworth Rd for one day; local residents informed. Concern has been expressed that any work might divert water coming down Lords Lane houses at the bottom of the road. The Clerk will follow this up with LCC Highways.

8.3. Best Kept Village Competition: information has been received; the Council agreed not to enter

8.4. LCC Street Lighting Transformation Project Update: information received from LCC was passed to Cllr Millington

9. Matters to be discussed at this meeting:

9.1. 16.12/9.1 2017/18 The Chairman presented the second draft of the Budget showing a proposed gross increase in the Precept of £100 (2.17%). The main reason for the increase being the Council's decision to continue with grass cutting of verges even though LCC are ceasing to fund this. It was noted that LCC are to grant transitional relief of 20% where PCs carry on cutting the verges. Acceptance of the Budget, as attached, was proposed by Cllr Disney, seconded by Cllr Wrigley and agreed unanimously.

10. District and County Councillor's Reports: Cllr Adams briefed the Council on the likely LCC and SKDC Council Tax increases.

Also on the new Co-op store in Colsterworth and plans for the new Garden Village, the Designer Outlet Village and other plans for Grantham

11. Any matters arising at the discretion of the Chairman:

11.1. Cllr Clark expressed concern at the erosion of the verge on the hill in Colsterworth Road going out of the village. The Clerk will inform LCC Highways.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm**The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday, 6th February 2017 at 7.30pm at Skillington Village Hall**

Signed: Chairman

Date