

**HESLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 26 APRIL 2021 AT 7.30PM**

**Councillors Present:** David Blacketer Pauline Bramley  
Richard Bramley John Garner  
Peter Hall Bev Heap  
Rose Hilton Tom Percy  
Zena Richards

**In Attendance:** Fiona Hill - Parish Clerk

**Public Present:** 1

- 21/1 a) To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting:** Cllr Aspden  
**b) To consider the approval of reasons given for absence:** N/A
- 21/2 To record declarations of interest in items on the agenda:**  
Cllr Percy – 21/00605/FUL – Applicant is family member
- 21/3 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16 March 2021:**  
Resolved – Approved (Unanimous)
- 21/4 To discuss matters arising from previous minutes:**  
- Lengthsman the recruitment process would re-start shortly
- 21/5 To report and make relevant recommendations on new planning applications:**  
- 21/00605/FUL – First floor extension to rear @ The Longhouse, Main Street  
Four Councillors voted in favour of a Neutral response. Four Councillors voted in favour of a Support response. The Chairman used her Casting Vote to the Neutral response.  
Resolved – The Parish Council would submit a Neutral response with No Comments.
- 21/6 To note planning decisions by City of York Council:** None
- 21/7 To note matters raised with/by Yorkshire Local Council Association:**  
Preparing for the possible return of face-to-face meetings  
Resolved – The Parish Council would cancel the May and June meeting. Delegated powers would be used during this period. The Parish Council would probably first meet face-to-face at their July meeting.
- 21/8 To discuss financial matters with Responsible Financial Officer:**
- To note bookkeeping report to date for year ending 31 March 2021:  
NTR since year end
  - Financial Management - Internal Controls, Property/Asset Checks, Internal/External Audits  
Yorkshire Internal Audit Services have conducted the internal audit on Tue04May21
  - To note payments  
- Parish Clerk Salary £

Chairman's Signature .....

Date.....

**21/9 To receive reports from representative of outside bodies as follows:**

- Ward Councillors – Report at the end of the minutes
- North Yorkshire Police – No report attached
- Heslington East Community Forum - NTR
- Good Neighbourhood Forum – Next meeting 23Jun21
- Ouse and Derwent Drainage Board – NTR
- Sports Field – AGM on Thu29Apr21
- York Environment Forum - NTR
- Alms Houses - NTR
- The Meeting Room – Cllr Garner reported the car park work is completed.

**21/10 To discuss/agree actions with long-standing matters:**

- Appearance of village  
Painting of utility boxes  
Cllr Garner gave Cllrs the advice from the Dulux Representative.  
Resolved – The Parish Council agreed that up to £100 per box, covering the costs of labour and materials, to spend on the three vandalised utility boxes. (Unanimous)  
The locations are - Main St adjacent to the Charles X11, Junction of Field Lane & School Lane and Junction of Church Lane & Windmill Lane.  
Highway Matters - NTR  
City of York Council  
Article 4 (2) Direction – The Parish Clerk would chase up Edward Freedman.
- Neighbourhood Planning (See statement at end of minutes)  
Cllrs were concerned that though the Examiner had said the NP could go forward to referendum, he had deleted three policies.
  - Purpose built student accommodation
  - Vehicular and pedestrian traffic
  - Traffic in Heslington conservation area, and
    - \*Site 3 - Elvington Airfield Grasslands western end removed from Green InfrastructureThe current Plan’s rationale, evidence base and drafting are insufficient to support these policies.  
Cllrs agreed the policies were important. To achieve this aim:  
Resolved – The Parish Council would not completely withdraw the Neighbourhood Plan  
Unanimous Proposed: Cllr Percy, Seconded: Cllr Hilton,  
Resolved - The Parish Council **would not** accept the policy deletions and allow the Neighbourhood Plan to proceed in modified form to Referendum. The Neighbourhood Plan would need to be amended soon after adoption to allow for the missing policies to be added.  
Five votes in favour, four votes against  
Resolved - The Parish Council would withdraw the plan, to allow for the policy modifications to be made, before resubmitting the plan.  
Five votes in favour, four votes against
- Local Plan – See report from Cllr Aspden
- University of York  
Antisocial Behaviour – currently no issues
- Communication
  - Website – this is up to date
  - Broadband – NTR
  - Newsletter – NTR

**21/11 To discuss correspondence received by the council: None**

Chairman’s Signature .....

Date.....

- 21/12 To receive matters raised by members:** None
- 21/13 To note matters raised by members of public:** None
- 21/14 To confirm the details of the next meeting:**  
 04May21 – Annual Parish Council Meeting  
 18May21, 15Jun21, 20Jul21, 17Aug21, 21Sep21, 19Oct21, 16Nov21, 21Dec21

Cllr Aspden Report

**Covid-19 rates remain lowest in the region**

The latest official 7 day rate of positive cases of Covid in York is, at 12 April, 9 per 100,000 population. This figure is the lowest in the region and represents a huge effort from residents and organisations across the city to prevent infection. With the removal of restrictions, however, is increased risk of infection and it remains essential that people continue to exercise caution and prioritise the simple steps to avoid contracting or passing on the virus.

The return of many retail, leisure and outdoor hospitality businesses has been an important step forward towards normal life, and we are thankful for the efforts of our local businesses and communities in helping to keep both residents and visitors to our city as safe as possible.

**Success of city-wide Covid-19 testing**

Currently, asymptomatic testing is being conducted across four community testing sites across the city using Lateral Flow Devices. Between 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 45,000 tests have been completed at these sites and identified 428 positive cases which have gone on to self-isolate, thus breaking chains of transmission. On average 4,500 tests a week are completed

**Next step in the lockdown easing map sees businesses reopen**

Council has worked actively to prepare the city centre for reopening together with local business, partners and public health team. As residents return to enjoy York’s many hospitality venues and shops, safety remains our first priority, and we’re working closely with businesses across the city to ensure that rigorous safety measures are in place and that residents are aware and practicing social distancing and other public health measures.

**Local Government Reorganisation consultation ends**

The Government statutory consultation, which considered two proposals to remove 2-tier local government in North Yorkshire, has now ended (Monday 19 April). Responding to the consultation, the council shared evidence about the benefits of retaining City of York Council on its existing footprint, and the subsequent risks of any merger.

The council highlighted the strength of existing partnership working and the potential for a Strategic Partnership to support efficient service delivery alongside a new North Yorkshire unitary authority. It also described the additional cost to taxpayers and the impact of disruption to key services, partnerships and York’s identity resulting from a merger.

We now await the Secretary of State’s decision regarding the outcome of the consultation, which we expect to be made in the summer.

Chairman’s Signature .....

Date.....

## **Local Plan**

The Council has submitted more information about the definition of the city's green belt to the Planning Inspector examining the local plan. The Council submitted the explanation of how it defines the outer boundary of the green belt, with explanations of other green belt boundaries set to follow. Officers have also issued the timetable to deliver all the remaining additional information requested by Government inspectors by the end of this month.

Having received the bulk of this information in December and January, inspectors have previously indicated that the examination is likely to progress to online consultation over the new information, followed by further hearing sessions, most likely to be held in summer at the earliest.

The inspectors now have a clear timetable for the delivery of all the additional information, and we will of course keep them completely up to date on our progress. This is good news for our ambition to secure a Local Plan which gives York the housing and jobs our city needs, whilst at the same time protecting York's unique character, green belt and natural beauty.

## **2021/22 Council Budget approved**

Proposals put forward by the Liberal Democrat and Green Partnership, to stabilise Council's financial position and invest in frontline services, social care and city's economic recovery, have been given the go ahead following agreement at Full Council on the 25th February.

Recognising the current economic challenges and support needed for local residents, budget proposals set out an increase in total spending by £2.6 million on adult social care and support for children and young people.

To continue the work done throughout the pandemic to support local residents and businesses, the 2021/22 budget saw a £3.5 million Covid Recovery Fund approved alongside the continuation of the Council's transformational £600m capital investment programme to accelerate the city's economic recovery.

## **Fulford Flood Defence scheme progress**

Following two successful petitions and campaign efforts over a number of years, £2m from the Council's budget has been agreed in the Council Budget to unlock an up to £4.9m package to complete the joined-up flood defence work for Fulford. The proposed solution, which can now be funded with the up to £4.9m, consists of the following:

- The flood wall to be extended to tie into high ground and allow access to the pumping station;
- New flap valve to be installed on the existing Germany Beck Culvert;
- New pumping station to be installed.

## **Fulford School Expansion Plan update**

Fulford School officials have submitted a planning application for the school's expansion to address the growing demand for more facilities and accommodate the growing number of pupils. The application is currently out to consultation until 26th May 2021. The Highway Development Control team will be evaluating the transport and highway elements and submitting comments to the Planning Officer in due course.

Throughout the progression of the Fulford School expansion scheme I have done my best to address the long-standing access issues on Fulfordgate. Following meetings with local residents, I have offered to make representations on their behalf and call-in to committee any planning application when it is submitted and considered by Planning Committee. The Committee will need to take into account the views of residents of Heslington Lane, Fulfordgate, Eastward Avenue and of the new residents of Germany Beck.

Chairman's Signature .....

Date.....

Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan

**Statement from Heslington Parish Council. 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Further to comments received by the Parish Council after the vote on whether to support the Neighbourhood Plan proceeding to referendum, the Council wish to issue a statement setting out their current position.

Heslington Parish Council are very appreciative of the excellent work put in voluntarily over a long period by members of the working group. The high quality of the work, in a complex planning background, is acknowledged by all concerned. The Parish Council are united behind the importance of having a Neighbourhood Plan.

We wish to assure residents that at their meeting on Monday 26 April 2021, the Parish Council did not vote to withdraw the Plan altogether. This was discussed as an option and it was immediately ruled out.

the Examiner has recommended the Plan may proceed to referendum, this will be with three policies deleted:

- Purpose built student accommodation
- Vehicular and pedestrian traffic
- Traffic in Heslington conservation area, and
- 
- Site 3 - Elvington Airfield Grasslands western end removed from Green Infrastructure

as the current Plan's rationale, evidence base and drafting are insufficient to support these policies.

This means that the Parish Council was faced with two less than ideal options to vote upon:

Option 1) withdraw the current Plan, amend the policies with the necessary rationale and evidence base and following consultation, resubmit amended Plan to referendum.

Option 2) submit the current Plan to referendum, with the policies deleted.

After referendum , amend with the additional policies supported with the necessary rationale and evidence base and following consultation submit for a 2<sup>nd</sup> referendum.

Both options would hopefully result in a Neighbourhood Plan being adopted (subject to referendum) but would require further work to get the full Neighbourhood Plan we desire.

The Parish Council believes the two options are different routes to the same end point and both routes are not without their merits and their risks.

Concerns have been raised with the Parish Council regarding their decision. These will be noted as we look to move forward.

At this time the Parish Council is currently making further enquiries into, and gathering information on, the practical impacts of this decision in terms of timings, financial implications and work required for the options above. Financial assistance is available for both options.

Chairman's Signature .....

Date.....

The Parish Council has a responsibility to submit the best version of the plan they can in order to protect the Parish, Heslington Village and its surroundings, and remain open minded on how best this can and should be achieved. The Council appreciate the feedback they have received.

**COVID-19 UPDATE FUTURE MEETINGS**

Legislation allowing Parish Councils to meet remotely ended on 7 May 2021. Therefore, any future meetings will be face-to-face.

Subject to risk assessments and Covid safety compliance, Parish Council meetings can take place, but this may not be until July 2021. In the meantime, the Parish Council will continue its work.

HeslingtonPC@outlook.com

Chairman's Signature .....

Date.....