**STRENSALL WITH TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Village Hall, Northfields, Strensall, York YO325XW

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Chairman : Mr A H Fisher

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON TUESDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.15PM**

**Councillors Present:** Andrew Bolton Chris Chambers John Chapman Dr Helen Cox Catherine Donohoe Tony Fisher \* Duncan Hill Lawrence Mattinson Susan Nunn \*\* Kevin Ogilvy

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

**Public Present:** 0

\* City of York Council Strensall Ward Councillor

\*\* Arrived late

1. **To note apologies for absence and approve the reasons given:**  Tony Gavin, who is working and unable to attend a remote meeting

Resolved – Approved

City of York Council Strensall Ward Councillor Paul Doughty

1. **To receive any declarations of interest under the Parish Council Code of Conduct or**

**Members register of interests:**

Cllr Chambers – 20/40 two items regarding Village Hall – Committee Member

1. **To approve the minutes of the monthly Parish Council meeting of 13th October**

 **2020:**

Resolved – Approved (Unanimous, proposed Cllr Hill, seconded Cllr Cox)

To endorse the approved Planning Committee minutes of 13th October 2020 and 27th October 2020

Resolved – Endorsed (Unanimous, proposed Cllr Hill, seconded Cllr Cox)

1. **Public Session** - None
2. **To discuss the ordinary vacancy following the Local Elections 2019**

No expressions of interest

Cllr Nunn joined the meeting

1. **To receive matters raised by/with City of York Ward Councillors:**

Cllr Fisher had spoken to Insp. Lee Pionton, North Yorkshire Police about antisocial behaviour in Strensall, which included excessive use of fireworks, break-ins at the primary school, village hall and Charles Court, suspected drug use at Scott Moncrief Road.

Parish Councillors were concerned about the lack of policing and the threat of vigilante action on social media

1. **To discuss and, if necessary, agree action on matters arising/ongoing issues:**
* Emergency Access – Cllrs Chapman and Fisher had met with representatives from City of York Council, but unfortunately there was no funding available to upgrade the surfacing. In addition, there were concerns about the close proximity to the river. City of York Council would contact neighbouring properties asking them to cut back overgrown hedges and tree, which were encroaching over area.
1. **To discuss and, if necessary, agree action on matters raised since last matters:**
* Village Hall – Request for financial assistance towards the cost of upgrades to the CCTV

Resolved – The Parish Council would pay £120.00 towards the cost of this work

(Unanimous, proposed LM, seconded SN)

* Village Hall – Intention to invoice for office during lockdown

The Parish Council noted receipt of an email which included the following - “As Finance Officer for the Village Hall Management Committee since 1st September 2020 I note that the last lease payment for the parish council’s room in the Village Hall was made on 3rd June 2020 for the quarter ended March 2020. It is appreciated that most of the time since March 2020 the parish office has not been used as normal but the arrangements agreed when the Parish Clerk moved into the former Bar Room allowed exclusive access to the room except when specific bookings such as the Carnival and Village Show were arranged to be held. I shall therefore issue invoices for the lease payment of the two quarters between April and October”.

The Parish Clerk had responded that use of the office within the village hall during lockdown would have been unlawful, so urged a rethink, due to the extra-ordinary circumstances.

* Dualling of the York Outer Ring Road (A1237)

The Parish Council noted the consultation was ongoing

Cllr Chamber took over as Chairman and Cllr Fisher was moved to the Waiting Room

* Restructure of Local Government in York and North Yorkshire

The Parish Clerk read a statement from City of York Council Strensall Ward Councillor Paul Doughty:

*“It is not for me to say which option Parish Councillors should believe is best and nor would it possible to put forward a compelling argument in one minute. However, it’s no secret of the two options so far presented, my preference is for the East/West model which would see a new devolved Council administration including York with Ryedale, Selby and Scarborough. York has had several changes over the years - as a city council, part of the county and for the last twenty-odd years, in my view, as a small inefficient unitary. The Government has made it known it believes efficient unitary authorities would ideally be around 400,000 residents and East/West delivers this. Run on a larger scale, it should enable better services whether efficiency, cost savings or simply to attract better and more specialist people into particular areas, such as adult social care. We’d remove duplication and its easy to see where savings can be made - one Chief Exec rather than multiple and ditto with Directors and other senior staff etc. Investment can then be made at service delivery on the ground. Finally, I’d urge Parish Councillors to read the independent (cross-party) KPMG report commissioned by the seven District Council Leaders. I am happy to forward the link to anyone who asks me and some frequently asked question responses - as only one option is being presented publicly in York.”*

Cllr Fisher, as City of York Council Strensall Ward Councillor was invited back into the meeting to make a statement as follows:

*“The Government has decided to reform Local Government by going to an all unitary model, where all councils will provide all services, like York does. Two proposals for N Yorks have been put forward. City of York and N Yorks have proposed a model with York remaining as it is and N Yorks running the rest of the county. This would not change York, recognising that the city has a history and demographics separate from the rest of rural N Yorks. The other proposal is to merge York with Selby, Ryedale and Scarborough. This would mean that councillors in Scarborough and Selby would make decisions in York, which goes against the idea of “local” government. What influence would this Parish Council have on a council stretching from Staithes almost to Doncaster? Moreover, since council tax in York is at least £164 less than the other areas, council tax in York would rise by at least £117. There would also be a hiatus in decision making with errors being made during the transition, as in 1996, and reorganisation costs would be huge. Please support the York/N Yorks option, but please add a comment that this is not the time to reorganise at all when we should be concentrating on recovery from the pandemic”.*

 Cllr Fisher was moved to the Waiting Room

The Parish Council felt they should express an opinion, but needed time to reflect on what they had heard tonight and would read the reports issued on the options.

Resolved – The Parish Council would discuss this further at the next meeting

Cllr Fisher re-joined the meeting and continued as Chairman

1. **To discuss matters raised by committees:**
2. Cemetery

The Parish Clerk had circulated the minutes of the meeting on Thursday 22 October 2020

1. Finance

There was a meeting scheduled for Tuesday 24 November 2020

1. Play Areas

The Parish Clerk had circulated the minutes of the meeting on Thursday 22 October 2020, along with the RoSPA report

1. Trees, Allotments & Open Spaces

The Parish Clerk had circulated the minutes of the meetings on Wednesday 14 October 2020, Tuesday 27 October 2020 and Wednesday 04 November 2020, along with the Tree report.

Resolved – The Parish Council approved the above committee minutes en bloc. (Unanimous, proposed TF, seconded CC)

1. **To discuss matters raised by/with Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)**
2. To receive bank reconciliation as at 31 October 2020:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Balance Accounts as at 31Oct20:** |  |  | A/c No |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Treasurers |  |  | £57435.84 |  | 11104098 |
| Contingency |  | £62502.15 |  | 93981827 |
| Premium |  |  | £18659.21 |  | 22422018 |
| Cemetery |  |  | £8342.53 |  | 03839958 |
| Premium Bonds |  | £10000.00 |  | 30712310 |
| Contingency Bonds |  | £15000.00 |  | 90712515 |
|  |  |  | £171939.73 |  |  |

1. To note income received:

**Income in Oct20:**

Bank Interest £0.67

Cemetery £333.50

VAT Refund £279.05

1. To approve Payments:

**Expenditure in Oct20:**

Parish Clerk £

Grass-cutting (Cemetery) £703.00

Waste Collection (Cemetery) £20.52

Planter Fixing £240.00

RoSPA Inspections £261.00

Grass-Cutting (Open Spaces) £747.00

Zoom Pro Subscription £14.39

Parish Clerk Expenses £84.76

Tree Report £1440.00

Internal Audit £125.00

Website Hosting £125.00

Play Area Repairs/Parts £61.51

Mobile Phone £20.21

Resolved – Approved (Unanimous)

1. To conduct Internal Controls

Resolved – The Parish Clerk would scan and email to Cllrs copies of the bank statements and invoices, so Cllrs could check them against the bank balances and payments (Unanimous)

1. To adopt/re-adopt policies as follows: WIP/Next meeting

f) To receive report regarding insurance register and renewal

Resolved – The Parish Council would accept the quote offered by Came & Company, taking advantage of the three year fixed price offer. (Unanimous, proposed: AB, seconded SN)

g) To report on recent issues dealt with via Parish Council office for information only – NTR

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The Parish Council thanked Cllr Hill for repairing the vandalised bird table

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SCYSA - Cllr Nunn reported that the AGM would take place on 07Dec20. The Parish Clerk had received the minutes of the meeting on 12 October 2020, but there were some errors within, which involved the Parish Council. Cllr Nunn would ensure these were corrected.

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Christmas Lights – Cllr Hill would fixed some to one tree. If not vandalised, more may be fixed in future. Cllr Nunn have spare lights

1. **To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 08th December 2020 @ 7.15 p.m.**

Resolved – Agreed