**STRENSALL WITH TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Village Hall, Northfields, Strensall, York YO325XW

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Chairman : Mr A H Fisher

**MINUTES OF AN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 14th JUNE 2022 AT 7.15 PM**

**Councillors Present:** Andrew Bolton Chris Chambers John Chapman Tony Fisher\*\* Ray Maher Lawrence Mattinson Susan Nunn Kevin Ogilvy

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

**Public Present:** 0

\*\* City of York Councillors

1. **a) To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting:** James Dickson

**b) To consider the approval of reasons given for absence:** Resolved/Approved\*

\*The Parish Council approved absence for six months for Cllr Dickson

1. **To discuss the ordinary and casual vacancies:** NTR
2. **To receive any declarations of interest under the Parish Council Code of Conduct or**

**Members register of interests:** Cllr Fisher – North Yorkshire Police Report – Involvement with incidents

1. **a) To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 10th May 2022:**

Resolved – Approved (Unanimous)

**b) To endorse the approved Planning Committee minutes of 10th and 24th May 2022:**

Resolved – Approved (Unanimous)

**c) To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 03rd May 2022**

Resolved – Approved (Unanimous)

1. **Public participation on any subject relating to the agenda:** None

**22/6 To receive matters raised by/with City of York Ward Councillors:** NTR

**22/7 To discuss and, if necessary, agree action on matters arising/ongoing issues:** a)North Yorkshire Police monthly reports The May 2022 report was circulated by email. The zoom meeting with Insp. Lee Pointon, North Yorkshire Police, was arranged for 6.30 p.m. on Wed15Jun22

b) Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022 - Community Garden on York Road A meeting was still to arrange with Cllrs Dickson, Fisher and Nunn c) Bench installations – Parkgate Bus Shelter and Cemetery The Parish Clerk was obtaining quotes for the base at the cemetery and fixing both benches. d) War Memorial – fence The planning application was now with City of York Council. The Parish Clerk was obtaining quotes for wooden rather than concrete posts and for only replacing part of the fence.

**22/8 To discuss and, if necessary, agree action on matters raised since last meeting:** a) Huntington Fire Station – Public Consultation – Service Changes Resolved / The Parish Council would respond as follows: (Unanimous)

Strensall with Towthorpe Parish Council wishes to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposal to downgrade Huntington Fire Station from full time to part time retained.

Our reasons are as follows:

1. We simply do not accept the estimates given of the potential increase in response times. We consider that the time taken to contact the retained firefighters, for them to get to the station, change and then man the appliance will be considerably longer than the average time quoted. This has been backed up by evidence from the FBU, which estimates average delays in response at around double that quoted in the proposals.
2. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that much of Strensall (in common with most of Haxby and Wigginton) can only be accessed via one of 3 level crossings. If the level crossings are down, this can add up to a 3 minute delay. The cumulative effect of the extra response time and the potential delays at the level crossings could pose a serious risk to life.
3. Huntington is not just a fire station, but the main rescue centre for the North of York. Given that the A64 is one of the busiest roads in the country and that it has a very poor accident record which has been stated to be the worst in the North of England. There have been at least 10 fatalities between 2015 and 2022 between the Hull Rd interchange and Cram Beck.
4. Huntington Fire Station is the closest station by far to Strensall Common, an area of wet/dry lowland heath which is a Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest. This is an area which is very prone to serious fires, the latest being in April 2022. Any delay in response could risk the loss of large parts of this critical and rare habitat.
5. There have been 3 house fires in Strensall in the last 2 years (14 Leyfield Close and 125 The Village plus one on Thursday 23rd June in Westpit Lane). In each case, the rapid response of the fire crews prevented the fire destroying the whole dwelling.
6. When the old Fire Station in Clifford St was relocated to Kent St, it was determined that a new station was needed to cover the north of York, this being the Huntington station. Since then, the Community Stadium has opened and new estates of 970 homes north of Monks Cross and 750 homes north of Haxby have been allocated in the Local Plan.

What are the relative response times to these locations from Huntington as compared to |Kent St and Acomb?

In summary, Strensall with Towthorpe Parish Council considers that the proposed changes will put lives at risk and asks that they be reconsidered.

b) City of York Council – Invitation to nominate interested councillors to be substitute parish representatives of the Standards Committee No members were interested in joining the committee

**22/9 To discuss and, if necessary, agree action, on any correspondence received:** None

**22/10 To discuss matters raised by/with Responsible Financial Officer (RFO):** a)Bank reconciliation, income received, payments made to date The Parish Clerk had circulated a financial report by email b) Internal controls checks Cllr Maher had conducted the checks and found everything in order c) Yorkshire Local Councils Association – NTR

**22/11 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 12th July 2022 at 7.15 p.m.:** Resolved – Approved (Unanimous)

