**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 TUESDAY 12th DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.15 PM**

**Councillors Present:** Andrew Bolton Tony Fisher1 Lawrence Mattinson Susan Nunn Daniel Pillai

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

**Public Present:** 0

1 City of York Councillor

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

Chris Chambers and Chris Tetley **b) To consider the approval of reasons given for absence:** Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)

**c) To confirm granting approval for a six-month period, to Cllr Tetley**

Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)

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:** None

1. **a) To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 14th November 2023:**

Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)

**b) To endorse the approved Planning Committee minutes of 14th and 28th November 2023:**

Resolved / Endorsed (Unanimous)

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

**24/79 To receive matters raised by/with City of York Ward Councillors:**  Urban Forests – Cllr Fisher reported that City of York Council had secured funding for two football pitch sized forests. He would research this further.

**24/80 To discuss and, if necessary, agree action on matters arising/ongoing issues:** a)North Yorkshire Police monthly reports - No report received b) Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden Resolved / The Parish Council would spend up to £100.00 on flowers (Unanimous) Cllr Nunn reported that the groundworks were finished.

**24/81 To discuss and, if necessary, agree action on matters raised since last meeting:** None

**24/82 To discuss and, if necessary, agree action, on any correspondence received:** None

**24/83 To discuss matters raised by/with Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO):**

a)Bank reconciliation, income received, payments made to date:



b)Budget 2024/2025



Resolved / (Unanimous) The Parish Council approved a precept of £54000.00 against an expenditure budget of £92555.00 and the Ring-fenced/Earmarked Funds would be amended on 01 April 2024 as follows:

Cowslip Bridge £14000.00 – £14000.00 (To General Reserve) = 0.00

Tree works £10484.00 + £10000.00 (From General Reverse) = £20484.00

Grants £3392.00

Play Areas £14666.00 + £50000.00 (From General Reserve) = £64666.00

c) Internal Controls Checks: This was conducted and everything found to be in order.

d) Yorkshire Local Councils Association: Information provided was circulated around Cllrs.

e) Policy Review: YLCA has issued a new version of the checklist, which would be used to record all the review information from the recent minutes, so it is in one place, which will help with auditing and future reviews. The checklist will be circulated with meeting papers whenever it is subject to changes.

e) Payments Approval:



f) Monthly Report from Parish Office

Quorum –

Local Government Act 1972 states -

*“12. Subject to paragraph 45 below, no business shall be transacted at a meeting of a parish council unless at least one-third of the whole number of members of the council are present at the meeting; but, notwithstanding anything in that paragraph, in no case shall the quorum be less than three.*

*45. Where more than one-third of the members of a local authority become disqualified at the same time, then, until the number of members in office is increased to not less than two-thirds of the whole number of members of the authority, the quorum of the authority shall be determined by reference to the number of members of the authority remaining qualified instead of by reference to the whole number of members of the authority”.*

The Parish Council has 14 seats and one-third is 5 seats.

Currently, with seven vacancies, there are only seven members, so if ever there were more than two apologies for absence, the meeting would be inquorate.

Crown Estates – Occasionally, the Parish Council is asked about the land between the Brecks Estate and the river, which was owned by Hogg builders, who went into liquidation, so has reverted to the Crown. A tree recently came down in the high winds and was threatening to damage an adjacent property. Carter Jonas in York were contacted, as it was understood, that they managed the Crown Estates in this area and the responded – “This land is known as Escheat and is not managed by this office. Carter Jonas do manage land within the rural estate portfolio, Escheat land does not form part of this. Escheat matters are handled by Burges Salmon and the contact email is escheat.queries@burges-salmon.com”. Burges Salmon responded – “I can confirm that we have a file on our system for this property, and as such I have forwarded your query to the lawyer dealing with the property who will be in contact with you shortly”.

The Parish Council can now leave this between Burges Salmon and the property owner, but it is helpful to have a contact for this land, as there are a lot of large trees very close to properties in this area.

Outstanding Issues: Phone box painting estimated Spring 2024

**24/84 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 09th January 2024 at 7.15 p.m.:** Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)