

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF POTTO PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Councillor Mr A Wilde (Chairman), Councillor Mrs E Griffin, Councillor Mr S Agar and County Councillor Mr D Hugill

Parish Council Meeting

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Mr I Macpherson

The minutes for the January meeting of the Parish Council were discussed proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

Co-option of Councillor

HDC confirmed that they had received insufficient requests from eligible electors for an election to fill the vacancy left by Cllr Williams.

The council proposed co-opting Mr J Greco who had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council, this was unanimously agreed and Cllr Greco was welcomed to the team. Cllr Greco will be replacing Councillor Williams, who had to stand down due to work commitments, the Parish Council would like to thank Vicky for her enthusiasm, efforts, and invaluable advice over recent years.

Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch

Police report was received via email and PCSO Nikki Dunn was present. Nothing to report.

The Police will be at the Globe in Stokesley on 10 March 10-12 protectively marking people's property.

Discussed cold callers in Potto and Swainby asking for scrap and walking around people's properties. PCSO Dunn confirmed the link with the same cold callers in Swainby.

Planning Decisions of Hambleton District Councils

None

Planning Applications

- a) 18/00254/FUL - Conversion of garage to bedroom and conservatory to sun room and construction of a garage.
Recommended for Approval.
- b) 18/00159/FUL - Revised application for the demolition of 2 storage buildings, alterations and conversion of large storage building to form 2 semi detached dormer bungalows with installation of mezzanine floor, new access driveway, associated work and provision of car parking.

Matters Arising from last month's meeting

- a) Footpaths and Un-Classified Road (Bridle-path) –
New dates have been requested to put the remaining gates in on the footpaths. We will be getting another 2 or 3 self-closing gates for free, but these must be installed by volunteers.

There are a number of small pools forming on an area of the bridleway which will need filling in before it gets muddy. Cllr Macpherson is investigating opportunities to undertake this work with volunteers.

We have contacted Hambleton District Council regarding the ford and the concrete being broken, they have passed this issue to Highways.

- b) Meeting with YLCA – Organised for Wednesday 28 March.
- c) A letter of thanks has been sent to the Governor of HMP Kirklevington thanking the volunteers who assisted with the work on the bridle way to Swainby last year.
- d) The village improvement project to renovate the fingerpost sign in the village will be started when the weather improves.

Parish Plan

A second draft questionnaire has been received back from Hambleton Council. Looks good so far and recommended a few amendments. Should be ready early February 2018. Discussed the possibility of an open evening for the residents to be held in March. District Councillor Hugill may have some funds available to assist with printing costs.

Formal Objection to the Annual Return by a member of the public

The external Auditors PKF Little John, are investigating a formal complaint made by a member of the public the Parish Council discussed the responses to the auditor which will be collated before submission.

The Parish Council are liable for any investigation costs incurred by the auditor and it was noted that the costs associated with objections raised by a single member of the public now amounted to over £10,000 which is more than a complete year's precept. Parishioners have raised concerns that one individual can inflict these costs on the whole Parish.

Finance

- a) Bank Accounts
 - i. Community Account £ 97.88
 - ii. Business Account £ 2,307.94
- b) The current status of the operating budget was reviewed and agreed.
- c) The annual review of Clerk's salary, in line with the recommended NALC and SLCC national salary award is being reviewed.

Complaints by a member of the public to the ICO

The Parish Council has responded to the ICO regarding the case Ref FS50680859, made by a member of the public.

The Parish Council has responded to the ICO regarding the case Ref FS50672279, made by the same member of the public.

A review of the process for handling FOI requests was held and the ICO request flowchart discussed together with the NALC complaints procedure.

Complaint Against the Clerk

The Parish Council Considered the complaint from the same member of the public against the Clerk, Ref Feb 2018 breaches of job description, as per its complaints procedure. It was agreed that there were no grounds for this complaint against the Clerk to be upheld.

Complaint Against Councillor Agar

A complaint against Councillor Agar has been made to the HDC standards Board by the same member of the public. The HDC Standards Hearing Panel met on the 12th February to review the allegations.

The Standards Hearing Panel's decision was that in their view Cllr Agar had breached the code of conduct in failing to record a pecuniary interest, however, they accepted that this had been an oversight on the Councillors part which had since been corrected and as such warranted no more than a recommendation to remind Cllr Agar of his obligations regarding the register of members interests.

Report from County and District Councillors

County Cllr Hugill noted that currently many parish councils are having to undertake elections, which is costing them a lot of money (around £3,000 per election)

Cllr Hugill had attended the HDC council tax meeting where the proposed council tax increase of 4.99% was proposed. It was reported that adult social care is funding is spiralling presently which forms a large part of the budgeted funds together with Police, Fire etc. The final meeting will be next week.

A discussion around possible funding for the bridge over Swainby ells at the end of the Bridle Path to improve access for prams, wheelchairs etc. Councillor Hugill will discuss possible costings with Andrew Brown.

Village Hall

The minutes of Potto Village Hall's meeting, have been circulated.

Annual village Hall trustee meeting upcoming, will contact trustees to arrange date.

Correspondence

Correspondence from one member of the public;

- i. Claim in minutes to withdraw objection to 2016 AR
- ii. Withdrawal of 2016-17 objection
- iii. Missing Action plan
- iv. YLCA meeting June 2017 minutes
- v. Councils Evidence of public support 2017 minutes
- vi. Resolution to take legal advice
- vii. Claim in minutes to withdraw objection to 2016 AR
- viii. Statement Inordinate effort in November minutes
- ix. YLCA meeting June 2017 minutes
- x. Missing Action plan
- xi. Clerks tenure
- xii. Claim in minutes to withdraw objection to 2016 AR
- xiii. 9 Page council document dated 5th December
- xiv. Councils procedure for reviews
- xv. Councils Evidence of public support 2017 minutes
- xvi. Missing Action plan
- xvii. Complaint against the Clerk
- xviii. 9 Page council document dated 5th December
- xix. Councils Evidence of public support 2017 minutes
- xx. Xmas 2017 newsletter missing
- xxi. Claim in minutes to withdraw objection to 2016 AR
- xxii. Clerks tenure
- xxiii. YLCA meeting June 2017 minutes
- xxiv. Enforcement action imminent
- xxv. Training completed by Clerk
- xxvi. Conflict breach of regulations
- xxvii. 9 Page council document dated 5th December
- xxviii. Councils Evidence of public support 2017 minutes
- xxix. Councils Evidence of public support 2017 minutes

- xxx. 9 Page council document dated 5th December
- xxxi. Data to auditor
- xxxii. Training completed by Clerk

Correspondence from SBA

Correspondence from HDC

Correspondence from YLCA

Each correspondence was discussed and responses actioned as appropriate.

Other Business

A discussion was held around the inordinate amount of effort incurred dealing with correspondences from a single 'member of the public'. It is clear that the Parish Councils time and Money could be better utilised for the benefit of the whole Parish.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Next month's meeting date Wednesday 21 March 2018 at 7.00pm