

KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at St John's Parish Church, Kirkheaton on Thursday, 1 July 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr D Hardcastle in the Chair

Cllrs B Armer, S Beresford, R Bray, S Duffy, T Moores, A Munro, J Paxton, B Smith, J Spivey, P Taylor, C Walters and M Wheelhouse.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs A Royle.

Min 22 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Cllrs R Barraclough, P Brook, A Cooper, J Cowan, P Cunningham, D Knight, C Myles, J Roebuck and J Taylor. Cllrs R Battye, A Booth and R Burton were absent.

The following declarations of interest were made:

Cllr Armer declared an interest in all the applications on the agenda, as he is a substitute member of the Kirklees Planning Committees. He stated that any views expressed would be of a preliminary nature with the final decision being taken at the Committee meeting when in receipt of full information. He also declared an interest due to pre-determination in the proposed diversion of public footpaths Kirkburton 145 and 186 in Shelley, as he had already commented in his role as a Kirklees Councillor.

Cllr Hardcastle declared personal interests in Planning Appls 21/92530 and 21/92538, as he knows the applicants.

Cllr Munro declared a personal interest in all the applications, as she is a substitute member of the Kirklees Planning Committees. She stated that any views expressed would be of a preliminary nature with the final decision being taken at the Committee meeting when in receipt of full information.

Cllr Spivey declared a personal interest in Planning Appl 21/92164, as he knows the applicant.

Cllr P Taylor declared personal interests in Planning Appl 21/92268 as he knows the applicant and in the Felling Licence Application in Storthes Hall Woodlands, as he is a member of the Friends of Storthes Hall Woods.

Cllr Walters declared an interest in Planning Appl 21/91507 as the site borders her property.

Min 23 Public Participation

No members of the public addressed the Council before the meeting.

Min 24 Admission of the Public

Resolved: To hold the meeting in the public session.

Min 25 Proposed installation of a solar farm at Low Farm, Grange Moor

It was reported that representatives from Alpaca Communications, who were due to provide a presentation on behalf of the developer, had apologised for not being able to attend the meeting due to circumstances beyond their control.

Min 26 Civic Appointments

The Chairman reported that the Vice Chairman had attended an event at Shepley War Memorial to mark the 100th anniversary of its installation.

Min 27 Council Minutes

Resolved: To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 April 2021.

Resolved: To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 27 May 2021.

Min 28 Neighbourhood Plans Committee Minutes

Resolved: To accept and adopt the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plans Committee meeting held on 10 June 2021.

Min 29 Plans

Members considered the Kirklees Plan Lists for weeks commencing 31 May, 7, 14 and 21 June 2021.

There was no comment on the following applications:

21/91726 Lepton; 21/91743 Shepley; 21/92148 Flockton; 21/92164 Grange Moor; 21/92190 Shelley; 21/92208 Flockton; 21/92220 Highburton; 21/92239 Highburton; 21/92245 Fenay Bridge (Lepton ward); 21/92247 Kirkburton; 21/92268 Kirkburton; 21/92288 Farnley Tyas; 21/92302 Flockton; 21/92321 Kirkheaton; 21/92355 Shelley; 21/92373 Shepley; 21/92375 Shelley; 21/92388 Highburton; 21/92400 Kirkheaton; 21/92407 Lepton; 21/92424 Kirkburton; 21/92425 Stocksmoor; 21/92452 Shepley; 21/92506 Stocksmoor; 21/92522 Shelley; 21/92524 Kirkburton; 21/92530 Kirkburton; 21/92538 Thurstonland and 21/92579 Fenay Bridge (Lepton ward).

Min 30 Planning Appl 21/91506: Reserved Matters pursuant 14/92535 for the erection of 48 dwellings, formation of access and associated infrastructure at Shop Lane, Kirkheaton

Members debated the application.

Resolved: To submit the following comments: to request the one-way system as proposed in the draft Kirkheaton Neighbourhood Plan is adopted to address the highways safety issues; that more 2-bedroomed houses suitable for retirees are included in the proposals and that the 7 mature trees proposed to be felled are retained by diverting the road.

Min 31 Planning Appl 21/91507: Reserved Matters pursuant 14/91831 for erection of 57 dwellings, formation of access public space and associated infrastructure at Cockley Hill Lane, Kirkheaton

Members considered the application.

Resolved: To defer a decision on whether or not to comment to allow members more time to look into the areas covered by Reserved Matters. Also to delegate the Clerk to submit any comments after consultation with the Kirkheaton members.

Cllr Armer left the meeting.

Min 32 Proposed diversion of public footpaths Kirkburton 145 (part) and 186 (part) at Folly Hall, Cross Lane, Shelley

Members considered the proposed diversion and the reasons behind the application.

Resolved: To support the proposed diversion on the grounds that it improves safety and privacy for the landowner without adversely affecting the route for walkers.

Cllr Armer returned to the meeting.

Min 33 Accounts

Resolved: To approve the accounts as presented (£14,857.78 including £7,473.20 agreed under Local Government Act 1972 s137).

Min 34 Trees Policy

Members noted the draft policy and considered requesting Kirklees Council to adopt the measures listed, which were aimed at conserving existing trees as well as planting more to create and enhance areas of high biodiversity across the district.

Resolved: To request Kirklees Council to take the following actions:

1. That they consider best use in terms of biodiversity and carbon sequestration of all land that they identify as areas for mitigating the climate and ecological crisis.
2. That Kirklees wholeheartedly adopts this policy and uses it to guide all decisions, particularly when considering planning applications.
3. Sets targets to increase the stock of both native and climate resilient trees, hedgerows and woodland on Council land, and work with partners to set and achieve similar targets across the Kirklees district.
4. Keeps account of tree felling the Council sanctions and ensures that it is more offset in terms of carbon and biodiversity.
5. Deters individuals and developers from harming trees with TPOs or any other environmental or historic designation by acting promptly to reports of imminent felling, taking immediate enforcement action and putting pressure on others, such as the Forestry Commission and central Government to do the same.
6. Values and strives to protect all existing trees in Kirklees, bearing in mind that a ten-year-old tree captures about 4 times more carbon than a sapling; older trees are in general better at sequestering carbon than younger ones and one veteran oak has more biodiversity than a thousand 100-year-old oaks.

7. Works with partners to manage all existing woodlands and hedgerows to encourage natural regeneration and under-storey development and ensure their long-term survival.
8. Creates and conserves areas of unimproved, semi natural or priority habitats; retains and protect areas of naturally regenerating trees and shrubs and avoids planting trees on these areas, unless it enhances their value in terms of biodiversity and carbon sequestration.
9. Takes positive steps to protect threatened species of wildlife within Kirklees
10. Stipulates that a minimum stand-off distance for all new development in the vicinity of existing woodland is created - 20 m or more from the end of the gardens, and does more to prevent tipping of garden waste and encroachment by householders.
11. Takes positive steps to protect threatened species and raise awareness within our communities of the value of all our trees (even young ones) in terms of landscape, amenity, wildlife habitat and carbon capture

Resolved: To invite the other 4 Town and Parish Councils to support this request.

Min 35 Christmas Tree in Flockton

Members considered re-locating the tree from St James' Church to Flockton Club on Barnsley Road, and were informed of the problems of its current location.

Resolved: To re-locate the Christmas tree from St James' Church to Flockton Club on Barnsley Road in Flockton.

Min 36 Yetton Together

Members considered the application for £2,000 to contribute towards the cost of hosting Kirkheaton Library.

Resolved: To approve the application of £2,000 to contribute towards the cost of hosting Kirkheaton Library.

Min 36 Yetton Together (Cont'd)

Members also considered further correspondence, which enquired what contribution towards the funding Kirkheaton Library could be expected in the future.

Resolved: To refer the matter to the Management & Finance Committee to consider and draft a response, and to request further information from Yetton Together.

Min 37 Felling Licence Application 012/2195/2021 in Storthes Hall Woodlands

Members considered the application for extensive works to the woodlands, for which no reasons had been provided.

Resolved:

- a) To request the Forestry Commission extends the consultation period and consults the local residents, particularly those whose properties are adjacent to the woodland.
- b) To request a copy of the Management Plan.

Min 38 General Grants Rules

Members noted that the temporary suspension of the requirement for community groups to hold an annual meeting at least every 15 months in order to qualify for a general grant was now due for review. It was noted that the situation with regard to Covid and the ability for some groups to hold meetings was still difficult.

Resolved: To extend the suspension of the requirement for community groups to hold an annual meeting at least every 15 months in order to qualify for a general grant until 31 December 2021, and to reconsider it at the January Parish Council meeting.

Min 39 Town & Parish Council Charter with Kirklees Council

Members considered the correspondence from Mirfield Town Council regarding the timing of consultations by Kirklees Council.

Resolved: To respond with the comment that this Council agrees that Town and Parish Councils should be consulted in a timely fashion, and that it could be improved by increased engagement between the Town/Parish Councils and Kirklees Council.

Min 40 Correspondence and Information

Members noted the written report from the Clerk, which had been emailed to members before the meeting. The Clerk informed members that the Annual Report was currently being compiled, and members were requested to let her have any suitable photographs for inclusion.

Min 41 Agenda Items

No agenda items were requested.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.