
Fountains Abbey Parish Council

Clerk: David Taylor
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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13 May 2019 at 7.30pm Studley Roger Village Hall.

(2019 – 001) **Present** were Cllr Derrick Slater (Chairman), Cllr Jenny Atkinson, Cllr Vic Lawson and Cllr Charles Johnson.

(2019 – 002) Also present were David Taylor, Clerk, Cllr Margret Atkinson and 9 members of the public.

(2019 – 003) No **Apologies** were received, Cllr Sam Micklefield was not present.

(2019 – 004) Cllr Derrick Slater was **elected** to the position of Chairman. He was proposed by Cllr Atkinson and seconded by Cllr Johnson, the vote was unanimous.

(2019 – 005) Cllr Jenny Atkinson was **elected** to the position of Vice Chairman. She was proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Lawson, the vote was unanimous.

(2019 – 006) Cllr Slater, the Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed those present to the **Annual Meeting of the Fountains Abbey Parish Council**.

(2019 – 007) There were **no disclosures of interest** in relation to any matter under consideration at this meeting and therefore no requests for dispensation.

(2019 – 009) It was **resolved** to further adopt, without amendment the Parish Council Code of Conduct. A copy of which is available on the Parish Council Website at [www https://fountainsabbeyparishcouncil.com/documents/](https://fountainsabbeyparishcouncil.com/documents/)

(2019 – 010) It was **resolved** to further adopt, without amendment the Parish Council Standing Orders. A copy of which is available on the Parish Council Website at [www https://fountainsabbeyparishcouncil.com/documents/](https://fountainsabbeyparishcouncil.com/documents/)

(2019 – 011) It was **resolved** to further adopt, without amendment the Parish Council Financial Regulations. A copy of which is available on the Parish Council Website at [www https://fountainsabbeyparishcouncil.com/documents/](https://fountainsabbeyparishcouncil.com/documents/)

(2019 – 012) The Clerk **reported** to the Council regarding the forthcoming Annual Audit process for the year 2018-19. He explained the threshold of £25k income & expenditure per annum and it **resolved** that a Certificate of Exemption should be signed accordingly.

(2019 – 130) To **resolve** to instruct Mrs Sue Welsh to act as internal auditor to the Parish Council.

(2019 – 014) The Chairman **closed** the **Annual Meeting of the Fountains Abbey Parish Council**

Ordinary Meeting of the Fountains Abbey Parish Council

(2019 – 015) Cllr Slater, the Chairman of the Parish Council opened the **Ordinary Meeting of the Fountains Abbey Parish Council**

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(2019 – 016) It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th January 2019 having been circulated for consideration beforehand were true and correct records. The Chairman signed them accordingly.

(2019 – 017) Justin Scully, General Manager of Fountains Abbey & Brimham Rocks from the National Trust was **invited to the meeting and reported** that:-

- a) When the village defibrillator is fitted and in use, one of the team at Fountains is trained to deliver training and he would be happy to organise a session.
- b) There will be a planning application submitted in respect of a car park extension at the main visitor centre.
- c) There are plans for a £2.5m upgrade of the Studley Roger entrance and café. When artists impressions are available, he will be happy to meet with the Parish Council and share the new vision.
- d) With regard to the traffic congestion in Studley Roger village he said that he would be happy to help with signage in the village and with other materials diverting traffic and parking from the village.

(2019 – 018) Cllr Margaret Atkinson **reported** on the following from North Yorkshire County Council:-

- a. The County Council is in safe hands – for the last 25 years the council has been stable and consistent in applying sensible policies that work.
- b. The County Council has kept Council Tax as low as possible, whilst reducing our spending power by 40% playing our part in rebalancing the country's books.
- c. The County Council has reduced properties, getting rid of old and inefficient buildings, and reduced our workforce, with few compulsory redundancies.
- d. The County Council has altered contracts to allow us to deal more with local businesses, and we have started our own companies selling to other Councils to help our budgets go further.
- e. The County Council has invested in the things that matter – more Extra Care facilities to look after our growing population of older people; our Roads where we are spending more now than ever before on maintaining the largest network of roads in England; replacing old Street Lights with modern, less carbon producing LED Lights; increasing the roll out of High Speed Broadband, available to over 90% of premises and growing.
- f. The County Council also still invest in the smaller things that matter with our Stronger Communities programme – helping people to help themselves, like community libraries and in the smallest way our own locality budget spends where we can help projects with small donations like the Friends of the Dales Bus Service, Keep Moving Masham, Harrogate Easier Living Project, etc.
- g. The County Council Schools' Education attainment is still "Top of the Class". Ofsted has judged our Children's Services as Outstanding – the only such judgement in the country.

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- h. The County Council manages Public Health well, keeping people happier and healthier and out of hospital.
- i. The County Councils' new Energy from Waste plant at Allerton, in partnership with Amey Cespa, is now working – efficiently and effectively getting rid of NY's rubbish without using landfill.
- j. The County Council has also worked with Government and others on some very big projects – Kex Gill repairs and hopefully realignment, a new Dalton Bridge and many other things across the County.

(2019 – 019) Cllr Margaret Atkinson **reported** on the following from Harrogate Borough Council:-

- a) She said that it has been a privilege to represent the Fountains and Ripley Ward on Harrogate Borough Councillor. She has been a Councillor for 17 years and during that time I have been Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Rural Affairs and have been a member of most Committees. We continue to work hard at giving value for money but have had to put up our share of the Council Tax to keep up with inflation. It has become harder with austerity to keep our services and balance the books.
- b) The Council moved into the new Offices at Knapping Mount in Autumn 2017 and this is saving the Council £1m per year which will be re-invested into local services. With this saving we are hoping to build a new pool at Ripon by 2021.
- c) The government planning Inspector has finished his programme of hearings on the District Plan and he has written to the Council with his thoughts. He has reduced the numbers from 669 to 637 builds per year so he has taken some sites out of the plan. The Council is working on the amendments and then it will be out again for consultation before it is adopted. A great number of Planning permissions have been granted and we now have over a 6-year supply with permission.
- d) Our Housing Department has started to build a few new Council Houses on sites that are owned by the Council (like old garage sites) to help improve housing prospects for young people. The Council has built 16 new council houses last year also purchased 29.
- e) The Council have employed, from March 19 an 'Empty Homes Officer' to help get empty houses back into occupancy and we are hoping to introduce a compulsory purchase order for properties that have been left empty for 2 years or more.
- f) The Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Beauty has drafted the new 5-year Management Plan and it is out for consultation. As most of my ward sits in this area, have a look at it and if you wish to make any comments please do.
- g) As a Country Councillor she has made sure that the opinions of the Parish Councils and that of the local people continue to be heard at district level and she will continue to work to make the District a safe and healthy environment to live, work and play.

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(2019 – 020) The Clerk **reported** that:-

- a. The Lions Club have confirmed that they will supply a box for the defibrillator. It will be fitted at the village hall. The Clerk will continue to liaise with the Lions.
- b. The first precept payment has been received from Harrogate Borough Council.

(2019 – 021) It was **resolved** to give the Clerk delegated powers in respect of replying to planning applications that are received out with the meeting timetable.

(2019 – 022) With regard to the traffic congestion and parking in Studley Roger village, various options and observations were discussed including; the installation of yellow lines, resident parking permits, "H" white lines, single white lines, additional signage, a village survey, difficulty of access by emergency services, a press and PR campaign, an annual growth in visitors to the Fountains estate, signs on the Patley Bridge road. It was **resolved** that the clerk shall organise a meeting with NYCC highways department, a representative from the emergency services, Justin Scully, Derek Slater and the Clerk.

(2019 – 023) Financial Matters:

- a. It was **resolved** to pay the accounts listed on "Appendix A", below.
- b. There was no bank reconciliation available because the Clerk was yet to gain access to the Parish Council bank accounts.

(2019 – 024) The following Planning Notices were **received**:-

- a) 19/00825/HEDGE, Removal of 40m of hedgerow, Low Lindrick Farm, Morrison Utility Services - **noted**
- b) 18/03545/FUL & 18/03545/LB, School House, Aldfield – Approved, subject to conditions - **noted**

(2019 – 025) **It was confirmed** that the next regular meeting of the Parish Council would be on 1st July 2019 at 7.30pm at Studley Village Hall.

(2019 – 026) The meeting **closed** at 8.25pm

These minutes were recorded and prepared by the Clerk to the Parish Council, David Taylor.

Signed as a true record by Cllr Derrick Slater, Chairman

Date:

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At the Regular Meeting of the Fountains Abbey Parish Council held on **1st July 2019** it was resolved by unanimous vote to approve these Minutes, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, as a true and correct record. These Minutes were then signed by the Chairman accordingly.

The signed Minutes are held in the Parish Council minute book at the Clerk's address, below, and can be viewed by prior appointment.

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When returning a standard form Parish Council Notification consultation decision there are four options that the Council can return. These are:-

Option A – The Parish Council has no objections.

Option B – The Parish Council objects on the planning grounds set out overleaf.

Option C – The Parish Council does not object to or support the application but wishes to make comments or seek safeguards set out overleaf.

Option D - The Parish Council supports the application.

Appendix "A" – Schedule of accounts approved for payment.

Clerks Salary – January, February, March & April

Clerks PAYE – January, February, March & April

EuroAudit (Yorkshire Accountants Ltd).