

Minutes of Meeting of Middleham Town Council as Trustee of Charity For The Benefit Of Inhabitant Householders of Parish of Middleham (the 'Charity' or 'IH') held in Middleham Key Centre on Wednesday, 24 April 2019 following conclusion of the Town Council meeting. (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING)

Present

Chairman Cllr Mrs S Fairhurst, Cllr Mrs H Byford, Cllr Mr M Cade and Cllr Mr S Wheeler.

Clerk, Mr D Keep

Action

1. Apologies.

An apology had been received from Cllr Mr D Slay and Cllr Mr G Fortune who were absent on business out of the area and Cllr Mrs L Stocker who was unwell.

2. Declarations of interest regarding items on the agenda.

Each person present is a Councillor of Middleham Town Council, the Charity's sole Trustee. No other interests were declared in the business to be transacted at the meeting.

3. Minutes

3.1 IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the minutes of meetings held on 27 March 2019 as a true and accurate record to be signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Schedule of agreed actions. The schedule was noted.

4. Land Management (IH) – Information/Decision required.

4.1 Review of Health and Safety Matters. There were no matters to report by exception.

4.2 12 Acres: Invitation to General Tender. An indicative rental had been received from GSC Grays of between £50-£80 per acre (depending on quality of grazing) which would be between £975 and £1,600 for the estimated 19.5 acres. Mr C Duffus had suggested £20 / acre which was an annual income of £390. As even the lower figure was in excess of the sum offered by MTA it was agreed that an open tender process would be undertaken.

Clerk

4.3 Western Willows. One tender had been received from Mrs Weston in the sum of £1375. This was accepted.

Clerk

The Clerk and Cllr Cade had inspected the area earlier in the day and taken a photographic record of its condition. It was noted that one stone wall was damaged and the Clerk would investigate how caused and whose responsibility it was to repair.

Clerk

The Clerk would prepare new rules for the issue of fishing permits at a future meeting

Clerk

4.4 Moors Lease.

4.4.1 Annual Review. It was noted that a review was due.

4.4.2 Use of Moors outside Agreed Hours. The response sent to Karl Burke Racing and MTA informing that this was a matter for MTA to enforce and that there was no role for Council was noted. To date a response had not been received and would be followed up.

Clerk

Action

4.5 Common Land / Town Wastes Parking.

Recent communications and advice from Endeavour Partnership ('EP') were reviewed.

The recent unsatisfactory meeting with each sides' advisers in attendance was discussed. It was agreed that Council was no clearer on the grounds for the executors' claims. It was felt that Ms Kirby had handled the meeting very well and that the other side had been underprepared. There was agreement that the Clerk had been right to challenge Mr Nelson's assertion of the timescale of early communication between the parties as he had alleged that Council's had prompted the Executor's attempts to secure a right to park ...

With regard to the extensive list of suggested matters to investigate suggested by EP, it was agreed to seek further witness statements and to enquire whether the Land Registry still held documents referred to in correspondence regarding registration of the manorial lands.

All

The lawyer's advice that Council did not have the right of removal or blanking out lettering was noted.

Clerk

Noting that invoices had been received from EP in the sum of £5,208 (£4,340 exclusive of VAT), it was agreed to authorise legal costs of a further £5k (total to date: £10k).

5. Financial and Administrative Matters.

5.1 Cashbook balance and bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2019. The Clerk apologised that a bank reconciliation as at 31 March was not available.

5.1.1 IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the schedule of direct debits and internet bank transfers to approve and ratify all payments since the last Meeting as set out on the payments schedule and to approve Items of Expenditure as submitted to the meeting and to ratify a grant made to MSCWA for replacement perimeter fencing on playing fields £404.25 in accordance with the grants policy.

5.2 Review of internal controls. It was agreed that this should be undertaken at a future date.

5.3 Risk assessment review. It was agreed that this should be undertaken at a future date.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed.....Date.....