

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, 27 June 2018 following conclusion of the Town Council meeting. (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING)

Present

Cllr Mrs H Byford, Cllr Mrs L Stocker and Cllr Mr D Slay.

Clerk, Mr D Keep

Action

1. Apologies.

Cllrs Mrs S Fairhurst, Mr M Cade, Mr J Kirkbride and Mr S Wheeler had submitted apologies.

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 meeting held on 23 May 2018 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

3.2 Schedule of agreed actions. The schedule was noted.

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

4.1 Hedgerow alongside the Busks. Photographs taken by the Clerk of the hedge after it had recently been drastically cut back and images from Google Earth from 2011 showing its previous appearance, were noted. It was agreed that the visual amenity from the Busks was adversely affected and concern expressed that cutting had been carried out during the nesting season. The Clerk was requested to write to the landowner asking how they proposed that the boundary be reinstated.

Clerk

4.2 Review of Health & Safety matters (standing item). There were no matters to report.

4.3 Cobbles inspection. At the previous meeting it had been agreed, subject to confirmation of costs, to proceed with repairs. An estimate had now been received from RA Wheeler as follows which was considered reasonable and agreed:
Hack out & remove broken slabs & cobbles & Supply & fit 4no cobbles & 7no Yorkshire paving slabs & point round afterwards: Labour & materials £225.00 - £275.00 (exclusive of VAT).

Clerk

4.4 Street Furniture.

4.4.1 Use outside contractual hours. The meeting noted that a resident had raised objections to a consistent pattern of excessive late night noise, rowdy behaviour and unpleasant language with no active control by the licensee. An email from a visitor in

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similar vein had been received by the Clerk. Cllr Byford reported that she had undertaken some mediation with the licensee the previous year and had asked other residents and businesses to share their experience. The agreements required that customers were not permitted to use street furniture after 11 pm and establishments were responsible for their customers' behaviour and for controlling excessive noise or rowdy behaviour. Noting that Council had the ultimate sanction of terminating an agreement it was agreed to write a succinct and robust letter to each establishment in breach of the conditions giving notice that continued breach would result in termination without notice. The Clerk would also draw attention to these incidents to the local PCSO team asking them to monitor during their visits to the Town.

Clerk**Clerk**

4.4.2 Re-measurement of areas. Cllrs Sway and Wheeler had re-measured the areas which appeared to show that some businesses had extended beyond the previously measured areas on which the invoices were based upon. As some discrepancies were large, Cllr Slay agreed to re-measure the areas with Cllr Cade to ensure that it was being measured on a consistent basis with previous years and also to include the Castle Keep Tea Rooms.

4.5 Installation of Parking Honesty Box. Decision deferred until an estimate for installation was received.

4.6 Licence for Access through Challenge Wood. The Clerk confirmed that agreements had been signed and the licence fee of £600 had been received. Mr Burke had advised that the path had been in use from 1 May 2018, which was appreciated.

4.7 Cutting of Hedges on Plantations. Cllr Byford reported that she had met with Mr Robertson regarding recent rapid growth of the hedges on the Plantations which was obscuring visibility for road users. He had proposed fees of £90 and £250 respectively for cutting back the hedges. Council normally sought to observe the Wild Life and Countryside Act and avoid cutting before end of July / August, however, on this occasion recognised the priority to ensure road safety. Following discussion, Council agreed that the more expensive cut should be undertaken as only doing the ends and not the sides or the tops might create an unbalanced and untidy appearance. The work would exclude the insides of the Plantations and be in addition to the scheduled cutting in September. The Clerk would make the arrangements, asking Mr Robertson to take care not to disturb any nesting birds

Clerk

5. Financial and Administrative Matters.

5.1 Cashbook balances and Bank Reconciliation as at 30 April 2018. Full bank reconciliations as at 30 April 2018 and 31 May 2018 were tabled.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm

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