Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 31 January 2018
Village Hall – 7.00 pm

Present
Peter Hubbard (Chair), Richard Steel, Vice Chair, Richard Robson and Ian Stones
Clerk – Andrew Towlerton

Five members of the public (including local councillor Bob Walsh).

Public Session

Concerns were raised by the public about the following issues:

- The length of time being taken by Yorkshire Water to improve the water supply, and the associated temporary traffic measures, along Pleasley Road was highlighted as a concern by a resident. These were a danger to highway safety. The Chairman agreed to seek a progress report from Yorkshire Water.
- Mention was also made to road safety issues, including pot holes, on a number of roads in the Parish and the wider area, including Reservoir Road, Turnshaw and Main Street. The Chairman agreed to look into this. In doing this he would have to liaise with the Chairman of Aston Parish in relation to Main Street as this was in Aston Parish.
- Reference was made to a particular farmer who when undertaking verge cutting had shredded some of the bags of rubbish left out for the waste collection service, and the messed this had caused. It was agreed to raise this with the concerned farmer.

Meeting

107/17 To receive and consider apologies for absence – There were none received.

108/17 To approve, sign and date the minutes of the PC meeting held on 29 November 2017

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2017 be accepted as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.

109/17 Declarations of Interest and interest – There were none declared.

110/17 To receive information on the following on-going issues and decide further action where necessary.

1. Permissive footpath – The Chairman stated that this he was still awaiting a decision from Halifax estate. He anticipated that he would receive this shortly.

2. Recreation Ground – The Chair explained that he still awaiting the lease from Rotherham MBC

3. Ulley In Bloom – The Chair confirmed that Halifax Estate had confirmed in principle that they will fund it on an ongoing basis to a maximum of £1,000 pa.
4. Speeding – The Chairman outlined progress on this issue.

5. Main Street – The Chairman outlined progress with addressing the road surface, which was breaking up, outside the Old Post Office. There has not been a response as yet. Rotherham MBC’s Community Safety Team had confirmed that it did meet the requirements for bollards to be erected to stop people vehicles driving on it. However, the support of Rotherham MBC’s Highway Service was also required. This was being progressed.

6. Walkabout – It was agreed that the date of the next parish ‘workabout’ would need to agreed. It was noted that as this involved volunteers there would be practical and operational considerations that would need to be addressed to enable them to carry out this role. The Clerk agreed to confirm with the Council’s insurers any requirements they may. Also, to seek the advice of the YLCA on good or best practice, including model policies and procedures.

111/17 To consider progress with the filling of the vacant councillor position.

It was confirmed that as no candidate had put themselves for election through a formal election the Parish Council needed to fill the vacancy by co-option. It was agreed that the Council should seek to fill the vacancy at its next meeting. A discussion took place on how the parish council could best persuade eligible people to put their name forward. It was also noted that applicants from women should be especially encouraged bearing in mind that all the councillors are men.

112/17 To consider and agree the Asset Register 2017/2018.

The 2016/2017 version of the Council’s Asset Register was circulated. A few amendments to it were suggested and agreed.

113/17 To consider and agree any changes to the Councils Bank date and authorisation

It was noted that the appointment of the new Clerk meant that changes to the persons authorised to manage the bank account and authorise cheques were required. It was explained that the Coop Bank required that the person authorised to manage the bank account (i.e. the Clerk) also had to be one of the authorised signatories. While the addition of the Clerk had some advantages for example in day to day communication with the Bank, it would also mean that in principle the Clerk would be able to counter sign cheques. The Council may wish to consider whether it wished for the Clerk to have the power to sign cheques. This was then discussed.

Resolved: That the Clerk be authorised to manage the Council’s Bank account and be one of its signatories but that this authorisation does not extent to signing of cheques.

That the Council’s Financial Regulations be amended to make it explicit that the Clerk does not have the power to sign cheques.

That the following councillors be confirmed as authorised signatories

114/17 To consider the implications of the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The Clerk gave an update on a training session he had attended on this issue organised by Rotherham MBC and which was open to all parish clerks in the Borough. It was useful. While some of the implications of the regulations on parish council especially smaller ones were still unclear.
Some aspects were becoming clearer. One the whole the systems in place at the Council would be sufficient to meet the new regulations. The Council may have to appoint a Data Protection Officer who would need to be independent on the Council. This could involve parish clerks ‘buddying up’ with a parish council and then acting as the Data Protection Officer for each council.

115/17 Confirmation of the Clerk Pension Declaration

The Chairman outlined that the Council would need to formally agreed and declare its compliance with the pension regulator in respect of its position with the Clerk’s Pension. It was confirmed that the Council would not be making a contribution to the Clerk’s Pension.

116/17 Planning Update

It was confirmed that the Council had not been notified of any planning applications. It was also reported that Rotherham MBC is also consulting on some changes to its draft Local Plan; none of these changes had a significant impact on the Parish.

118/17 To receive financial report and PC accounts

The Clerk provided a verbal and written report on the PC accounts. It was confirmed that it held on .... Comprising £633.72 in the Directplus Account and £3,589.49 in the Business Select Instant Access Account. It was noted that there was minor error in the figures shown in the written report, which the Clerk agreed to amend.

The following payments and receipts were also presented for approval.

119/17 To receive a financial report on Halifax Fund.

The Chairman confirmed

120/17 Approved Halifax fund bids

The Chair confirmed that a bid for have been approved. A bid for equipment to help maintain the village has also been approved.

121/17 Any other Business

The Clerk provided an update on the Public Interest Report which would be prepared due to Andy Pashley’s conduct as the clerk. This was expected shortly. Reference was made to the costs involved in preparing the report by the External Auditors BDO, and that the PC will have to fund this. An update was provided on the planned plumbing works to the Hall.

122/17 Date for next meetings confirmed as:

28/03/2018 Councillor Steel will not be in attendance
30/05/2018 Councillor Robson will not be in attendance
25/07/2018
26/09/2018
28/11/2018

at 7.00pm at Ulley Village Hall.