

MINUTES OF THE DRIFFIELD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 05 DECEMBER 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, DRIFFIELD

Present: Councillors G Helliwell (Chair), G Lucas (Vice Chair), A Newall, M Rogers, S Fletcher, K Stack, T Watson, C Bekker, M Blakeston, B Smith, M Strath, W Strath, admin assistant P Danby, and Town Clerk M Brown

176/23 Public Discussion and Comment:

PC Metherringham reported that there had been 3 ASBOs, and a number of shop thefts which were being investigated. Active Fridays remained popular and were continuing with the PCC funding.

177/23 Apologies for absence:

Cllrs P Rounding, F Smith, S Starrett

Cllr Stack and Rogers stated they were recording the meeting.

178/23 Declarations of Interest:

188/23 Cllr Watson reported that he lived and owned a business near to the Parklet.

179/23 Registration of Gifts or Hospitality:

None

180/23 Questions, Matters of Accuracy and Observations on the Full Town Council minutes of 7 November 2023

Cllr Stack left the meeting

158/23 - 135/23 Cllr Rogers wished to clarify that his query was not on the location of the room, but more he felt the meeting was an informal get together, rather than an extraordinary meeting.

This change was **agreed** with 4 abstentions.

166/23 Cllr Rogers stated that he did not request a letter to be sent asking for traffic calming measures. More, for ERYC to come up with a suitable solution to the traffic issues residents had raised

This change was **agreed** with 4 abstentions

173/23 Cllr Rogers felt that the vote on October RFO was not carried out correctly and needed to be brought back to the next meeting

This was **agreed** with 4 abstentions

181/23 Adoption of the Full Town Council Minutes of 7 November 2023

The minutes were **adopted** with 9 for and 2 abstentions.

182/23 Adoption of the Full Town Council Minutes of 3 October 2023

The minutes were adopted with 7 for, 3 against and 1 abstention.

183/23 Clerks update

The clerk thanked all councillors that attended both the Remembrance Sunday service and Christmas lights switch on. Both were felt to be a resounding success. Thanks were also passed to those councillors who attended the budget setting working group

Quotes had been received for the basic refurbishment of No.43 and further discussions on the budget required were to take place in the budget setting working group.

The ability to purchase Discover Driffield loyalty vouchers online was now activated and £150 worth already being sold.

Numerous letters are outstanding with ERYC, and these are being chased.

Cllr Blakeston wished to convey his thanks on behalf of the council to the Tidy Team, clerk, and admin assistant for their excellent work at both the Remembrance Service and Christmas lights switch on. It was felt that a full summary of the events should be discussed at the next events committee meeting to establish which areas could be improved upon.

184/23 Healthy Towns Update

Nothing to report

185/23 Driffield Youth Action update

It was reported that Active Fridays continue to go from strength to strength

186/23 To consider a resolution on the future of the council's use of H&S consultants

This was deferred to the January meeting

187/23 To note the findings of the interim internal audit for the year ended 31 March 2024

Cllr Rogers was concerned at the large number of orange dots picked up in the audit and felt that work was needed to be done to improve. Cllr Blakeston felt that observations should be expected and it was good to see key systems being put into place.

188/23 To consider a resolution on the future of the Parklet

Cllr Watson felt that the Parklet added much benefit to this end of town and that it should remain. Cllr Blakeston and M Strath agreed. However, Cllr Blakeston also voiced his concerns that it is not level.

Cllr Blakeston, Helliwell and Newall, felt it should ideally be moved to the end of the parking bays over its current “mid” position. Cllr Rogers was not happy at the suggestion of taking on the cost of maintenance and this was echoed by Cllr M Strath. Cllr Lucas felt that litter is a concern and that more bins should be added.

Cllr Blakeston reminded everyone that should the Parklet be struck, then insurance would pay for any rectification.

Cllr Blakeston proposed option 1 of those offered by ERYC upon confirmation that it could be moved and of the overall lifespan of the installation. This was agreed with all in favour and 1 abstention.

189/23

To consider a resolution on the artwork for The Big Picture

Cllr Rogers felt that the crop depicted should be a more traditional crop over the more modern one being suggested and that should we have used a different artist as there are too many issues in his opinion and really wanted to see an RAF plane depicted. Cllr Blakeston felt that a field with a poppy should be somehow incorporated and that he could supply a photo.

The clerk explained that he would ask for a wheat field with a poppy to be included but could make no guarantee of that as we are past the submission date.

It was agreed that even if the requested changes could not be implemented, the proposed artwork would be acceptable. An information board would be supplied at the councils expense explaining the meaning of the mural.

190/23

To consider a resolution to move forward with the co-option of an additional councillor

This was agreed with all in favour.

191/23

To consider a resolution to write to ERYC requesting them to tarmac further parts of the car park in West Garth

This was deferred to the January meeting

192/23

To consider a resolution to move the January 2024 Full Town Council meeting to the 9 January 2024

Cllr Rogers proposed moving the meeting to allow all the council and staff to settle back in to the new year after the Christmas break. This would also allow the budget setting meeting to be held the week before the January meeting.

This was agreed.

193/23 To consider Planning Application 22/02539/STPLF Kelleythorpe fuel station (emailed)

Cllr Rogers was not against the application, whilst Cllr Lucas thought it was a positive step. Cllr Watson was against it due to the SSI and the potential for an environmental impact. This was shared via email prior to the meeting by Cllr F Smith.

It was agreed to Support the application with 6 in favour, 4 against (including Cllr F Smith), and 2 abstentions.

194/23 Highway Matters

Cllr Rogers expressed his concern over the repairs to Spellowgate where ERYC state the repairs have been completed and Cllr Rogers disagrees. Cllr Rogers and Blakeston felt they were best placed to take this forward.

Cllr Blakeston said that other parishes have had village “walk rounds” and felt a similar thing was needed for Driffeld due to the many uneven footpaths around the town. It was agreed for a letter to be sent to ERYC requesting this for around Easter time with the relevant members of EYRYC.

Cllr W Strath stated that the building works at the end of Riverside were making the road a mess and needed attention. The area directly outside the building works was being cleaned, but this was not adequate, and more effort was required. It was agreed for a letter to be sent to ERYC requesting a full road clean of Riverside.

195/23 Temporary closure of meeting for public discussion and comment

Cllr Rogers informed the council of the sad passing of Cllr Peter Astell and Cllr Viv Padden and felt we should write to pass on our condolences. Cllr Rogers also stated that Cllr Astell was always very supportive of the town and the work the Tidy Team did.

The writing of a letter was agreed.

196/23 Adoption of the Personnel Minutes of 7 November 2023

Cllr Rogers asked for the minutes to be withdrawn as in his opinion were not correct and requested for them to be brought back to the next personnel committee meeting for clarification.

Cllr Rogers left the meeting

197/23 Adoption of the Environment Committee Minutes of 14 November 2023

These were presented for adoption by Cllr Watson

The minutes were adopted with all in favour

198/23 Adoption of the Events Committee Minutes of 14 November 2023

These were presented for adoption by Cllr Newall

The minutes were **adopted** with all in favour

199/23 Adoption of the Planning Committee Minutes of 14 November 2023

These were presented for adoption by Cllr Lucas

The minutes were **adopted** with all in favour

200/23 Adoption of the Properties and Asset Committee Minutes of 28 November 2023

These were presented for adoption by W Strath

The minutes were **adopted** with all in favour

201/23 Responsible Financial Officers Report

The clerk was asked to add the Mayors Charity account to the RFO.

The report was **adopted** with all in favour

202/23 Delegates reports

None

203/23 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 9TH January at 7pm

As it was now 21.00 Cllr Blakeston proposed it be resolved as per Standing Order 25a that Standing Order 3y be suspended to allow the meeting to continue beyond 2 hours for the consideration of the remaining business on the agenda.

This was **agreed** with all in favour

204/23 To consider the employment of an additional member of staff for the office

It was agreed to move this discussion to a future meeting.

As personnel was not quorate it is legally viable for the Town Council to implement a nationally agreed payrise. The clerk was asked to take advice from ERNLLCA and as long as this was acceptable it was **agreed** with all in favour to accept the pay rise. This was to ensure that staff received the backdated pay prior to the festive break.

Addendum – The clerk confirmed with ERNLLA that as all staff are employed on the NJC contract then the council only ratify the increase as it's a contractual condition

not an incremental one. They would suggest that you can pay the increase in line with the NJC settlement and ask the council to note the decision. Within the NJC terms the council cannot refuse to implement the pay increase.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

..... Signed

..... Dated