## **Utterby Parish Council**



### Minutes of the meeting of Utterby Parish Council held Wednesday 3rd January at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

	Action
18/01-1 Public Forum - Member of the public present: 6 members of the public 1 member of public requested to speak at the public forum regarding the transparency and irregularity of Utterby Parish Council. (See appendix 1) One member of the public indicated the following:  1. Problem with transparency in the actions of the Council 2. Web site not up to date 3. Question on the delay in appointment of Parish Clerk 4. Question of why council members made the decision that it made in respect to planning applications 5. Question as to why Council's decision on planning applications are not on ELDC web site (Chairman's reply Response's sent but not received) 6. Question on letters sent to Chairman reference Grange Lane.  Another member of the public questioned the lack of communication. A member of the public asked that the landowner be requested to cut the hedge to the East Side (South ) on the A16 in January as the bulbs planted could be damaged if left until February (Clerk to write letter).	Action
A member of the public wanted to thank those people/persons who cleared the path near the bus shelter on Church Lane corner.	
18/01-2 Record of members present and apologies Present: Chairman Cllr Mr Brian Frobisher, Cllr Mr Jason Garrett-Pughe, Cllr Mr Terry Buckley, Cllr Mr Graham John Dalton, Cllr Mrs Glenda Thorneycroft and Clerk Maria Vincent. No apologies	
<b>18/01-3 To receive any Declarations of interest on any item on the agenda</b> Village Hall - Cllr Mr Brian Frobisher, Cllr Mr Jason Garrett-Pughe, Cllr Mr Graham John Dalton, Cllr Mrs Glenda Thorneycroft	
18/01-4 No action	
18/01-5 No Action	
<b>18/01-6 Council matters, actions and communications</b> Appointment of Office of Clerk to the Parish Council was made today, 3rd January 2018	
17/10-7 Finance and budget Overview of 2017/18 budget & Discuss Proposal for Council Precept 2018-2019	
<ol> <li>Cllr Thorneycroft: Requested that the budgets be set out in a way that it is easier to read and understand. The Chair requested there be an overspend/under-spend column too.         <u>Chair and Clerk to look at layout</u> </li> <li>Cllr Thorneycroft: Asked why we paid rates in the village if we have a £2.5k under-spend?</li> <li>From the public floor, Alan Woodward asked if the categories in budgets could be changed?</li> </ol>	Clerk /Chair
<ol> <li>Suggested we change the budget title of TPO and Hedge Replacement to TPO and Green Structures to allow for use of cutting verges if needed. Chair and Clerk to look at layout</li> <li>Cllr Mr Garrett-Pughe: Have ELDC given out the new tax brackets? Clerk to ask ELDC</li> </ol>	Chair/Clerk Clerk

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6.	Proposed budget for 2018-9 needs to be in by 22nd January 2018. Chair and Clerk to put	Chair/Clerk
7	proposal together.  Regarding the budget for cutting the village green and the new budget for cutting of the	
	verges, it was suggested that these budges been amalgamated. If the village green was cut	
	from end March through to beginning of October with 9 cuts and 2 collects.	
	Cllr Mr Garrett-Pughe: there are 630sqm of verges. If the Parish Council take over the	
	cutting of the verges when they will give the Parish Council the cost they put towards the 2	
	cuts LCC currently pay for.	
	Suggestions were made previously that villagers cut the verges, but not only were many	
	village unwilling or not able, but the matter of insurance would be an issue. Cllr Frobisher	
	suggested that we could cut costs by restricting which areas were cut.	
10.	Cllr Mr Garrett-Pughe suggested that we contact Glendale to give us a quote to do the same cuts that they undertook for LCC in the village. Suggested from Ings Lane to the end	Clerk
	of village. Also ask Tudor Ground Maintenance for a quote. <u>Clerk to gather quotes</u>	Clerk
	In any one year it might be that an under spend on a budget allocation be carried forward	
	along with the new budget allowance so that the Council does not overspend in a following	
	year: For example, the bus shelters need painting every two years and a single year's	
	budget does not cover the cost for this.	
	It was questioned by grant applications needed to be in by the October of the previous year	<b>.</b>
	for the following April payout? Was this standard or just our Parish Council. Could it be	Cllr Mr
	changed and the application forms made shorter? <u>Cllr Mr Garrett-Pughe to get a Louth TC</u>	Garrett-Pughe
	grant form. At the TC the grants were not applied for a year before.  It was requested that the General Contingency be moved from Specific Reserve to a	
10.	General Reserve allowing more flexibility to use.	
14.	It appeared that many of the budget figures for the current year to incorrect, especially	
	Clerk's salary as this was far higher that is should be. Chair and Clerk to examine current	Chair/Clerk
	budget document.	
15.	It was suggested should be keep the Precept the same for 18/19 or increase, but that we	
	could also use the under-spend to fund certain requirements and reduce the Precept.	
	General opinion was that the villagers preferred to pay a bit more and have a tidy village	
	with the grass and hedges cut.	
Invoice	s received since last meeting	
DW Gib	bs - £20 for cleaning the bus shelters	
47/40 0	Diamaina mattara	
	Planning matters nning Requiring Decision Prior to next Meeting	
7 tily i la	Thining requiring Decision 1 hor to next weeting	
17/10-9	Parish Council amenities	
No Actio		
17/10-1		
No Actio	on	
17/10-1	1 Date and time of next meeting	
	Parish Council on Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2018 7pm	
Th	fings along digt 0.40 are	
rne mee	ting closed at 9:40pm	
Signed:	Date:	

## **Utterby Parish Council**



#### Appendix 1

#### Minutes of the meeting of Utterby Parish Council held Wednesday 3rd January

Mrs Woodward addressed the Council - There appears to be a problem with the transparency in the actions of the present council.

Page 27 of the Good Counsellor Guide it states "it is essential that the Council is seen to provide value for money. This means ensuring public money is spent efficiently to provide effective service."

The website is not up-to-date. The website has not been updated since the agenda of the October meeting which ended in disarray.

There are no details of tonight's meeting on the Internet. Glenda, although appointed in the October meeting before it was disbanded, is not on the list of Counsellors on the parish website. The closing date for appointment of the new Clerk was 17th of October, despite this the new Clerk had not been appointed for the November and December meeting which therefore did not take place.

Furthermore there was apparently no discussion and agreement of the salary and terms of employment of the new clerk by the panel of Counsellors.

The 2017 accounts have never been publicised on the website which is apparently a requirement by law. Finances are not transparent and it would appear that from there being no money for services required (as we have been repeatedly told) there is in fact a large under-spend of many thousands of pounds.

On the question of planning. Many residents attended Council meetings regarding the proposed dwellings at Jacobs Close. A decision was made to object. When some minor alterations were added by the proposed builders, the council met in 'camera' and approve the plans even though their original reasons for refusal had not been addressed.

The council agreed to approve the proposed dwellings of Church Lane but the approval was never submitted. Planning issues have been discussed in camera - the last one being the proposed new build at the Manor House and behind Chestnut House. But again your decision was not actually submitted. So what is the point? Letters have been sent by the residents regarding parking issues and unpleasantness in Grange Lane. These have not been responded to and not shared with the majority of the Counsellors - they have stopped at the Chairman. I could say more but my end by saying that tonight's agenda is completely in adequate. Item 17/10-7 Invoices received since last meeting - no accounts - no details of payees that cannot be right. I would also request everything I have said is minuted. Thank you.