



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

	Action
<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>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 <u>(Clerk to write letter)</u>. A member of the public wanted to thank those people/persons who cleared the path near the bus shelter on Church Lane corner.</p> <p>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</p> <p>18/01-3 To receive any Declarations of interest on any item on the agenda Village Hall - Cllr Mr Brian Frobisher, Cllr Mr Jason Garrett-Pughe, Cllr Mr Graham John Dalton, Cllr Mrs Glenda Thorneycroft</p> <p>18/01-4 No action</p> <p>18/01-5 No Action</p> <p>18/01-6 Council matters, actions and communications Appointment of Office of Clerk to the Parish Council was made today, 3rd January 2018</p> <p>17/10-7 Finance and budget Overview of 2017/18 budget & Discuss Proposal for Council Precept 2018-2019</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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> 2. Cllr Thorneycroft: Asked why we paid rates in the village if we have a £2.5k under-spend? 3. From the public floor, Alan Woodward asked if the categories in budgets could be changed? 4. 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. <u>Chair and Clerk to look at layout</u> 5. Cllr Mr Garrett-Pughe: Have ELDC given out the new tax brackets? <u>Clerk to ask ELDC</u> 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk /Chair</p> <p>Chair/Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>



Appendix 1

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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 inadequate.

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.