

MINUTES OF GISBURN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2018
AT 7.30 PM

Present: John Falshaw (Chair), Colin Corlett, Darren Jackson, Mary Kirby, Dave Waters, Clerk and one member of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Borough Cllr Richard Sherras

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 16 NOVEMBER 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of 16 November 2017, after suggested and agreed additions, were accepted as a true record of proceedings at that meeting and duly signed.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Current Account	£166
Deposit Account	£1,206

The Clerk noted that, as the lengthsman/concurrent functions grants had not yet been paid by RVBC the Parish Council was unable to pay any sizeable expenditure which may arise in the near future. It was agreed that the sum of £1,500 be transferred to the current account from the Skipton BS savings account and that any of this money not subsequently required could be transferred back to the savings account.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL

Mrs C A Holmes	Clerk	£360.00
HMRC	PAYE	£90.00

PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2018/19

The Clerk advised that the awarding of both lengthsman's and concurrent functions grants was to be discussed by RVBC's Policy & Finance Committee at its meeting on 23 January 2018. There were two options proposed by the Borough Council to the Committee and these were explained to the meeting. It was also explained that a transitional scheme for the previous parish lengthsman scheme was being proposed by which there would be a stepped reduction in the grant paid down to 2020/21. The Clerk reported that Borough Cllr Sherras intended to speak at the Policy & Finance Committee meeting in favour of the option whereby 100% of the 2016/17 lengthsman's grant + 25% of eligible concurrent function expenditure would be paid as the alternative option adversely affected the income of smaller parish councils. It was suggested that a representative of the Parish Council also speak at the Committee meeting and Dave Waters volunteered to attend and speak.

Dave Waters advised that he would like to request that the Committee defer their decision on the grants to be awarded until an appropriate period of consultation had been held.

It was agreed that alternative options to RVBC for cutting the grass on the Recreation Ground should be explored although it was accepted that finding an alternative with the machinery and capacity to cut such a large area may not be easy.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND MATTERS

3/2017/1048 Gisburn Railway Tunnel Portal, Gisburn

There were no objections to this application.

HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

Dave Waters provided an update on the situation regarding the petition to Lancs Highways for a pedestrian crossing in Gisburn which had been refused. Further exchanges of correspondence and e-mails had occurred with Lancs Highways without satisfactory answers to questions being obtained resulting in Dave Waters making a Freedom of Information request for appropriate information to which a reply was awaited. It was agreed that further letters be sent to the Ribble Valley MP and County Cllr Albert Atkinson complaining about Highways' decision on the matter and asking for their support in reversing the decision.

It was noted that Lancs Highways had finally removed the dangerous sign from the end of Blind Lane. Posts for the average speed check area along the A682 had also been put into position.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, BURNLEY ROAD

Darren Jackson provided an update on the Burnley Road playground. A representative of Wicksteed had visited the site and was to provide a quote for replacement items in the near future. New people had joined the Committee and a number of fund raising events had been planned.

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

The Clerk advised that it was unlikely that any further invoices would be received from the lengthsman in the current financial year. It was explained that the one-off items of work, such as replacing flagstones or gateposts, had led to an unexpected increase in costs and that the costs of usual lengthsman's work were within budget.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Richard Sherras had advised that he had been working to try and secure the most advantageous decision for Gisburn Parish Council regarding the awarding of lengthsman's and concurrent functions' grants and that he intended to speak at RVBC's Policy & Finance Committee on the issue.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Councils' Liaison Committee Agenda had been received and Dave Waters advised that he would be attending the meeting. It was agreed that a request be made to RVBC that Dave Waters be allowed to speak at the meeting about parish lengthsman's grants even though the item was not on the Agenda.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed that discussions should be held during the course of the year with the Church regarding Christmas lights and the lighting of the Church in December 2018.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 08 February 2018 at 7.30 pm