

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN SAXTON VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2014

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Present

Mr. G. Fairclough Mr. B. Wilson
Ms C. Barrowman Ms J Marshall
Mr. M. Dennison

Members of the public

Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllr. Mrs. Hodgson

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were signed as a true record. Cllr. Ms Barrowman said she required it Minuting that decisions taken outside properly constituted meetings are not lawful. Cllr. Ms Marshall countered by pointing out that Ms Barrowman had herself done exactly that on very many occasions, thereby herself participating in what she was now insisting were unlawful decisions. She asked that her objection to part of Cllr. Barrowman's statement which was being attached to the Minutes be recorded. That statement seemed to imply that, as the sole Parish Councillor at SSGB meetings, she had made the decision as to the financial contribution by the Parish Council towards the planning consultant's fee. She had not, nor would she. Ms Barrowman said that she was only interested in the processes that the Parish Council was following, in particular decisions made out of meetings. Ms Marshall disputed his claim, stating that Ms Barrowman had herself been party to several decisions made in this way in the past, and had not objected previously. Ms Marshall went on to point out that before becoming a parish councillor herself, as well as while being on the parish council, she had disputed processes that were being followed, and had had no support from Ms Barrowman. Ms Marshall then used as an example the process whereby, when planning applications are received from Selby District Council, the Parish Council makes its decision by circulating the application to all parish council members, who then write their comments on the paper provided for the purpose, which comments are then used by the Clerk to make a submission to Selby District Council. This process – which is followed by many small councils – is in order to meet deadlines set by the District Council. The advice from the YLCA would be to make decisions at meetings. Cllr Ms Barrowman has not objected to this procedure. Ms Barrowman produced a piece of paper with a list of notes and rules which she said were from the Monitoring Officer and the Yorkshire Local Councils Association. Ms Marshall pointed out that the document did not indicate the questions that were asked, nor was it on headed paper as would be the case from either body.

In summary, Ms Marshall reminded the meeting that common sense had to prevail, and that there were occasions where it was necessary that a decision be taken between meetings – such as planning applications in order to meet the deadline. All such decisions would be ratified at the meeting following.

The Chair now required the matter be closed, remarking that Cllr Ms Barrowman had made her point several times at several meetings, and that the meeting move on

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Formal ratification of decisions taken between meetings; these decisions were recorded, but would now be formally ratified for the avoidance of doubt. They are:

- To write to Mr. Barrowman, Cllr. Ms Barrowman's father, protesting his unprovoked, aggressive and intimidating verbal attack upon the Clerk at the meeting of the 18th June 2014, when he accused her of telling lies about him. This attack was in front of witnesses, who declared their shock and their support for the Clerk. This was proposed by Cllr Ms Marshall and seconded by Cllr. Mr Wilson.
- To write to Mr. Dwyer, Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Services at North Yorkshire County Council, in an attempt to clarify the situation with regard to the school and especially whether this is any real threat of closure. This was proposed by Cllr. Mr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Ms Marshall.