Brafferton & Helperby Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 5 March 2025 Held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Nigel Denison (Chairman), Cllr Mark Darwin, Cllr Peter Mitchell, Cllr Deidre Brown, Cllr Angela Horner, Roger Clements (Clerk) plus 4 Members of the Public (MoP).

- 1. Apologies for Absence
 - 1.1. Apologies were received from Cllr Andy Gale.
- 2. Declarations of Interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests no declarations were made.
- 3. Public Participation no topics were raised.
- 4. Chairman's report to be covered in the meeting discussions.
- 5. Clerk's report 2 x Planning Applications to come to cllrs in next few days.
- 6. Financial Matters
- 7. Accounts received were approved for payment:

7.1. HVH Room hire £89.25 7.2. K Westman Gardening £48.00

7.3. Community Hub & Pub working group Grant request £270.00 (for payment direct to the Plunkett Foundation). Chairman proposed that the grant be approved – **resolved**.

8. Matters for Consideration concerning the Golden Lion

- 8.1. Progress update from the Community pub working group
 - 8.1.1. Chairman introduced the topic and noted that decisions needed to be made in a timely manner and that the Council was ready to form a view on what help it might provide to move the process forward.
 - 8.1.2.Gavin Wignall & Rory Wade gave a presentation on how the Golden Lion might be brought into community ownership. A group had been formed with the adopted name of the Golden Lion Community Pub & Hub Group (CP&HG). An initial survey accessed by QR code had received almost 100 responses which included significant pledges of financial support. The CP&HG had registered with the Plunkett Foundation (which offers support to community-owned businesses) and which has allocated a case worker. The first challenge is for the CP&HG to register as a Community Benefit Society (CBS) a necessary first step in being able to become a bidder for the Golden Lion, to enable it to trigger the full 6-month moratorium by 27 March. The group have: visited 2 successful local community ventures (the Huby shop and Skelton Hub & Pub); have assessed the Golden Lion building for the costs of refurbishing and are currently writing the documents to register themselves as a CBS. Funding targets, objectives and a marketing plan etc will follow. Social media is about to be employed to make their plans and aspirations known to the local community. Councillors were impressed by the level of preparations already complete or in hand.
- 8.2. Option for the Parish Council to trigger the Full Moratorium Period prior to 27th March 2025
 - 8.2.1.The Parish Council is willing to consider expressing 'an interest to bid' for the Golden Lion to trigger the Full Moratorium Period, if the CP&HG is delayed in registering as a CBS by 27 March. However, the Council has no intention of running a 'Pub and Hub' and would only be the temporary bidder while CP&HG complete the process to be a CBS. Chairman proposed that before making the decision to express 'an interest to bid' the Council would need to be confident that the CP&HG is on track towards registration resolved.
- 8.3. Wording of the Expression of Interest should it be submitted.
 - 8.3.1. Chairman to draft wording for this temporary position with advice from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations.
- 8.4. Decision making authority associated with the triggering of the Full Moratorium Period

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- 8.4.1.If the PC needed to trigger the Full Moratorium Period, speed would be of the essence. Chairman proposed that decision making power be delegated to the Chairman and in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, to trigger the Full Moratorium Period **resolved**.
- 8.5. Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)
 - 8.5.1. Access to a PWLB lending facility is designed for local government use to finance capital projects. The use of a PWLB loan to support the Community Purchase of the Golden Lion would only be considered by the Parish Council as a last resort and providing credible and robust plans were in place for the CP&HG to succeed. In order to proceed, any loan application would require majority support from parishioners following a consultation and agreement to a possible increase in the precept. The grant would be subject to an agreement with the CP&HG to recover the capital sum should the Golden Lion ever be disposed of at a future date. The loan would rest with the Parish Council and not the CP&HG.
 - 8.5.2.A smaller loan may be granted by the Parish Council from its reserves and would be liable for repayment by the CP&HG on terms agreed by the two parties.

9. Closing Matters

- 10. Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting
 - 10.1. None were proposed.

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