

HL

Item 5 – Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2022

**Cridling Stubbs Parish
Council**

**Minutes of the meeting held
on 26th January 2022 at 7pm
at Cridling Stubbs Village
Hall.**

Present – Cllr I Phillips (Chair), Cllr C Brundell (Vice Chair), Cllr L Phillips, Cllr C Bullimore, Helen Buckley (applicant to the post of Clerk) (not present for item 7)

Apologies – Cllr M Blackburn

Cllr Phillips opened the meeting at 7pm.

1. To consider the extent, if any, to which the press or public are to be excluded from the meeting.

None.

2. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest, if any.

Re payments for grass cutting, Cllr Brundell declared a connection to Mrs A Brundell

3. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr Blackburn sent apologies in advance of the meeting.

4. The meeting will be suspended for a period of public participation, to enable members of the public present to ask questions.

No members of the public or press joined the meeting.

5. To consider the budget enclosed and set the Parish Council Precept for 2022/23.

Councillors reviewed the proposal for the precept 2022/23 and unanimously resolved to maintain the precept at the same level as the last two years.

The necessary forms were signed for return to Selby D.C.

6. To receive an update on matters relating to the resignation of the previous Clerk to the Council.

Cllr C Brundell updated the rest of the council on his interactions with the previous clerk – Carl Hughes.

Despite his contractual responsibilities being highlighted to him, Mr Hughes left his post without completing his notice period and / or undertaking a handover of outstanding matters, including minutes of the last meeting at which he was present or returning Parish property at the end of his employment as required.

After several attempts to secure return of the council's property, Cllr Brundell told Councillors he eventually had to go and meet Mr Hughes, early one morning, at a time and location specified by Mr Hughes.

It was noted that, from an inspection of the items eventually returned, the most material property appeared to be there, although the laptop supplied to Mr Hughes by the council was not in a working state.

The council formally noted the absence of the minutes of Mr Hughes last meeting as Clerk and recorded that the key decision at that meeting related to the co-option of Cllrs Bullimore and Blackburn following advertisement of two vacancies.

7. To consider the appointment of the proposed candidate for the vacancy of the Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer.

The council received an update on the interview process for the Clerk vacancy.

Cllr I Phillips proposed the appointment of Helen Buckley, which was seconded by Cllr L Phillips.

8. Schedule of accounts for payment :

Payment to First Impressions – winter planting £136.80 (cheque 235) and

A Brundell – grass cutting £150 (cheque 234)

Were unanimously resolved as approved – proposed by Cllr I Phillips, seconded by Cllr L Phillips.

9. Under members' items:

1) Cllr I Phillips provided an update on the Judicial Review process, led by Whitley PC on behalf of Whitley, Cridling Stubbs and Womersley PCs.

The JR hearing concluded in December and the outcome is awaited.

Cllr I Phillips reminded members that the council has been holding off from discretionary investment spending whilst the review process is ongoing and costs have been unclear.

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Once the outcome is known, spending plans need to be revisited with a view to utilising retained funds.

To this end :

- 1) Cllr I Phillips reminded councillors of the suggestion made at the last annual Parish meeting to support the Village Hall with works to improve accessibility, for the benefit of the community.
- 2) Cllr L Phillips provided an update on the quotation process for works to the wooded area at the land at the entrance to the village and it was resolved that further quotations be sought for approval at the next meeting.
- 3) Cllr L Phillips asked for agreement to source bulbs for spring flower planting suggested by members of the community as part of the annual parish meeting. It was resolved that she should proceed with this.
- 4) Cllr L Phillips asked for members' views on continuing with the planting of the village planters by First Impressions for 2022/23. It was unanimously resolved that First Impressions had done a good job and that the planters were looking well, with several positive comments received from parishioners.

10. Date for the next ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

To be agreed once the newly appointed Clerk has had the opportunity to attend training and review the contents of the property retrieved from the previous Clerk by Cllr Brundell.



IAN PHILLIPS

CHAIR