

Scagglethorpe Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th September 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Councillor David Ackroyd.

Councillors present: Linda Waslidge(LW), Maureen Danby-Smith(MD), Paul Prichard(PP), Paul Douthwaite(PD) - Chairman, Janet Bates(JB), Ben Harris(BH). Also present clerk David Sonley(DS).

2. Discussion of the Government Shale Gas Exploration and Production Planning Consultations

[We had been informed that the Government has expressed the intention to make exploratory shale gas well pads a Permitted Development Right (typically used hitherto for minor home extensions and temporary small construction) thus obviating the requirement for planning permission and to bring shale gas production into the National Significant Infrastructure Project regime, so removing planning applications from local control at county level to a central government departmental inspectorate, leading to the compulsory acquisition of land.]

The discussion was led by Councillor Janet Bates.

JB had examined all the available documents and was concerned that planning rights for shale gas exploration activities could be put at the same level as that of “the building of a garden shed”. She felt that Scagglethorpe PC's views should be represented in the wider discussions about fracking. JB read out a draft letter she had written with the intention of sending it to our MP, Kevin Hollinrake and to our Ryedale District Councillor, Kean Duncan.

Discussion took place on the impact of fracking on local communities as had happened in other countries. Local people had a better understanding of the issues and planning applications should not be controlled by central government. Also worthy of concern were the problems caused by subsidence.

The PC approved JB's draft email and for it to be sent to the above two recipients on behalf of Scagglethorpe PC. Also that she could complete the Government's online consultation surveys on behalf of the Council.

The Council thanked JB for presenting the discussion and the considerable investigative work put in beforehand.

3. Discussion on the Local Government Associations Green paper on Health and Wellbeing

[The LGA had produced a green paper on the future of adult social care and well being. We had been informed that NALC wanted to respond to this paper and it was asking Local Councils to supply them with answers to the 30 questions raised in the green paper so that they could represent the members views more accurately.]

The discussion was led by Councillor Maureen Danby-Smith.

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MD had examined the Green Paper and had concluded that whereas the LGA does appreciate the considerable effort put in by the carer resources, it did not recognise the pressures on carers. In her opinion, carers were going to be manipulated as part of an overall action plan, and the underlying theme of the paper was to discuss where the funding was to come from.

JB read out some of the questions from the Green Paper and felt that their aim was to prompt us into stating that we should raise taxes. It was suggested by some councillors that higher government tiers were trying to pass service costs down the chain. Also that the questionnaire was not relevant to us, and that to send it to us at all was questionable.

It was agreed by the PC that, as we were not in position to make an informed opinion, we should not respond to the questionnaire.

The Councillors thanked MD and JB for their work in presenting the discussion.

Following this discussion the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed by the Chairman of the November 2018 Meeting....

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