

# Dent Parish Council Sub-Committee Authority Request

**Committee**                      **Policy and Resource Committee**

**Date**                              **25 August 2020**

## **Purpose of the Report**

To recommend to full council a restructure of the committees to ensure efficient, democratic and transparent working of the council.

## **Recommendation**

To adopt the following changes to the committees:

- i) All committees should elect their own chair at the first committee meeting following the full council meeting in May, rather than the Chair/Vice-Chair of the full council chairing committees.
- ii) The Car Park Committee to merge with Policy and Resource Committee in order that issues with being quorate can be minimised. Current members of both committees will become members of the new merged committee. Membership to be increased to five with a vacancy currently.
- iii) Each member of a committee who is a member of the council to be able to nominate a substitute to attend meetings on their behalf if they are unable to attend.
- iv) Contractors (Car Park Attendant and Grass Cutting) to be removed from committees to ensure transparency when delivering new contracts.
- v) Reduce members of the Playing Field committee from outside bodies to a maximum of two as they currently outnumber council members.
- vi) The next new elected/co-opted member of the council be placed on the Planning Committee to replace Cllr Woof who had taken on the role temporarily.
- vii) Membership of the Amenities and Environment Committee be increased to five with the next elected/co-opted new councillor filling the vacancy.
- viii) Continue to seek a representative on the Governing Body of Dent CE Primary School in line with the council's objective to support the school.
- ix) Current members of the charity bodies (Dent Grammar School EF, Dent Combined Charities and Dent Memorial Hall) who are now ex-councillors will continue as council representatives. However, if current councillors wish to volunteer for these committees then they should be allowed to do so.
- x) One of the councillors from Cowgill to join the Upper Dales Health Watch committee.

- x) Sedbergh and District Community Fund – a new councillor be nominated to go on this committee given the funds available.

### **Context**

The council's committees had been struggling to remain quorate given the number of recent resignations. It was necessary to revisit the structure of the committees to ensure that membership was sufficient to remain quorate at all times.

### **Alignment to Dent Parish Council Objectives**

This recommendation aligns with all of the council's objectives in that it allows for a more streamlined and efficient council as well as ensuring transparency.

### **Background**

The council resolved to move to a committee structure in 2019. The first year of this was a trial which the council resolved to make permanent in 2020. There have been a number of resignations in the last few months which have made the committees short of members.

### **Financial Implications**

None

### **Conclusion**

The Policy and Resource Committee considered at length the best way to resolve the current shortage in membership. It considered the recommendation above was the best solution.

**Gary Seekins**

**Acting Chair Policy and Resource Committee**

**25 August 2020**