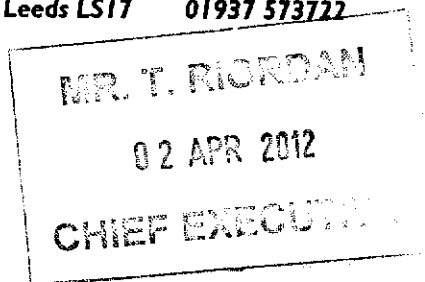


- Tom Mulcahy to please arrange for a response on Tom's behalf.

SCARCROFT PARISH COUNCIL established 4 December 1894

Clerk to the Council: Peter R Hart, One The Dell, Bardsey, Leeds LS17 01937 573722
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The Chief Executive
Leeds City Council
Civic Hall
LEEDS LS1 1UR



Dear Mr Riordon

NUMBER of COUNCILLORS

Monday 26 March 2012-03-26

I am writing to seek the City Council's approval for a further two councillors to represent the Parish. The present number is seven.

The parish population is about 1000 with about a further 200 living in the village and with the probability of about 35 new houses being added in the next twelve months. However it is not our view that the number of councillors relates directly to the population but to the amount of work to be undertaken. It will be immediately obvious that governmental measures apply equally to places with large and small populations.

In 1994 the National Association of Local Councils took the view that the legal minimum of five members was inconveniently small and not very practical. As a result Scarcroft increased from 5 to 7 in 2004. That did, of course, make the work easier to handle but the measures of recent years and the emerging responsibilities of the Localism Act and Planning Policy and other public measures are an increasing burden. It all makes it more difficult for our seven members to take on an increasing number of portfolios, quite apart from attendance at meetings such as the ENE Forum, local public meetings and various training programmes. Our Council meetings rarely last less than 3 1/2 hours - we are too small to work in sub committees.

As background comment it should be added that five of our members work during the day so their availability is limited. Another matter affecting all Councils is increased holiday entitlement which impacts more seriously on small councils.

The cost of this measure is very limited because none of our members claim allowances. Overall, however, an approval of our request would be in tune with nation and local policies which encourage the greater participation of local communities.

I would be glad to try to supply any further information.

Yours sincerely

Peter R Hart
Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer