

Minutes of Meeting of Middleham Town Council as Trustee of Charity For The Benefit Of Inhabitant Householders of Parish of Middleham (the 'Charity' or 'IH') held in Middleham Key Centre on Wednesday, 29 November 2017 following conclusion of the Town Council meeting. (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING)

Present

The Chairman Cllr Mrs S Fairhurst, Cllr Byford, Cllr Mr M Cade, Cllr Mrs E Stocker and Cllr Mr S Wheeler.

Clerk, Mr D Keep

The following members of the public attended the meeting: Mrs R Thompson and Mrs D Green.

Action

1. Apologies.

Cllrs Kirkbride and Shorrocks were absent.

2. Declarations of interest regarding items on the agenda.

Each person present is a Councillor of Middleham Town Council, the Charity's sole Trustee. No other interests were declared in the business to be transacted at the meeting.

3. Minutes

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the minutes of meeting held on 29 October 2017 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

4. Land Management (IH) – Information/Decision required

4.1 Review of Health & Safety matters (standing item). There were no matters to report.

4.2 Meeting with Middleham Trainers Association. A copy of the draft meeting notes had been circulated and were spoken to by Cllr Byford who considered the meeting was constructive with a number of positive outcomes. In particular, assurances regarding collection of all fees due had been given by Mr Bethell who explained that some horses were under training for a trainer who had relocated away from the town. It was not easy to ensure that no use was made of the Moors after 1pm, although riders mostly adhered to bridleways. There had also been agreement on the need for a land management plan, noting that at the current time there appeared to be a problem with ragwort. There was also concern whether all users had adequate employer and public liability covers in place.

In discussion, the following actions were agreed:

- Copies of the most recent declarations of horse numbers to be forwarded to Councillors;

Clerk

Action

- A letter to be written to the operators of the Forbidden Corner regarding the frequent unauthorised use by delivery vehicles of the top access to Forbidden Corner which was causing excessive wear to the unmade access road. (It was noted that MTA was considering installing an electric access gate to restrict this traffic).
- The Trustee, as landowner, would draft a letter to be distributed via MTA to all trainers requesting confirmation that: appropriate levels of liability cover were in place; that risk assessments of all activities were being undertaken; that accident records were maintained and would be forwarded as, required, to both MTA and IH. The letter would also raise other concerns such as general standards of behaviour whilst riding, for example not using mobile phones, wearing hi visibility jackets.

Clerk**Clerk****4.3 Consents**

4.3.1 Memorial bench near Hullo Bridge. Correspondence between the Trustee and the family who had placed a memorial bench without waiting for proper consideration and approval being given was noted. Whilst there were concerns that this might set a precedent, it was noted that the family had apologised for not waiting for a formal response. Whilst some critical feedback had been received, others welcomed the bench which was considered to be of very good quality. It was agreed to grant retrospective approval.

Clerk

To avoid potential recurrence, it was agreed that the Clerk would in future respond with an acknowledgement asking applicants not to proceed before receiving formal consent following consideration at the next Council meeting.

Clerk

The Chairman suggested that Memorial Wood would be a suitable location for scattering ashes and other memorials, enjoying a good outlook towards Lowlands and beyond. Whilst there might be restrictions upon enclosing part of the common land, it was agreed to look into its development alongside the town's burial ground project.

Clerk

4.3.2 Request from Karl Burke Racing re horse access through woods near Spigot Lodge. The Draft heads of terms had been circulated and were agreed to be appropriate. Karl Burke Racing had agreed to pay MTC's legal costs of approximately £750 + VAT plus Land Registry disbursements of approximately £20. Following discussion, noting the quantum of annual fees payable by businesses for placing furniture on the cobbles, it was felt appropriate that an annual fee of £600 should be charged.

Clerk

4.4 Land Management Contract: A copy of the specification for the current year's terms for grass cutting and grounds maintenance was considered to remain largely appropriate, save as amended to extend the grass cutting areas on the Buses, to add the RIII ginnel to the spraying contract.

Clerk

4.5 Street Furniture agreements. Review of Terms for 2018. It was agreed to retain the same terms and conditions as these were deemed acceptable. Noting that the charges had been unchanged for several years it was agreed to increase the weekly charges to 25 pence from 20 pence per square metre, which would be in line with Leyburn.

Clerk**4.6 Financial and Administrative Matters**

4.6.1 Transfer of Opening balances from The Clerk account. The Clerk apologised that the Council and Charity finances were not fully separated at the current meeting.

4.6.2 **Timescale for submission of the annual return to Charity Commission.** The

Action

Clerk

deadline for submission was 1 January 2018.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed.....Date.....