

Minutes of a Meeting of Middleham Town Council held in Middleham Key Centre on Wednesday, 31 July 2019 at 7.00 pm. (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING)

Present

Chairman Cllr Mrs S Fairhurst, Cllr Mrs H Byford, Cllr Mr M Cade, Cllr Mrs L Stocker, and Cllr Mr N Hopper.

County Cllr Mrs K Sedgwick; Mr A Davies, Regional Manager, Area 1 Highways (to item 5); Clerk, Mr D Keep

2 founding members of the Lower Wensleydale Biodiversity Action Group (to item 6.5). There were no other members of the public present.

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1. Open Forum.

There were no questions.

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Mr S Wheeler and Cllr Mr G Fortune.

3. Declarations of interest regarding items on the agenda.

No other interests other than those previously notified were declared in matters on the agenda.

4. Minutes.

4.1 Minutes of the previous council meetings

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 June 2019 as a true and accurate record to be signed by the Chairman.

4.2 The schedule of agreed actions. Noted.

5. Confidential and Urgent Items. There were no urgent or confidential matters for consideration at the current meeting requiring recording in the confidential minute.

It was agreed to receive a report from Mr Davies on the impact of the previous day's very heavy rain and flooding. Mr Davies summarised the worse-affected roads, communities and infrastructure, noting that some routes remained closed. He paid tribute to the attitude and support from the local community.

In response to questioning, he said that the cost of repairs would consume the available emergency works budget and that virement between headings would be necessary and possibly application to central government. The following day a meeting would be convened at NYCC to consider a prioritised response.

Regarding Middleham generally, he continued to liaise with County Cllr Sedgwick and Cllr Byford who would both participate in an internal NYCC project team meeting the following week. Having visited Middleham he had personally seen the difficulties that horses experienced on the surfaces. The NYCC review would consider all options including an

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off-road route, traffic issues to improve safety (including traffic counts) and improvements to the road surface and a draft report should be available next month. He also explained how highway's funding was allocated and outlined that it might be appropriate to prioritise Middleham due to its unique circumstances.

He tabled a plan of resurfacing using hot rolled asphalt within Middleham scheduled to take place in August, which he considered would provide a good surface.

In response to questioning he outlined how the process for extending speed limits.

County Cllr Sedgwick commented that there was high level support within NYCC to find a solution for Middleham and at the current stage there was no need for a petition to bring additional pressure.

6. Town Council - Information/Decision Required

6.1 Councillors' report of meetings attended and actions undertaken since the previous meeting (standing item). County Cllr Sedgwick reported that she was continuing to look into issues regarding structural safety and repair costs borne by ratepayers relating to Middleham Bridge. She hoped that Leyburn Town's parking feasibility study would be ready in August and would take on board Middleham's views.

6.2 Land Management Issues (standing item)

6.2.1 Maintenance of hedges and open areas on the Plantations. In Cllr Fortune's absence it was unknown what discussions may have taken regarding costs and obtaining residents' pinions so it was agreed to defer until a future meeting.

Cllr Fortune

6.2.2 Green Spaces Consultation. The Clerk and Cllr Byford outlined that they were only working on submissions for the open space behind 9 St Alkelda's and the grassed area in Park Lane as the other areas originally identified appeared to already have a level of protection, either as common land or of historical value

Clerk

6.3 Closure of Leyburn's small injury unit. Cllr Fairhurst spoke of her own personal experience and of another Middleham resident when no local treatment was possible and the alternative, possibly the Friarage in Northallerton, Darlington Memorial Hospital and James Cook in Stockton were far distant and impractical for someone who was unable to drive or simply not well enough to do so. It was agreed that this position was unsatisfactory and to refer to both incidents in a letter to Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG urging them to reinstate this provision. The letter should be copied to NYCC Health Scrutiny Committee and Patient Participation Group.

Clerk

6.4 Sale of homes for holiday rentals. It was agreed that increasing second-home ownership and conversion to holiday letting properties reduced availability of homes for local people and impacted upon sustaining community life. Other authorities such as Yorkshire Dales National Park had restrictions but some years ago RDC had voted against. It was likely that other local councils might support a new move to place restrictions and in the first instance the Chairman would discuss with the leader of RDC conservative group how this might be reconsidered.

Cllr Fairhurst

6.5 Proposal for a community project aimed at increasing local biodiversity.

Elise Barron and Kayleigh Norman, founder members of the Lower Wensleydale Biodiversity Action Group, outlined their previous involvement with community-led environmental projects and how they wished to operate locally. Each proposal would be based on expert advice and they currently had connections with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust. Benefits of such schemes were outlined. They were conscious that Pinkers Pond, the proposed initial site, was popular and any changes would require scrutiny. They had met with Cllr Hopper at Pinkers Pond the previous day. They had experience of fundraising which would not be sought from the Council. It was agreed in principle that LWBAG should draw up a proposal for Pinkers Pond for Council approval. The Clerk would forward details of the Council's land holdings to identify other potential sites. It was pointed out that most of the land was tenanted and in particular liaison would

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be necessary with MTA.

6.6 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places. It was noted that Middleham was not affected but that it was proposed that East Witton's polling station be closed as it represented an 'inefficient use of resources' and that voting in person should take place at Middleham. It was agreed to oppose this and in the first instance to ask E Witton parish council to provide information on residents most likely to be affected.

6.7 Telephone and broadband services: The Clerk reported that email capacity had been successfully increased and that a new email address adopted:

office@middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk. He had notified all contacts and changed online registrations to the new address. It was agreed to allow time for these changes to take effect, then to look to change broadband provider in the autumn which was likely to save approximately £300 over the current BT contract.

6.8 Website accessibility statements. New regulations applicable from 23 September 2020 placed an obligation upon public authority websites to ensure that they were fully accessible and to publish a statement to that effect. It was agreed to leave the target for compliance until nearer the date as it was likely that further guidance and possible pro-forma statements would become available. It was noted that the current website, whilst relatively inexpensive, was cumbersome to operate and did not present a very informative

7. Review of Health & Safety and Environmental Matters (standing item). There were none at the current time. The play area inspection reports were received. There were no new items.

8. Project Updates:

8.1 Burial Ground. RDC had agreed in principle, subject to formal approval, to extend the designated area on the open space but had drawn attention to the covenants within the transfer document that would require consent from the land's former owner. This was considered to be problematic and potentially costly and time consuming. The Clerk observed that capacity on the site would probably be reduced by approximately 25% due to the presence of sewer pipes and so consideration would need to be given to either, or both, of these proposals. It was agreed to wait until Steve Scott had commented on the extension proposal.

The church had responded positively to using an area of their burial ground currently used for composting for interment of ashes.

An accurate graveyard plan was required and the Clerk was seeking alternative costings.

Cllr Fairhurst had visited Memorial Wood but did not consider it might be suitable as an ashes scattering area, at least not until it had been improved. It was agreed not to consider this further.

8.2 MSCWA. Cllr Hopper reported upon recent activity. The Police had apprehended two suspects following the break-in. Council considered that if responsible, they should be offered the opportunity to work on the playing fields or pay towards the £100 uninsured loss on damage to the doors. The pavilion open day would take place on Sunday 4 August.

8.3 Welcome Sign. The excessive costs were noted that effectively ruled the project out of further consideration. The Clerk would seek one alternative quotation.

8.4 Option agreement. No progress to report at the current time.

8.5 Middleham Safer Roads project. Cllr Byford reported that there had been a slight lull in communications and activity. She would be chasing NYCC regarding installation of the crossing points.

8.6 Play area improvements: The survey being sent to residents was noted.

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Financing of the scheme would ideally be received as part of funding for community enhancements from the St Alkelda's development however the timing for this was unknown. It might be worthwhile asking Racing Welfare for a contribution to the adult equipment which would benefit retired training staff.

It was suggested that the committee should look at play areas in Ronaldshay Park (Richmond) and Bedale.

9. Events in Middleham (standing item)

9.1 UCI Cycle Event Sunday 29th September 2019. It was noted that MSCWA was considering a low-key event and that external funding was not being sought.

10. Planning**10.1 Planning decision notices received since the last meeting:**

10.1.1 Full Planning Permission for Proposed Steel Portal Framed Building for the Housing of Racehorses at Sharp Hill Farm, Park Lane, Middleham, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4QY 19/00064/FULL **GRANTED.**

10.2 Planning Applications.

10.2.1 Full Planning Permission for Construction of Steel Portal Framed Building to Create a Covered All Weather Indoor Riding School Kingsley Park Farm Park Lane Middleham Leyburn North Yorkshire DL8 4QZ Proposal 19/00258/FULL. **No objections, however the planning authority was asked to consider planting a screen of trees and to ensure that the impact of lighting was minimised.**

10.2.2 Outline Planning Permission with All Matters Reserved for Proposed Residential Development (Up to 55 Dwellings) (As Amended by Revised Details and Additional Heritage Impact Assessment Dated February 2019) | Land At St Alkelda's Road Middleham North Yorkshire 17/00558/OUT **No comments.**

10.3 Potential Planning Enforcement Issues. No matters to report.

11. Finance – Information/Decision required

11.1 Cash books with a full bank reconciliations as at 30 June 2019 had been circulated in advance of the meeting

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the schedule of direct debits and internet bank transfers to approve and ratify all payments since the last Meeting as set out on the payments schedule and to approve Items of Expenditure as submitted to the meeting, including the following:

12. Central & Local Government Communications: Documents that have been emailed or circulated to Cllrs since the last meeting.

12.1.1 YLCA

13. Shared information and suggested items for the next agenda

13.1 Annual planner for agenda items. Noted

13.2 Transfer of unspent expenditure to reserves.

13.3 Transfer of balances to IH.

Date and time of the next meetings: The next monthly meeting would be the Council meeting on 25 September 2019.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm

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