

Minutes of a Meeting of Middleham Town Council held in Middleham Key Centre on Wednesday, 31 October 2018 at 7.00 pm. (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING)

Present

The Chairman Cllr Mrs S Fairhurst, Cllr Mrs H Byford, Cllr Mr M Cade, Cllr D Slay.

PC Julian Sutcliffe, Northern Dales Beat Manager, North Yorkshire Police

Clerk, Mr D Keep

Members of the public present as shown on the attached attendance sheet.

Action

1. Open Forum.

The Chairman reminded those present that public participation was permitted at the start of a meeting only and was limited to 15 minutes. Questions or statements would be restricted to items on the agenda and any matters not on the agenda should have been raised in advance.

Mrs Thompson thanked Council for paying for flowers and compost that she had planted. The Clerk advised that RDC would look into its recent failure to empty dog bins.

Clerk

A resident had submitted written notice of his intention to discuss parking in the town. He felt that the position had worsened in the 10 years since he first raised concerns and that Council was not properly considering the interests of inhabitant householders through, in particular, renting space to hostellers for street furniture, so that the available space had become 'compressed'. He felt that residents fronting the lower market were being unfairly targeted by certain Councillors over parking issues. In response, Councillors advised that the conveyance of the manorial lands, including the town wastes which were common land, permitted raising of commercial fees and tolls on the market place. They intended to act equitably towards all residents and users of the wastes, some of which were Council land whereas others were private. Similar issues were faced by other local towns balancing the interests of residents, visitors and businesses with potential to generate income. Consideration could be given to reviewing space allocations although this was potentially complex and previous attempts had been unsuccessful.

PC Sutcliffe reported upon recent incidents and police activity, which included; the theft of the donations box from St Mary & St Alkelda's church; ongoing drugs interventions within the Dales in conjunction with the prevention teams and with cooperation by Racing Welfare; ongoing pub watch liaison and drink-drive deterrence; it was intended to re-start surgeries in Middleham; all PCSOs and police shall be equipped with body-worn cameras.

2. Apologies.

It was noted Mr Kirkbride had resigned as Councillor. Apologies had been received from Cllr Mrs L Stocker and Cllr Mr S Wheeler. An apology had been received from County Cllr Mrs K Sedgwick.

3. Declarations of interest regarding items on the agenda.

Action

Cllr Byford reported that she had resigned from her employment with NYCC's highways team to focus on the town's highways matters and would submit a revised declaration of interests form. No other interests were declared in matters on the agenda.

Cllr Byford**4. Minutes.****4.1 Minutes of the previous council meetings**

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 September 2018 and the confidential minutes of a Council meeting held on 8 October 2018 as a true and accurate record to be signed by the chairman presiding at those meetings.

4.2 The schedule of agreed actions.

4.2.1 Following advice received from Scotts Wright Solicitors, it was agreed not to proceed with registering land near the Springs on grounds of cost and the improbability that another party else would be able to make a legitimate claim for it.

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

6. Information/Decision Required

6.1 Councillors' report of meetings attended and actions undertaken since the previous meeting. Reported elsewhere within these minutes.

6.2 Land Management Issues.

6.2.1 Condition of Roads. Cllr Byford reported upon possible central government funding for nationwide pothole repair programmes. She was looking into the feasibility of a project in conjunction with universities to develop an improved road surface for horse traffic and would discuss this with trainers. This would be a longer term project. Progress would be reported at future meetings.

Cllr Byford**6.2.2 Parking Issues**

6.2.2.1 Park Lane. No progress to report.

6.2.2.2 Parking Outside Manor House. To be discussed at the Trustee meeting.

6.2.2.3 Parking on Busks. Noted to be continuing.

6.2.3 Prohibition of dogs on playing fields. Concern had been expressed by Cllr Wheeler regarding use of playing fields for dog training and risks of fouling a playing surface. The level of picking up was felt generally to be high and there were acknowledged community benefits from dog walking. It would also be difficult to enforce a ban as there were no suitable alternative dog walking areas. Following discussion it was agreed to leave arrangements as they were.

6.2.4 Condition of car access / parking at Pinker's Pond. This was noted to be a popular place for car parking but had become badly rutted. Council wished to avoid the parking area becoming over-developed but some improvement close to the highway edge was appropriate. The Clerk would contact MTA to see if they could provide some filling and levelling.

Clerk

6.2.5 Refurbishment of Public Toilets. Council welcomed RDC's announcement that the toilets would be refurbished in advance of next year's holiday season. There had been no complaints about their condition over the previous season.

7. Review of Health & Safety matters (standing item).

7.1 Annual Play Inspection Reports. Reports had been received from RoSPA following recent inspections of the Spring's and Park Lane play areas and the skate

park. It was noted that the play areas were generally in good order and no urgent actions had been advised. A copy of the skate park report would be forwarded to MSCWA.

Action

Clerk

A copy of the monthly RDC inspection report had also been received; RDC had apologised for omitting to send these over recent months. No matters requiring attention had been advised.

7.2 Vehicle Activated Signs. NYCC had completed its review of speed activated signs and changed its policy so that, subject to NYCC supervision, parishes could purchase their own equipment. Council had previously agreed not to be part of the scheme.

8. Project Updates:

8.1.1 Burial Ground. Following last meeting's approval, emails seeking tender submissions for the drilling contract had been emailed to various member companies of the British Drilling Association with a closing date of 13 November. Cllr Slay reported upon a telephone conversation with one contractor which provided useful feedback on his own experience as a councillor creating a much larger burial ground, who opined that the suggested costs of site investigation were excessive and that Environment Agency requirements might be negotiable. Cllr Slay and the Clerk would liaise with the EA to discuss this, either with or without the retained hydrogeologist and possibly a site visit at a later stage. The Clerk was seeking an indicative cost for redirecting sewerage pipes which currently took up much of the site.

Cllr Slay / Clerk

Clerk

8.1.2 MSCWA. Mr Hopper provided a report on arrangements for the bonfire night at the playing fields. No fireworks would be set off and it was hoped to gain experience for future celebrations. Grant funding of £250 had been received for developing the community garden.

9. Events in Middleham (standing item)

9.1.1 The Battles Over. Cllr Cade reported upon arrangements, including liaison with English Heritage, for lighting of the beacon on the Castle at 7pm on Remembrance Sunday as part of the town's participation in nationwide remembrance of the centenary of the end of WW1. It was agreed to publicise the event through usual channels.

Clerk

10. General Business

10.1.1 Middleham Key Centre – business review: Cllr Byford and Dr Sweeting had undertaken an overall review of progress since the management structure changes and were asking Councillors to be involved detailed reviews of functional areas, feeding into a final report. A pro forma report would be circulated to assist this process.

All

11. Planning

11.1 Planning decision notices received since the last meeting:

11.1.1 Full Planning Permission for Rear Extension (Retrospective) at Fieldfare Cottage, Middleham Road, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 5HE 18/00661/FULL.

GRANTED

11.1.2 Sundial House appeal ref (Ref 16/00609/LBC) / 17/00004/REFLBC Retrospective Appeal Ref: APP/V2723/Y/17/3171483 Enforcement action **WITHDRAWN.**

11.2 Planning Applications.

11.2.1 Listed building consent for alterations to existing barn with the addition of a mezzanine floor and change of use of outbuilding from garage/store to

Action

kitchen/preparation area and installation of below ground services, Coverham Abbey, Coverham Lane, Coverham R/60/25S/LB. No objections.

11.3 Potential Planning Enforcement Issues. No matters to report at present.

12. Finance – Information/Decision required

12.1 Cash books with full bank reconciliations as at 30 September 2018 and a cashbook to 31 October 2018 had been circulated in advance of the meeting

12.2 RESOLVED TO approve expenditure under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972), as follows:

- **Contribution towards Christmas Children's Grotto: £150**
- **Christmas Lights: connection and repair £750; electrical supply £120.**

A suggestion had been received that there should be a formal switching on ceremony.

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.

12.3 Precept and Budget

12.3.1 Report from Clerk on RDCs parish precept meeting. RDC would not be transferring any services to parishes during the current year. There were no changes to the precept setting procedure for the coming year. Government was not proposing caps on increases so consideration could be given to raising the precept without requiring a referendum.

12.3.2 Financial objectives for the year ahead. No specific objectives were proposed.

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

12.4.1 North Yorkshire Local Access Forum - Recruitment of Voluntary Members

12.4.2 Rural Police Wildlife Mobile Surgeries – 28 October 2018

13. Suggested items for the next agenda.

13.1.1 RIII Event 2019 – planning

At this point the Chairman asked residents to leave

13.2 Vacancy for Councillor. The Clerk had informed RDC and notices giving electors the opportunity of requesting an election had been posted. If an election was not called, a casual vacancy would be advertised. A discussion took place on the selection process. Cllr Slay agreed to provide feedback on his activity since appointment that might encourage candidates to come forward.

Cllr Slay

Date and time of the next meetings: The next monthly meeting shall be held on Wednesday 28 November 2018.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.05 pm

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