

Minutes of a Meeting of Middleham Town Council held in Middleham Key Centre on Wednesday, 25 September 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, Cllr Mr S Wheeler, Cllr Mr G Fortune and Cllr Mr N Hopper.

County Cllr Mrs K Sedgwick; Clerk, Mr D Keep

Members of the public as the attached attendance sheets.

Action

1. Open Forum.

Mrs Thompson requested funds to replant flower beds, which would also include those in planters outside the Salad Bowl which would be overseen by the antique shop's proprietor. This was agreed.

TC

Mrs Thompson observed that some households did not cover recycling boxes, or leave them out on the correct collection date so that rubbish was blown around the town. It was noted that white rubbish bags and bin covers were obtainable from the community office in Leyburn. The Clerk would look into collecting a supply for local residents to obtain from the Key Centre.

TC

Mrs Thompson suggested that these matters be publicised in the Middleham Herald. It was agreed to produce an edition and Councillors would submit their articles to Cllr Stocker.

All/LS

Mr Strickland referred to a recent letter received by some residents concerning parking issues and whether the Council had developed its parking policy. He was advised that this would be addressed following resolution of parking issues outside Manor House. Mr Strickland also questioned the large area of seating rented to pubs in the main square, although he accepted that they added character. In reply he was advised that this had been a long term practice and receipts were spent within the town. The areas had expanded and Council would place metal studs to prevent unauthorised enlargement. The Clerk confirmed that rental payments had always been received, albeit not always on time.

Mr Strickland said his home was affected by wind-blown rubbish which he considered came from the pub tables.

Mr Brooksbank, a resident from Harmby was concerned at what he perceived had been lack of public knowledge about the recently-granted outline planning consent for housing behind St Alkelda's Road and questioned the input from the Town Council and the increased pressures on local infrastructure. In response, Town Councillors, Cllr Sedgwick and the Clerk noted, inter alia, that the size of the development was dictated by Middleham's allocation of new homes under the Local Plan and that a public meeting convened by the Council had been well attended by local residents. The Town Council, as a statutory consultee, had also expressed a number of concerns, some of which had been taken into account, including reducing the massing of larger properties around the boundaries and had made representations regarding flood risk and the need for affordable housing. It would also participate in drawing up the s106 agreement for community infrastructure funded by the developer.

Action**2. Apologies.**

All Councillors were present. Cllr Cade advised that he would not be able to attend the meeting on 30 October.

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 31 July 2019 as a true and accurate record to be signed by the Chairman.

4.2 The schedule of agreed actions. The following matters were noted

4.2.1 Street Lighting in Park Lane. RDC's response that its lighting programme did not extend to installing additional lights was noted. They were however upgrading lights on a rolling programme which should improve matters. Councillors would observe the town's lighting and report any lights that were not working, were weak or misdirected.

4.2.2 Sale of homes for holiday rentals. Cllr Fairhurst confirmed that a motion to this effect would be submitted to RDC.

All

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

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 upon her recent activity, in particular liaison with trainers following recent falls on local roads, and raising a resident's concerns about Middleham Bridge.

6.2 Land Management Issues (standing item)

6.2.1 **Plantations.** Future maintenance of hedges and open areas was discussed. There had been mixed views expressed by residents following the recent cutting, and some concerns that the ongoing costs of maintenance might be excessive. Cllr Hopper and Cllr Fortune agreed to liaise with Mr Robertson, the grounds contractor, and revert to a future meeting with a specification and budget. They also agreed to undertake some voluntary work on the area.

NH/GF

6.2.2 **Pinkers Pond.** A resident's request for improved vehicle access was considered. It was felt important to strike a balance between limiting access against potential over-use as occasionally camper vans had parked there. Cllr Wheeler would submit a quotation for a mixture of broken asphalt and levelling scrapings which would in time grass over.

SW

6.2.3 **Other Matters.** Some concern was expressed at the ill-matched appearance of some repairs to the cobbles undertaken by utility companies. It was noted that this would be difficult to enforce and the work was nonetheless of adequate standard.

6.3 Police Report (standing item). Received for information.

6.4 Football Facilities Consultation. The Clerk would speak with individuals known to be involved with local football to respond to consultation.

TC

6.5 Christmas Lights: It was agreed to arrange an official switching on ceremony on a date to be agreed. The Clerk would make arrangements, including requesting participation by the church choir and support from hostellers. It was noted that a tree was being obtained free of charge from a resident, subject to removal from a back garden by Mr Robertson.

TC

	Action
<p>6.6 Electric car charging points. Information obtained by the Clerk was considered. It was noted that very few charging points were available locally and that the Council did not itself have a statutory power to pay for such an item, which would need to be considered by the Charity. It was felt that it would be beneficial to visitors and residents as few houses had private parking adjacent to them. It was agreed to look into available funding and explore a suitable location. This would be reported to a future meeting.</p>	TC
<p>6.7 Town Guide. An electronic copy of the Town Trail had been obtained which would form the basis of a revised town guide and obviate need to recreate a new town map. To offset costs, space for advertising would be considered. All Councillors were asked to comment on content. Two quotations for printing costs had been received and it was agreed to work with the cheaper one submitted by Richmond Print.</p>	All/TC
<p>6.8 Proposal to hold The Lord of the North Festival in 2021. This would mark the 550th anniversary of Richard Duke of Gloucester (later King Richard III) becoming the Lord of the North. Cllr Byford agreed to attend a feasibility meeting convened by English Heritage and report back to a future meeting.</p>	HB
<p>7. Review of Health & Safety and Environmental Matters (standing item).</p>	
<p>7.1 Play Area inspection reports. These had been received from RDC and RoSPA and were reviewed. Cllr Cade undertook to scrape algae from the slippery floor surfaces. The Clerk would purchase a replacement swing seat. Cllr Wheeler would maintain the plating on the skate park and the picnic benches, providing an overlap for wheelchair user access. It was noted that some of the metalwork on the equipment required rust removal and repainting. This would need to be looked into. A further review would be undertaken in the spring.</p>	Cllr Cade SW TC
<p>7.2 Review of Flood incident 30 July 2019.</p>	
<p>7.2.1 List of affected properties in Middleham. The Clerk tabled a list of known properties, further reports were anticipated. The residents' details would be anonymised if the summary was forwarded to other agencies as part of wider information gathering.</p>	
<p>7.2.2 Attendance at Town meeting in Leyburn with emergency services. Cllrs Byford and Hopper provided feedback.</p>	
<p>7.2.3 Draft Emergency plan: Cllr Hopper and the Clerk had met and commenced drafting in the format prepared by the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum. It was agreed that further drafting would be undertaken after Cllr Hopper had attended a resilience training course and he and the Clerk attended a meeting convened by Leyburn Town Council.</p>	
<p>Cllr Byford tabled a report received from Meirion Jones, NYCC's Senior Flood Risk Management Engineer following his inspection the previous day, as part of NYCC's section 19 report following the recent floods. He had looked at the outside of properties known to be affected. He, Cllr Byford and the Clerk had walked to the moors, noting that surface run off from most highway drains was affected by leaves and materials washed down from the equine walkways on the moor. It was the landowner's responsibility to prevent such material getting into the drains and some sort of diversionary drainage or bund might be necessary. Once more was known, this would be discussed with the trainers who, in accordance with the Moor lease, were responsible for such matters.</p>	TC
<p>The overall conclusion of Mr Jones's report was that as the flooding which had impacted upon relatively few properties internally (i.e. habitable rooms) and so would not be considered to require formal investigation. As the Section 19 report was an overarching document for the entire flood event of the 30th July 2019, it would make reference to the various towns, villages and hamlets that were affected, including Middleham.</p>	
<p>7.3 Highways Issues: Recent resurfacing of roads and accidents. Recent incidents on local roads resulting in injury to horses and riders were noted. Great concern had been expressed both by trainers and workers' representatives. Some frustration was expressed that a date for jetting of road surfaces had not been provided by NYCC, who</p>	

	Action
<p>appeared currently focussed on preparing suitable surfaces on routes for the UCI cycle event. Cllr Byford agreed to check with NYCC which roads would be jetted. Feedback received from trainers on the improved surface laid along B6108 indicated that it was very suitable for horse traffic.</p>	HB
<p>On another matter, complaints had been received about cyclists' behaviour on the Ride Yorkshire event through Middleham on 11 August 2018. Cllr Cade would summarise the issues and the Clerk would write to the organisers.</p>	MC/TC
<p>7.4 Environmental Matters.</p>	
<p>7.4.1 Friends of the Earth. An email from Friends of the Earth proposing to set up a local 'action group' for Middleham was received. It was agreed to look into convening a meeting in Middleham. The Clerk would contact FoE.</p>	TC
<p>7.4.2 Government guidance for local councils on climate change. The guidance included case studies of projects undertaken by councils. It was noted that the document was some years out of date. A suitable project might be to create a wildflower meadow, undertaken by some councils to reduce grass cutting costs and emissions and increase biodiversity, and the Clerk was asked to look into feasibility and potential sources of funding.</p>	TC
<p>7.4.3 Commercial waste bins beside Wensleydale Hotel. A fair number of complaints had been received by Councillors relating to noise from bottle bank emptying, wasps/flies in summer, bad odours and restrictive pedestrian access in what was also a prominent and attractive location near the town centre. Having discussed how to approach the matter, a letter would be sent from the Mayor as an initial step and consideration given to whether this constituted a matter for RDC's environmental health team.</p>	TC
<p>8. Project Updates:</p>	
<p>8.1 Burial Ground. No response had been received from Scott's approach to the previous owner of the open space about possible variation of the terms for transfer of the land allowing enlargement of the burial ground to increase capacity. The church had agreed to additional interment of ashes in the closed burial ground and the Clerk, having met Rev Payne would ascertain the viability of the area with Mr Sanderson.</p>	TC
<p>Two quotations for preparation of plans required by the planning authority and a topographical survey to facilitate accurate measurement of the site and a detailed grave plan had been received. It was agreed to appoint AFR Design for a total cost of £ 850 +VAT.</p>	TC
<p>The hydrogeological report had been received, which the Clerk was checking. It was noted that an accurate number of burial plots would be required as part of the planning process and this could be checked once the architectural drawings had been received.</p>	
<p>8.2 MSCWA. Cllrs Hopper and Wheeler reported upon recent activity. Alternative and cheaper insurance was being looked into. The pavilion open day had taken place on Sunday 4 August. The previous year's bonfire night excluded fireworks; for this year's event Cllr Byford would look into the regulations governing firework displays where livestock were close by.</p>	HB
<p>8.3 Option agreement. It was noted that the other side had advised that it would revert to Council's advisers on the heads of terms and, now that outline planning had been received, they were better able to consider the Council's desired terms.</p>	
<p>8.4 Middleham Safer Roads project. Cllr Byford tabled a written summary of activity, including visits to Aston University and Newmarket. The university had allocated funding of £40k, which was very positive, and it was hoped that the Royal Veterinary College would match this.</p>	
<p>8.5 Play area improvements; report of committee: The survey results were</p>	

Action

reviewed showing that 74% of the 42 respondents 'strongly agreed' that the Council should improve the facilities. 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 was suggested that the Committee look into drafting a plan for a phased development.

TC

8.6 Dog mess campaign: Noting that the grant of £450 had been received from NYCC it was agreed to purchase 3 bag dispensers and a supply of 2,500 bags from Tikspac for £370.02 + VAT.

9. Events in Middleham (standing item)

9.1 There were no current planned events.

10. Planning

10.1 Planning decision notices received since the last meeting:

10.1.1 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 It was reported that permission would **GRANTED**, subject to s106 agreement. It was noted that the Town Council would have input into the application of funds available from the developer pursuant to the s106 agreement.

10.2 Planning Applications.

10.2.1 Replacement of 3 Existing Sliding Sash Windows and One Fixed Casement which are rotten at Flat 1 The Salad Bowl Market Place Middleham Leyburn North Yorkshire DL8 4PG 19/00602/FULL. **Supported**

TC

10.2.2 Full Planning Permission for Internal Alterations, Blocking of a Small Window and Refurbishment of Conservatory, Middleham Grange Market Place Middleham Leyburn North Yorkshire DL8 4NR 19/00625/FULL **No comments.**

TC

10.2.3 Erection of extensions and roof terrace to provide toilets and storage area for the Bell Barn Tugill Park, Coverham R/60/30Q. It was noted that Council had, on several occasions, requested but not received, details of the strategic plans at Tugill Park in order to judge each application as the site developed substantially on an incremental basis. It was not known whether enforcement of the Tower erected by the same applicant had taken place. In the absence of confirmation of these points it was agreed not to support the application.

TC

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 31 July and 31 August 2019 were tabled.

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 White Rose Update

12.1.2 Friarage Consultation

13. Shared information and suggested items for the next agenda

13.1 Annual planner for agenda items; to note forthcoming business.

13.2 Items for next agenda:

Action

- 13.2.1 Transfer of unspent expenditure to reserves.
- 13.2.2 Transfer of balances to IH.
- 13.2.3 Confirm any financial objectives for the year ahead.
- 13.2.4 Middleham Bridge – structural concerns
- 13.2.5 Caravan and campervans on common land
- 13.2.6 Potential for conversion of Methodist chapel for affordable housing.

Date and time of the next meetings: The next monthly meeting would be the Council meeting on 30 October 2019.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm

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