

**Minutes of a Meeting of Middleham Town Council held in Middleham Key Centre on Wednesday, 30 October 2019 October at 7.00 pm. (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING)**

**Present**

Chairman Cllr Mrs S Fairhurst, Cllr Mrs H Byford, Cllr Mrs L Stocker, Cllr Mr S Wheeler, Cllr Mr G Fortune and Cllr Mr N Hopper.

Clerk, Mr D Keep

Members of the public as the attached attendance sheet.

**Action**

**1. Open Forum.**

No matters were raised.

**2. Apologies.**

An apology had been received from Cllr Mr M Cade. All other Councillors were present.

**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 25 September 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 The CCG's response to the Council's letter regarding closure of the Leyburn Minor Injuries Unit would be recirculated.

**Clerk**

**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).** These were reported elsewhere on the agenda.

**6.2 Land Management Issues (standing item)**

6.2.1 Plantations. Cllr Fortune and Cllr Hopper were currently discussing future maintenance of hedges and open areas with nearby residents. Conclusions would be discussed at the next meeting.

**Cllr Fortune /  
Cllr Hopper**

6.2.2 Caravan and campervans on common land. Incidents of camping on the Busks and near Pinker's Pond were noted. It was felt that these were less common on the Busks and no action was required. However it was agreed to review the signage at Pinkers Pond and regarding vehicle access across the gallops generally as there was a profusion of signs which may not be helpful. MTA would be consulted if changes were required.

**Cllr Byford**

6.2.3 **Request to ring birds on Council land.** This was approved

**Clerk**

**Action**

**6.3 Police Report (standing item).** The report was noted. It was unclear which property had been affected by fireworks and no further information had been received regarding who the culprits were.

**6.4 2021 The Lord of the North Festival.** Cllr Byford reported upon a well-attended planning meeting at which a variety of RIII groups had been present with the prospect that an effective organising committee might evolve. A further meeting would be held at 1.30pm on 9 November. At present no commitment would be made regarding potential commitment by individual councillors in an organisational capacity although council representation on any committee might be helpful.

**Cllr Fairhurst  
/ Cllr Byford**

**6.5 Unlicensed textile collections.** It was noted that high recycling values for old clothing attracted criminal activity and theft of collection banks. It was felt that this was less likely than in more urban areas however the Clerk would publicise the names of officially sanctioned collections by legitimate charities available from RDC's website.

**Clerk**

**6.6 VE Day celebrations 8 May 2020.** It was agreed to obtain further details and also to canvass opinion, including from the church and seniors' luncheon club before deciding whether to participate.

**Cllr Fairhurst  
/ Clerk**

### **6.7 Consultations**

6.7.1 Richmondshire District Council- budgets 2020-21.

6.7.2 North Yorkshire County Council - council services

The Council had circulated details of the above consultations amongst its contacts and hard copies were available from MKC reception.

6.7.3 Friarage Hospital Consultation. Some Councillors had attended recent briefing sessions, which were ongoing.

6.7.4 The North Yorkshire Strategy for Tackling Loneliness. Noted.

**6.8 Middleham Herald.** Councillors were reminded to submit their articles to Cllr Stocker as soon as possible.

## **7. Review of Health & Safety and Environmental Matters (standing item).**

**7.1 Play Area inspection reports.** Following discussion, it was agreed to ask Mr Robertson whether he could undertake removal of algae from the floor covering under the multi-play equipment in the Springs play area.

**Clerk**

### **7.2 Review of Flood incident 30 July 2019.**

7.2.1 Draft Emergency plan: Cllrs Hopper and Byford and the Clerk had met and progressed the response plan. A schedule of properties affected by the flood was now complete.

An unhelpful reply to the request to consider altering the stile from the churchyard that had held back flood water had been received from RDC which viewed the flooding as 'one off'. It was agreed to revert to RDC on this matter.

**Cllr Fairhurst  
/ Clerk**

It was noted that NYCC Highways had cleared the drains in the west end, including that in front of Westwood House, on MTC land, although that appeared still to have a high water level. Cllr Byford had met with the Area Manager and would arrange a further meeting to discuss the run off issues from the Low Moor and possible creation of a berm to prevent silt and other debris entering the town's drains.

**Cllr Byford**

### **7.3 Highways Issues:**

7.3.1 Recent resurfacing of roads and accidents. These works, affecting horse crossings and the step section from Spigot Lodge to the Low Moor and Common Lane to the High Moor, initially scheduled for September, were completed in October. Due to trainers' use of sand on Common Lane additional road sweeping had been required. Initial response from trainers was that the surface had been improved; further feedback would be obtained.

**Cllr Byford**

7.3.2 Middleham Bridge - structural concerns. Copies of email communication between

a resident and NYCC Highways and the County Councillor since 2014 were received. These raised concerns that installation of a new metal bridge deck in 2008 which appeared to cause damage to the stone buttresses due to heat expansion. Despite regular requests, a direct response had not been received. If repairs were required this would cause considerable local inconvenience. It was agreed to take up the matter with NYCC bridges.

Action

**7.4 Environmental Matters.** No matters to report

## 8. Project Updates:

**8.1 Burial Ground.** The architect had been instructed and the topographical survey was awaited.

Clerk

**8.2 MSCWA.** Cllrs Hopper and Wheeler reported upon recent activity. Better and cheaper insurance had been obtained. The bonfire night party at 6pm on 5 November would exclude fireworks. Rubbish sacks would be left out to ensure that the area was kept clear.

**8.3 Option agreement.** There were no developments to report. An update would be obtained.

Clerk

**8.4 Middleham Safer Roads project.** Cllr Byford tabled a written summary of activity.

**8.5 Play area improvements; report of committee:** No matters to report.

## 9. Events in Middleham (standing item)

**9.1 Christmas Lights:** It was agreed that a switching on ceremony would take place on Friday 6 December 2019, attended by the church choir. It was agreed to seek donations of food and drink from the hospitality businesses, failing which a budget of £100 would be set aside.

Clerk

**9.2 Spring Clean 2020:** It was agreed that this should become an annual event and in 2020 would be held on late March / early April, prior to Stables Open Day.

Cllr Fairhurst

**9.3 Stables Open Day 2020.** AN application to hold the event on Good Friday 10 April was received. The request to use council land for parking and other activities was approved.

Clerk

## 10. Planning

### 10.1 Planning decision notices received since the last meeting:

10.1.1 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 **GRANTED**

### 10.2 Planning Applications.

10.2.1 Change of Use of Land from Agriculture and Haulage Yard to Holiday Chalet Park and Associated Landscaping at Hillside Farm East Witton Road Middleham Leyburn DL8 4PT 19/00316. The applicant was present and briefly spoke regarding the application and answered Councillors' questions. Following discussion, considered that lighting on the site should be downwards so as not create undue light visible away from the site within a predominately rural area and that planting of trees etc. should only be native species. Subject to these concerns being taken on board, the application was supported.

10.2.2 Replace Plastic Double Glazing with Timber Sliding Sash Windows and a Timber Front Door (Front of Property Only) 2 North Road Middleham DL8 4PJ 19/00692. No comments.

**10.3 Potential Planning Enforcement Issues.** There were none.

Cllrs Cllr Byford and Cllr Wheeler had met with the building contractor at 9 St Alkelda's Road following an application to direct rainwater run-off from the site onto adjacent land. Council was aware that the land was 'no man's land' as it was not registered at the Land Registry but wished to ensure that an appropriate solution was agreed. It was noted that the planning authority and buildings inspectorate had not been prescriptive. Cllr Wheeler

**Action**

and Cllr Byford had been satisfied that arrangements for the construction of a soakaway on no man's land were adequate and would be preferable to increased discharge onto St Alkelda's Road.

**Cllr Wheeler****11. Finance – Information/Decision required**

**11.1** The cash book with a full bank reconciliation as at 30 September 2019 was received.

**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 pursuant to s137 Local Government Act.**

11.1.1 RBL – donation to funds for memorial wreath £105

11.1.2 Seniors Christmas lunch £100

11.1.3 Children's Christmas Grotto £300

**11.2 Budget and Precept.** The Clerk reported that the RDC procedure for submission of the precept early in the New Year was unchanged from previous years. He would attend a briefing held by RDC.

The Clerk outlined the assumptions underlying income and expenditure projections in the draft budget. The principal ones included:

- Setting up a new website was budgeted.
- Activity was largely based upon the current year.

Councillors were requested to review budget assumptions and to confirm any additional financial objectives for the year ahead. It was noted that VAT was not reclaimable on IH activity which would reduce charity income.

**All**

Cllr Fairhurst would approach Adrian Thornton-Berry regarding a land management plan, for which a budget allowance would be made.

**Cllr Fairhurst****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.

**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:

13.2.1 Potential for conversion of Methodist chapel for affordable housing

13.2.2 Selection of contractors for grounds and building maintenance purposes

**Date and time of the next meetings: The next monthly meeting would be the Council meeting on 11 December 2019 (rearranged from 27 November 2019).**

**There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm**

**Signed.....Date.....**