



BOROUGHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

1 HALL SQUARE, BOROUGHBRIDGE, NORTH YORKSHIRE, YO51 9AN
www.boroughbridge.org.uk
info@boroughbridge.org.uk
Tel: 01423 322956

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2022.

Meeting held in the Crown Hotel, Boroughbridge – safe distance protocols followed.

Councillors participating: P. Taylor (Chair), J. Wilkinson, R. Young, M. Kaczmarczyk, S. Hynes, J. Fuller, K. Fuller, J. Goss.

Clerk present: L Leatherbarrow.

Members of the public present: Mr B Dooks, Mr R Nixon. Mr Dawson, Ms Stephenson.

Meeting opened: 18.30

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr Peter Phillips, Cllr Pauline Phillips, Cllr R. Windass.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda- None

3. Mayor's Diary.

3.1 Civic engagements over the previous month.

* Tree Planting at Boroughbridge Recreation Ground – the Queen's Green canopy for The Platinum Jubilee.

3.2 Civic engagements over the next month.

* Wreath laying at the Battle Cross, Aldborough - 700th anniversary of the Battle of Boroughbridge.

4. Approval of previous Meeting Minutes.

4.1 Full Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday 1st February 2022.

PROPOSAL- To agree and sign off the Minutes detailed above. **All in favour.**

4.2 Planning Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday 1st February 2022.

PROPOSAL- To agree and sign off the Minutes detailed above. **All in favour**

5. Public questions/statements and requests to speak at Agenda item 4 received prior to the meeting.

A report was given by Mr Malcolm Dawson, The Chair of the Governors, Boroughbridge High School, and Ms Kathryn Stephenson, The Head Teacher of Boroughbridge High School.

As a first point Mr Dawson expressed thanks for being given the opportunity to speak at the meeting. He then described the process for suspension of the Sixth Form.

The Governing body sent letters to the parents of the students attending the Sixth Form outlining the decision to close the facility. The decision to close the Sixth Form was taken as there were only 12 students on roll, which was not financially nor educationally considered to be sustainable. Admissions to the Sixth Form were suspended for 2 years and at the end of the period, the statutory period of Consultation opened.

The school is now supporting students at the end of Year 11 to make choices about their next steps. The

school is keenly aware of the importance of the educational environment provided in the Sixth Form, with social choices considered an important part of the provision in the educational environment.

Numbers on roll have fallen for the last 6-7 years with the school population dropping from 650 to 475 students in Years 7-11. Fewer students from Ripon are now coming into the school.

The recent boom in housebuilding in Boroughbridge suggests that numbers will rise again. However, the issue seems to be around who is buying the new houses. Parents with young people already attending a senior school may have moved into the area, but they are possibly continuing to transport their children to an existing school, and if they have children of Primary school age it may take up to 5-10 years before this will impact on the school numbers. The school has had to act in response to the situation as it now stands. Financial allocations of funding per Y7-Y11 pupil have dropped by 10% and by 23% for Sixth Form pupils. Funding is a key issue.

A concern/question had been raised about whether the use of the school facilities by the local community has reduced. Mr Dawson explained that in fact records show there has been an increase in use from 30 groups to 45 groups now using the facilities; with rates charged now lower than previously. However, income from this community use does not go to the pupil funding budgets.

Whilst this role in the community is considered as an important role for the school, which the school is keen to encourage and maintain, it does not help with the financial issue in question.

Agreement was shared that there has been much misinformation around in the community attached to the situation. It had been suggested there may be an opportunity to create a Facebook link between the school and the Council which may share information better. This was welcomed by all.

Mr Dawson confirmed that a letter about the Consultation process of closure was sent to the Council, but no letter had been received. The Consultation period was between 18th November and 10th December 2021. Ms Stephenson stressed that the Sixth Form had been under threat of closure for a long while. Closure was fought against as the value of the facility in Boroughbridge is recognised. For the last 2/3 years teaching in the Sixth Form was kept at Boroughbridge, but now the Federation agreement means the students have moved to King James site. The school still considers it provides education for 11–18-year-olds not just for 11-16 years, with students moving to King James High School, Knaresborough as Boroughbridge high is now part of the Federation.

A question was asked about how the Boroughbridge based representation on the Governing Body has been affected by the change to a Federation. Mr Dawson explained that there are still 40% Governors who are from Boroughbridge and 60% are from Knaresborough. Two Boroughbridge Governors did not remain in role. He stressed the Federation Governing body looks at both schools and works as a community team to help inform decisions from the context of both communities.

A priority has been to increase in-take numbers at Y7, by working with 30 partner Primary Schools to attract pupils in Y6 to the school. The impact of this is positive but with low numbers it is slow. Ms Stephenson explained that positive feedback from community activities helps with attracting children to the school. The impact of the Pandemic on limiting/stopping community activities has not helped the school with its recruitment. It is hoped a Facebook link could also help promote the many successes of students in the activities they are involved in within the community, which would also raise the profile of the school.

A question was raised about whether there might be any positive financial impact for the school from the changes to a Unitary Authority in North Yorkshire. Mr Dawson explained pupil funding is determined by The Department For Education, not the Local Authority.

It was asked if funding generated because of new housebuilding and paid as Commuted Sums, affected the school budgets. Mr Dawson explained only Capital spending is permissible from Commuted Sums monies, not pupil funding and a lot of this capital allocation has gone locally into Early Years Provision and Primary School building.

A question was asked as to how the school is working to make it appealing to local parents. Ms Stephenson stressed she is keen to promote the successes of the school and its students within the community. She welcomed an opportunity for any partnership working to promote the school. She stressed she is proud of the achievements of the school's pupils. She welcomed growing links locally to promote the many good things happening at the school.

The Mayor and Councillors offered to give any support they could towards the school and thanked the Headteacher and Chair of Governors for attending the meeting and sharing information about the school.

6. External Stakeholder and Working Group Reports.

6.1 County and District Councillor's written monthly report

Cllr R. Windass gave apologies, he was unable to attend the meeting. No report was given.

6.2 Police report.

PCSO Jack Gudger and PCSO Oana Mihaila were present at the meeting.

PCSO Gudger explained that Mike Spittlehouse is still working in Ripon; he gave apologies for difficulties with attending previous meetings.

Discussion was shared about recent events in Boroughbridge including an incident in Eastgate, which had been reported to a Councillor; an incident in Springfield, again shared with a Councillor; and an incident at the Recreation ground.

The PCSO's were aware of the incidents mentioned and stressed the importance of all incidents being reported formally to the Police.

The difficulties when using the 101/999 call system were highlighted again by Cllr Wilkinson. It was agreed the delay in response times to calls impacts on whether reports are sometimes made by the public. The PCSO's explained the call centre operatives must prioritise 999 calls but suggested anyone reporting a dangerous incident must consider when 999 is the appropriate number to call.

Frustrations were expressed by the PCSO's that if incidents are not reported to the Police, it hampers outcomes for those involved. An example was given of a situation concerning partnership working with the Housing Department. The Department require Police report information to act on issues shared. It was also stressed that reports taken help confirm facts about an incident.

The PCSO's agreed to follow up with checks on information shared to the Councillor about issues that are continuing and have been long running.

Some statistics from the latest crime report were discussed.

It was a concern that the number of incidents relating to the school have increased. The PCSO's explained measures they are taking in response to the increase. Their work is aimed at preventing crimes escalating in future, both in number and severity.

Domestic violence crimes have also increased, it was suggested this is possibly because of the impact of lockdowns and more people working from home.

Threats made using social media are also increasingly common and are impacting on the number of crimes seen. The PCSO's are frustrated and exasperated at the increase in incidents that are caused by inappropriate use of social media and threats made.

The illegal parking of cars/vehicles in and around Boroughbridge was discussed. Situations of dangerous parking outside the school on York Road was mentioned, as illegal parking is often causing a hazard, endangering pedestrians.

It was commented that within Boroughbridge there is a lack of challenge to inappropriate parking, which needs addressing.

Thanks were expressed to the PCSO's for attending the meeting and for their support. Both PCSO's said they will endeavour to attend future meetings when they can, and PCSO Mihaila affirmed they can be contacted by e-mail.

7. Matters arising from previous minutes not specifically covered on the agenda.

7.1 A short presentation to Council by Malcolm Dawson, Chair of Governors and Kathryn Stephenson, Head Teacher of Boroughbridge High School, regarding future developments at BHS.

See 5. Above.

7.2 Progress update on the re-development of the A1 exit roundabout and Traffic Control measures.

The Council is still waiting for information and responses to be received.

PROPOSAL- To include the issue in the next Meeting agenda. **All in Favour.**

7.3 The Minskip MUGA.

PROPOSAL- To include the issue in the next Meeting agenda. **All in Favour.**

7.4 The organising of Remembrance Day 2022

Cllr Fuller reported that meetings held have helped to alleviate potential problems and misapprehensions about the organisation of Remembrance Day events. Communication links have been improved and the situation is improved consequently.

7.5 Pre-planning for the Mill Lane site – the way forward to be decided

Frustrations were expressed about the slow pace of resolving this issue.

The costs of the Pre-Planning Meeting were considered, and it was agreed were essential to moving forward with any development.

PROPOSAL- To book a Pre-Planning meeting with Harrogate Planning Officers, and to ensure adequate preparation is made prior to the meeting to ensure the Council's aims will be well represented. **All in favour.**

8. New issues.

8.1 Councillor Elections May 2022.

The Mayor reinforced the fact that the papers must be delivered in person to the Civic Centre, Harrogate. Copies of all paperwork associated with the election process have been received by the Clerk team and are available from them.

8.2 Confirm the default venue for Full Council Meetings to be The Crown Hotel.

PROPOSAL- To continue currently to use the Crown Hotel for Council Meetings. **All in favour.**

8.3 Agreement of the recently received draft lease for the land on which the "Third Arrow" is situated

The draft lease has been circulated to Councillors. However, there is a map missing from the document.

PROPSAL- Cllr Wilkinson to liaise with the Town Clerk to review the documents and consider next steps. **All in Favour.**

9. Finance and HR.

9.1 Ratify the end February 2022 Finance Statement, Bank Reconciliation and February invoices paid.

No questions about the reports were raised.

PROPOSAL- To ratify the February Finance Statement, Bank Reconciliation and February invoices paid. **All in Favour.**

9.2 Ratification of the purchase of a long-anticipated replacement of the CCTV HDD drive in the Council Office at a cost of £697.20.

PROPOSAL- To ratify the purchase of the equipment as described. **All in Favour.**

9.3 Ratification of hiring crowd control barriers for Car Park the Battle of Boroughbridge Saturday 12th March events at a cost of £264.

PROPOSAL- To ratify hiring of the barriers as described. **All in favour.**

10. Correspondence received since the last Full Council Meeting.

10.1 E mail dated 10th February from Boroughbridge Lions with an offer of support for environmental Projects

The mayor spoke on behalf of the Council to reinforce that the Town Council welcomes all/any support made available for vulnerable people within Boroughbridge. She commended the support to projects initiated and wished them success. No project will be initiated by the Council.

11. Open forum for Councillors to share pertinent issues with Council.

Cllr John Goss

Has met with the Insurance Company concerning the accident in the Back Lane Car Park. The insurers will process the claim made. The outcome of investigations has highlighted the marking on the speed bump to be insufficient.

ACTION- The Clerks will ensure markings are improved and visibility of the humps is enhanced.

Cllr Robert Young

Detailed an event that is being planned as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at the Sports Club. The event is focused on celebrating with children and older people in the community, providing an afternoon tea and fun activities. A request was made for a financial donation in support of the event from the Council.

ACTION- The Clerk to arrange for a donation to be paid to the event being planned.

Cllr James Wilkinson

Suggested that now that the Boroughbridge Town Council Facebook page is running, two Councillors are added to the Admin team on the page.

ACTION- Cllr Wilkinson and Cllr Kaczmarczyk will act as Councillor Admin in addition to the Clerk team.

Cllr Wilkinson reported that during the recent flooding event, partnership working between the Environment Agency and the Boroughbridge volunteers was not felt to be as supportive and as successful as it could have been.

ACTION- Cllr Pauline Phillips and Cllr Peter Phillips will arrange a meeting with the Environment Agency representatives to review the last event. They will report back to Council after the meeting.

Cllr Sean Hines

Reported that he has met with Linda Dooks to confirm and develop plans for the Battle of Boroughbridge events in Aldborough.

Cllr Julie Fuller

Reported that lifesaving equipment on the River Ure near the bridge, is in need of review to ensure its efficacy.

ACTION- Cllr Fuller to identify remediations needed.

Cllr Fuller requested that research into the provision of an ATM in Boroughbridge Town centre is added as an agenda item for the next Council Meeting.

ACTION- Clerk to add this as an agenda item for April Council Meeting

Cllr Fuller expressed her disappointment and disgust at the poor state of the pavements in Boroughbridge, especially with respect to dog faeces, litter and other detritus.

Cllr Kenny Fuller

Reported that he had made reports to HBC via the Parish Portal about the many blocked gullies in Boroughbridge, which need clearing.

Cllr Fuller outlined the programme of events planned for the Battle of Boroughbridge Celebration Day 12th March 2022.

Cllr Fuller reinforced that the Celebration Day arrangements necessitated a cancellation of the recycling collection service in the Back Lane car park.

ACTION- Deputy Clerk to ensure a notice about the cancellation of the recycling collection is placed on the Council Facebook Page and is advertised on the website and on Council noticeboards.

Cllr Pat Taylor

Asked the Councillors to notify her of any issues they would like her to include in her report to the next JPC Meeting on 24th March 2022.

12. Confirm the time and date and venue of the next Full Council Meeting.

Tuesday 5th April 2022, 18:30 pm, Crown Hotel.

Meeting closed at 20.45

Following the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, the right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the Council, Committees and Sub Committees is established, but anyone wishing to do so, should advise the Clerk or Chair of the Council, to ensure compliance with BTC's adopted policy to manage this activity effectively and lawfully.

Signed _____
Chair of the Council

Dated: 5th April 2022