



BOROUGHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7th MARCH 2023.

Meeting held at the Council Offices.

Councillors attending: Sean Hynes (Chair), James McNeil, John Goss, Monika Kaczmarczyk, Robert Young, Julie Fuller, Kenny Fuller. District County Councillor Robert Windass attended to give his report and left afterwards.

Clerk present: L. Leatherbarrow.

Meeting opened: 18:31.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Pauline Phillips, Cllr Peter Phillips, Cllr James Wilkinson.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None declared.

3. Approval of previous Meeting Minutes.

3.1 Full Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday 7th February 2023.

Proposed.

All in Favour.

3.2 Planning Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday 7th February 2023.

Proposed.

All in Favour.

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

None received.

5. External Stakeholder and Working Group Reports

5.1 County and District Councillor's report.

District County Councillor (DCCLr) Windass gave his report:

The new Unitary Council has finalised the budget and rules of engagement for the future. Area Planning Committees will be included in the new structure, DCCLr Windass is to sit on the Area Planning Committee for the Knaresborough constituency area, including Boroughbridge.

Costs have been very high for the forthcoming year, £30Million has been taken from County Council reserves to balance the budget for 2023-2024.

Details of some of the expenses incurred in the redeployment of existing personnel resulting from the reorganisation to the new Unitary Authority were shared.

Similarly details of the disposal of some current office buildings was explained.

A new telephone system is to be introduced for residents contacting the new Council. The system will use voice recognition to redirect residents to the appropriate local area from the central 01609 500600 telephone number initially.

DCllr Windass met with Area 6 Officer Melissa Burnham regarding the clearance of the gulley's in Boroughbridge. The gulley's were subsequently cleared. Cllr Julie Fuller commented that this was only partially successful as without notice of the clearing, cars parked over drains/gulley's were not moved. Consequently, some drains still remain blocked.

The date to resurface Roecliffe Lane has been discussed again. Originally the resurfacing was included in 2023-2024 planning, but it may now move to 2024-2025 plans. Hopefully this will not happen, and a date may be brought forward.

The development of Station Gateway in Harrogate may be a focus for spending, a vote will take place on this. It was costed at c £19Million.

Improvements to the A59 are currently progressing with funding from Central Government supporting costs. The issue of the site of new bus stops outside Stumps Cross Farm was raised with Melissa Burnham and plans were shared with Area 6. Work has started with raising kerbs possibly for the bus stops.

The final days of the existing Harrogate Borough Council organisation is prompting lots of meetings that were scheduled to be now cancelled.

DCllr Windass was approached for advice regarding planning application processes for change of use of land by the Sports Facility Working Group. DCllr Windass has obtained a response from Senior Planning Officer Turpin, which he will forward to Cllr Jamie McNeil.

DCllr Windass has given information to the Stray Ferret about CCTV costs following his comments made in Council. The article will be available soon and reflects his views about inconsistency with charges demanded for accessing CCTV information.

Following the presentation of his report DCllr Windass left the meeting.

5.2 Police Report

No report has been received.

5.3 Events and Social Working Group report.

A Litter Pick has been organised for 25th March 2023 by Brighter Boroughbridge and Cllr John Goss. Support at the event was welcomed.

5.4 Social Media and News Working Group report.

Cllr McNeil gave an update:

The Swish Fibre broadband company have been laying infrastructure in Boroughbridge to support their broadband services. Cllr McNeil has met with a Swish representative to learn about the programme of services Swish are developing in Boroughbridge. Swish are offering some free broadband services to schools and community facilities locally. The Town Council have made the Tourist Information space in the Council offices available to Swish to enable the company to explain their services to local residents on 16th and 17th March.

5.5 Schools Liaison Group report.

No report.

5.6 Menwith Hill Liaison Group report.

The Deputy Mayor and Cllr Peter Phillips have accepted an invitation to attend a Spring Reception event at Menwith Hill on 23rd March.

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

6.1 Update on the sale of Mill Lane

Cllr Hynes explained there is no further news to report since the revised offer with Planning permission was accepted for the site.

6.2 Update on the development of, and changes to, website

Cllr Wilkinson has led on progressing development of the new website. In his absence the Clerk gave a report of progress made.

The new format is almost complete and ready to go live. Final amendments need to be received as soon as possible in order that they are actioned in good time for the site to be completed.

Training has been arranged for the Clerk team to manage the site.

There were errors identified on the draft site that prompted the councillors to ask for the draft to be reviewed. Again suggestions/comments will be submitted.

The clerk will manage the system in place to allow local businesses to advertise on the website. Interest has already been received from some local businesses to be included in the business listing.

6.3 Sports Field Facility update

Cllr McNeil gave an update:

The proposed idea of completing a land swap has been unsuccessful. The working group are now pursuing the possibility of using land at Aldborough Gate. DCCLr Windass had been approached for advice about Planning permissions, see above 5.1. The support was gratefully received by the working group. Access to the proposed space is an issue that is being discussed with Taylor Wimpey who have developed the houses. Concerns exist now about the speed limit on Wetherby Road if a facility is developed. This will be the focus of actions now for the working group.

Cllr McNeil explained the idea to possibly lease the site of the 2 Devils Arrows field is now something to be revisited at a future date, but is not a priority focus for the working group currently.

6.4 Commuted Sums update, including proposals to be confirmed (x three)

Cllr Hynes and Cllr K Fuller declared an interest in the allotment land detailed in the documents.

Proposal: to accept all three proposals outlined by Cllr Phillips in his report circulated prior to the meeting.

All in Favour.

6.5 New structure of Committees with review of membership and confirmation of dates for meetings planned in 2023

The Chair proposed that discussion around this issue was deferred to the next meeting in April due to absence of 3 councillors who are integral to the new committee organisation.

All in Favour.

6.6 Boroughbridge Town Council Co-option Process

Cllr K Fuller expressed his anger about his inability to obtain information around the co-option process. He repeated questions he had raised about the Council decisions made.

The Chair referred Cllr Fuller back to the fact Cllr Fuller had declared an interest on this point.

Cllr Fuller was very angry and left the meeting to protest at how his questions were not being answered, and as a reflection of his anger.

7. New issues.

7.1 Boroughbridge Town Council Policies

Cllr Hynes reported that the Policies were being reviewed. Recommendations and amendments will be shared when they are collated.

7.2 Review of Tenders and Contracts currently held.

Cllr Hynes reported a review of current Tenders and contracts held by the Town Council is also taking place. Actions have been identified during the review and the process is continuing.

Cllr Goss requested that he be involved with decision making that related to accessibility to Council Assets/buildings, especially mentioning entrance gates at Aldborough Gate cemetery and The Devils Arrow site, and the disabled toilet design in the public toilets in Back Lane Car Park.

ACTION: Clerk to get a quote for a self-closing gate suitable for Aldborough Gate Cemetery and the Devils Arrows site.

7.3 To review the Cemetery Charges for 2023-2024 and confirm the date for Cemetery Inspections by Cemeteries Committee.

Cllr Young explained how charges for Boroughbridge Town Council cemeteries are linked to Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) cemetery and burial charges.

Proposal: To defer this issue to after the end of March when HBC prices are confirmed for 2023-2024 and will be available to refer to.

All in Favour.

Cllr Young commented that the Cemeteries Committee will arrange a date for a Cemetery Inspection and 'walk round'. The inspection will include an opportunity to consider the issues recently identified by a contractor and allow for them to be discussed.

ACTION: Cllr Young to confirm a date with the Cemetery Committee members for the Cemetery 'walk round' before April 4th.

7.4 A response from the Town Council to the Draft Parish Charter consultation
Individual responses have been received from the Councillors.

ACTION: The Clerk to compile and submit a shared response from the Council reflecting the views individually expressed.

7.5 Actions to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles in May 2023
Suggestions were made and discussed.

ACTION: Events and Social Working Group to price and source materials to fulfil ideas suggested, including gift for children, display board/crown for Buttermarket space and bunting.

7.6 To consider the North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy document February 2023 (See also 9.4).
The information was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Proposal: To convene a new Environment Working group when there is a review of Committees completed.

All in Favour.

8. Finance and HR.

8.1 To agree the end February 2023 Finance Statement, Bank Reconciliation and payments to end of February 2023

Proposal: To accept the February 2023 Finance Statement, Bank Reconciliation and payments to end of February.

All in Favour.

8.2 To ratify repayment of monies paid for Grave 872 to current owner due to repurchasing of plot by Boroughbridge Town Council.

Proposal: To ratify repayment of monies paid for Grave 872 to current owner due to repurchasing of plot by Boroughbridge Town Council.

All in Favour.

9. Additional correspondence received since the last Full Council Meeting.

9.1 Letter from resident on Roecliffe Lane

The letter was discussed, the comments duly noted and the Council expressed their commiserations to the resident.

9.2 Letter re Speed and type of vehicle on Wetherby Road

The letter was discussed.

The issue of vehicles not complying with speed restrictions and weight limits on local roads is a matter that has already been raised and noted. Unfortunately, the Council have no powers to enforce speed limits or weight limits. The comments were noted.

9.3 North Yorkshire Climate Change Strategy- Consultation Document

See above 7.6

9.4 Service Level Agreement Contract for Customer Access, including Tourist Information, Point.

The Clerk circulated the letter for information prior to the meeting.

The contents were noted. The agreement has been returned.

9.5 Letter about road crossing outside Crown Hotel, Boroughbridge.

The letter was discussed.

ACTION: Clerk to send a response to the resident from the Council.

9.6 Letter about 7.5-ton weight limit on roads in Boroughbridge.

The letter was discussed.

ACTION: Clerk to send a response to the resident from the Council.

9.7 Letter to confirm grass cutting services in Aldborough.

The letter was discussed.

The Chair expressed his thanks on behalf of the Council, for the services given by the retiring contractor Mr Foster.

ACTION: Clerk to issue new contract for Aldborough grass cutting.

11. Any Other Business.

Cllr Kaczmarczyk explained how she had worked in partnership with officers from Harrogate Borough Council to determine where the dog 'poo' bins will be set up in Minskip. She reported the process had been complicated and will most likely need to be repeated in other sites in Boroughbridge in future.

It was acknowledged that education will be needed for residents to understand the new waste processes permitted regards disposal of dog faeces.

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

Tuesday 4th April 2023, 6.30pm, Council Offices.

The meeting ended at 20.24

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 _____
Mayor and Chair of Council

Date _____