

## **RYEDALE TOWN COUNCILS**

### **Ryedale Five Towns**

Church House

High Market Place

Kirkbymoorside

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm**

### **NOTES**

#### **Present:**

KIRKBYMOORSIDE: Councillor Chris Dowie (Chairman)  
Councillor Joe Coughlan and Lisa Bolland Clerk  
HELMSLEY: Councillor Chris Parkin, Dinnah Farley Clerk and Victoria Ellis Assistant Clerk  
MALTON: Councillors Paul Andrews and Denys Townsend and Mike PC Skehan Clerk  
NORTON: Ros Tierney Clerk and Tim Hicks Assistant Clerk  
PICKERING: Councillors Joy Andrews and Sue Cowan and Andrew Husband Clerk

#### **Guest Speakers:**

Jan Devos

Neil Irving, Assistant Director, NYCC

Lee Taylor, Management Co-ordinator- East, NYCC Library and Information Service

Councillor Dowie welcomed all present and thanked the guest speakers in advance for their participation at the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mayor of Norton Mr R King and Councillor M Hodgson.
2. Notes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at Norton were agreed.
3. There were no matters arising from the notes not included on the agenda.
4. **NYCC budgets and policies.**  
A report was provided by Neil Irving, Assistant Director (Policy & Partnerships), North Yorkshire County Council, attached.

Focus was laid on the fact that whilst cuts are to be implemented and services restricted it is imperative that a dialogue is established with each town to determine their specific needs and establish the most effective way to satisfy these. This was further explained that by addressing the core of the problem it can alleviate pressure off other key services which can be better used in other locations. E.g. establishing that a lack of well-being in some cases is actually loneliness and can be addressed through socialising as opposed to medical attention. To this end NYCC will be approaching communities and starting conversations with community leaders to establish the key areas of concern to determine the best direction to focus on.

In response to the bus subsidy cuts there is a compromise available whereby NYCC would be prepared to provide the vehicle and the cost of the fuel and staffing would be the responsibility of the town. It is not possible to provide a monetary figure to this proposal as it is dependent on each application.

Car clubs have been started up in several towns and depending on the demographic of the town this can be successful.

NYCC is keen for dialogue to be initiated by the towns for consideration of proposals where a contribution/cohesive arrangement could be instigated. This non-prescription approach will be trialled in one area per district with the Market Towns and Hinterland comprising 1 area.

## **5. Libraries.**

A report was provided by Lee Taylor (Management Co-ordinator- East) North Yorkshire Library and Information Service, attached.

The impact of savings to the library services will be extreme with the expectation that NYCC will only be able to support 1 library per District as a starting point (!!!)

The staff cuts will mean that the remaining staff will focus predominantly on working with communities i.e. supporting others to deliver for NYCC.

There is the opportunity to influence how library money is spent and NYCC are keen to establish the needs of the communities and try to ensure as little impact as possible by the cuts.

Q: Can the £2million cut over 4 years be phased so that any government changes can be accommodated?

A: The answer was that it is unlikely that a government change will occur that would have this influence. NO

Phasing will commence with 1/4million in the 1<sup>st</sup> year.

Q: Will consultations on proposals be made or consultation on developing a proposal?

A: Consultation on developing a proposal

Q: Are the cost of repairs, refurbishment and Rates covered by NYCC?

A: NO. NYCC provide book stock, NYNet, IT (including computers but excluding servicing support) etc. The communities running the library will pick up all the costs. Rates are not applicable as 80% mandatory and 20% discretionary relief is available.

It was explained that funding needs to be negotiated/borrowed from the government, it is not free flowing.

Emphasis was expressed on the potential to make savings through community goodwill.

## **6. It was agreed to change the order of the agenda to consider agenda item 9 prior to item 6. Action for Market Towns**

Jan Devos provided a report on hosting an Action for Market Towns (AMT) Convention. The information was received with interest and it was agreed that this proposal would be considered by each of the Town Councils at the next meeting and it would be up to each town to decide if they want to be part of the bid and that a bid may be submitted even if not

all towns agree to take part. It was agreed that full consideration and complete commitment by those towns agreeing to submit the bid would be essential to proceed.

7. **Fracking.** In the absence of Mark Hill, National Parks it was agreed to defer this item. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with Mark Hill, at the earliest opportunity, to consider this matter and L Bolland, Clerk will provide confirmation of these details.

8. **RDC's retention of precept grant.**

It was evident that despite submissions to the National Associations of Local Councils, and the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations, detailing the District Councils proposals to halve the Government grant for 2014/15 and then remove it completely the year after that, the views of the 5 Towns had not been taken into account with the result that money which was essentially meant for towns and parishes will remain within the District Councils budget.

It had been suggested that few towns had complained about the reduction to the precept and this was largely due to the balance of funds awarded in accordance with the revised tax calculation. Pickering stated that it was happy with the funds received on balance and disinclined to pursue the matter.

It was suggested that the Towns jointly submit a letter to the MP, Mr Pickles and RDC to express their dissatisfaction with this reduction of grant and withholding of funds. It was agreed that this would be considered by each of the Town Councils at the next meeting and it would be up to each town to decide if they wanted to submit a joint response.

9. **Car Parking.**

A report received from Tom Bryant, Highways & Transportation, NYCC was received which addressed the issues raised at the last meeting, attached.

It was noted that a review of signage is necessary in Malton as the signage is inadequate and there has been no policing of certain areas where the lines have been blacked out. Malton expressed increasing dissatisfaction with regard to the parking enforcement and the location of double yellow lines in areas where they are considered to be inappropriate. It was agreed that these issues need to be directed to NYCC Highways.

It was suggested that a review of the proposals should have been carried out prior to enforcement.

It was agreed that it would be of benefit for Richard Marr and Tom Bryant to attend the next meeting to address these concerns.

10. **StreetScene**

Concerns were raised by Kirkbymoorside in respect of the absence of street sweeping predominantly on the main streets. Norton similarly experience a void of street cleaning in particular areas. Helmsley, Malton and Pickering however are satisfied with the attention provided by StreetScene and it was suggested that the quality of service is likely down to the ability of the individual operating in each town and not StreetScene as a whole.

Concern was raised regarding dog fouling which is a shared problem.

The 'Caught Doing it Right' concept was discussed whereby responsible owners are rewarded.

It was suggested that the dog Warden should liaise more closely with the police and evidence be publicised of this relationship to act as a further deterrent. The allocation of the Dog Wardens time spent enforcing deterrents for dog fouling would be of interest. Additionally it would be more efficient if a flexi-time approach was adopted by the Dog Warden to enable policing early in the morning and in the evenings when dog walkers are more prevalent.

**11. Any other business.**

Concern was raised that Planning Applications should be stayed until the site allocation process as determined by the Local Plan is complete.

For those towns that feel this is an issue it was agreed that this would be considered by the Town Council at the next meeting with the possibility of submitting a joint response to RDC to support this view.

Appreciation was given of Jason Fitzgerald-Smith for his contributions to the 5 Towns meetings and it was agreed that a letter of thanks would be sent to his partner on behalf of the 5 Towns.

**12. To arrange meeting dates - clerks and Five Towns.**