



## KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL

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### **Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held at Church House, Kirkbymoorside on Monday 18 June at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Councillors C Dowie (Chairman), P Brewster, M Brampton, J Coughlan, J Cossins, D Marsden, J Watson and S Ward

**Also Present:** 8 members of the public and R Gibbeson (Assistant Clerk)

11322 Cllr Dowie welcomed those present to the meeting.

11323 **Annual Accounts and Return to 31 March 2012**

- a) The Accounts for the year to 31 March 2012 were **approved**
- b) The report dated 12 June prepared by the RFO on variances against figures in the accounts for the year to 31 March 2012 was **approved**.
- c) The figures to be included in Section 1 (Accounting Statements) of the Annual Return for the year to 31 March 2012, as set out in Moore Stephens' report dated 6 June were **approved**.
- d) The Bank Reconciliation for inclusion with the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2012, as set out in Moore Stephens' report dated 6 June 2012 was **approved**.
- e) The Annual Governance Statements set out in section 2 of the Annual return were considered in relation to the year ending 31 March 2012 and were **approved**.
- f) A Minute of items 11323 (a) – (e) above was **approved**.

- 11324 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Turlington.
- 11325 Cllr P Brewster signed the Councillor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the Council.
- 11326 There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda

11327 **Minutes & Matters Arising**

- a) The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2012 were **approved**
- b) There were no matters arising.

11328 **Presentation by Mr G Housden, Head of Planning at Ryedale District Council**

Matters discussed included:

- The framework for consideration of planning applications comprised the Ryedale Plan which was currently being updated for publication later in the year, the National Policy Planning Framework, the previous Ryedale Plan and the Regional Spatial Strategy (currently being revoked). Evidence used in compiling the Plan was broad including population statistics, Ryedale's capacity for accommodating development and inward migration etc.
- The new policy document would continue to presume sustainable development taking into account economic, social and environmental factors.
- In considering applications, the Planning Committee could only take into account matters considered to be material and relevant to each case
- The definition of material matters was always subject to change but these were always concerned with appropriate use of land rather than issues related, for example, to loss of view
- Planning could not take into account matters relating to competition between businesses
- Town and Parish Councils had to be consulted on every application and local views were considered to be very important by the Planning Committee
- The main thrust of comments received from individuals on applications were often summarised while the detail of Councils' comments was always considered
- 85% of planning decisions were delegated to officers. The role of the Planning Committee was often to adjudicate differences of opinion between Officers and public or Councils in respect of material issues
- Political choices had to be made in developing the Ryedale Plan, especially in relation to the number of houses expected to be built by area in each 15-year period. The next issue of the Plan was likely to continue to predict a need for 300 houses in Kirkbymoorside notwithstanding the construction of houses which had taken place in the last few years largely on 'windfall' sites'. A political decision to build all required houses for Ryedale in the 'railhead' areas of Malton/Norton was unlikely.
- There was currently no defined list of preferred sites for development. RDC would be going out to consultation with Town and Parish Councils shortly over a list of possible sites for inclusion in the next Plan. Within the sites document, a 5-year supply of land was to be identified.
- In general, 90% of applications approved were actually built. The number of houses actually built yearly had fallen from 40-50 to 20 in the last few years.
- Kirkbymoorside had not had any planning approvals outside its development limits in recent years

- Development of brown field sites was still policy though the number available was small
- In relation to provision of affordable housing, each Plan was based generally on 35% per development but there were variations according to market areas. Models for bulk housing were different to those for smaller developments.
- Government had legislated to bring in a 'Community Infrastructure Levy' the purpose of which was to take into account what developments would bring to an area and to provide for financial contributions towards roads, leisure and public amenities. RDC would be consulting Town and Parish Councils in this regard.

The Chairman thanked Mr Housden for his excellent contribution,

11329 Public Session – matters raised by the public had been covered during the presentation by Mr Housden.

#### 11330 **Discussions with District and County Councillors**

- a) No questions had been raised
- b) Restrictions placed on the positioning of skips – it was **agreed** to enquire of the County Council whether licences for skips could be revoked or curtailed if circumstances demanded.
- c) Community Investment Levy – Cllr Ward agreed to share notes she had on this matter with all Councillors.

#### 11331 **Financial Matters**

- a) The schedule of cheque payments was **approved**.
- b) The financial statements for the previous month were **received**.
- c) It was **noted** that £49,999 had been revolved on deposit for a further 3 months.

#### 11332 **Streetlights**

- a) It was **agreed** to determine whether County would be prepared to undertake a survey of concrete posts to be replaced with a view to eventual adoption of new lighting.
- b) The draft tender document for maintenance of street lights was **approved** subject to the addition of a clause on Freedom of Information supplied by Cllr Ward.

#### 11333 **Old Library**

- a) Short term use – it was **agreed** that the building be let for social networking purposes subject to further consideration of:
  - The person or body to which the building was to be leased and the basis of the lease
  - Review of longer term usage which could include use by youth groups and workers or by the Ryedale Folk Museum
  - Feedback from the community questionnaire

It was also **agreed** that Cllr Ward should pursue discussions with the Ryedale Folk Museum about possible longer term uses.

- b) Rent – it was **agreed** that no rent be charged for short term letting on a non-exclusive use basis. It further **agreed** that the Old Library be let for 6 months

rent free on a trial basis.

- c) Maintenance works – it was **noted** that discussions had been held with the contractor to be appointed about the terms of the order and programme of works. These were likely to be started in August and take around 4 weeks to complete. Permission to be sought from the Parish Council for access to the rear of the building to carry out work.

11334 **Town Guide**

It was **agreed** that a single guide be produced serving the purposes of both visitors and residents.

11335 **Office ICT**

- a) Web hosting and domain name ownership – Councillors noted concerns which had arisen as a result of certain documentation used by the Council apparently being displayed via a privately-owned domain name rather than as part of the .gov.uk name. It was **agreed** that all Council documentation should in future be available only through the .gov.uk domain and that there should be a review to determine the options for doing so together with associated costs.  
(Councillors resolved at this point to continue the meeting beyond the appointed finishing time.)
- b) Website updating – it was agreed that consideration of this matter be **deferred** and included within the overall review of domain names and web hosting.

11336 **Ryedale District Council Chairman's Charity Fund**

It was **agreed** not to support the charity fund.

11337 **Planning Applications**

It was noted that the Tesco planning application was due for consideration by the RDC Planning Committee on 26 June. To date Tesco had failed to respond positively to any of the points put forward by the Town Council and it was **agreed** that this concern be notified to the Planning Committee together with a re-statement of points raised to date.

11338 **Community Plan**

- a) Questionnaire – while recognising that the Plan was to be led by the community, Councillors felt that their own representatives to the Steering Group should have a brief from the Council about possible inclusions or modifications to the questionnaire. Such inclusions and modifications included:
- Possible use of the Old Library as a community building
  - Possible limits on the number of houses to be constructed in the area
  - A change in the format of the questions to elicit clear answers, replacing 'What should be done..' by 'What (outcome) would you like to see from...'
  - A question about Library opening hours
  - Questions on anti-social behaviour allowing for the expression of opinion rather than requiring simple yes/no answers
- b) It was **agreed** to request the inclusion of a question on whether it would be appropriate to subsidise eventual use of the Old Library or whether its use

should be entirely self-supporting.

**11339 Grant Applications**

Consideration of this matter was **deferred** until the next meeting.

**11340 Monitoring of Vehicle Speeds**

It was **agreed** not to proceed with purchase of a device to monitor vehicle speeds.

**11341 Representatives to Outside Bodies**

- a) Cllr P Brewster was nominated as the Council's representative to the Community-led Plan Steering Group
- b) Cllr J Coughlan was nominated as the Council's representative to the Kirkbymoorside Ward Steering Group for the Community investment Fund.

**11342 Town Mayor's Report**

Cllr Dowie reported on Jubilee events held in the town which had been a success despite poor weather. It had been a privilege to Mayor in the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. She had written to all participating groups to thank them for their hard work and commitment which had resulted in such a successful day. She wished to thank all of the school children who had participated and teachers who had also supported events. Finally she thanked Cllrs Watson and Ward for all the practical help they had given.

**11343 Reports from Members**

- a) Cllr Cossins tabled information from Ryedale District Council on Community Clean-ups and Composting bins, Digital Switchover and Armed Forces 'Fly a Flag' day to be held on 30 June
- b) Councillors noted discussions to be held on participatory budgeting within the Parish liaison Group.

**11344 Questions to the Chairman**

Cllr Coughlan asked whether the Council had any right to representation to Rural Action Yorkshire and it was **agreed** to find out.

**11345 Officer's Report**

- a) Councillors were asked to consider if they would consider the re-running of bouncy castle activities in the Old Road Play Area again during the Summer holidays as in previous years. They were minded to accept the proposal and determined to decide this at the next meeting.
- b) Temporary Road Closures – it was **noted** that there would be a number of temporary closures and 10mph speed limits of the C20 route between Keldholme and Hutton le Hole between July and November 2012
- c) Gambling Act Consultation – it was noted that RDC were consulting on a Statement of Principles under the 2005 Gambling Act but that there were unlikely to be any changes to the earlier Statement.
- d) Auditors – a proposal by the Audit Commission to appoint Littlejohn LLP as external auditors for the following year was noted without comment.

11346 The date of the next meeting was noted as 16 July 2012 at 7.30pm in Church House.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

**Chairman**

**Date**