



KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL

The Shambles
Crown Square
Kirkbymoorside
York
YO62 6AY

Tel: 01751 432217

email: town.clerk@kirkbymoorsidetowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held at Church House, Kirkbymoorside on Monday 16 July at 7.30 pm.

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

Also Present: 9 members of the public, County Cllr V Arnold and R Gibbeson (Assistant Clerk)

- 11347 Cllr Dowie welcomed those present to the meeting. Cllr Turlington, attending his first meeting, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests and received a copy of the Code of Conduct.
- 11348 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Marsden and District Cllr D Cussons.
- 11349 There were no declarations of interest.
- 11350
- a) The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2012 were approved after noting Cllr Brampton's concern over the need for clarity over matters being proposed and resolved.
 - b) The Minutes of the Manor Vale Management Committee of 15 June 2012 were received.
 - c) Matters Arising
 - i) In connection with potential letting of the Old Library, Cllr Turlington

pointed to the need to let only to appropriately constituted bodies such as charities

- ii) In connection with the Community Infrastructure Levy, Cllr Ward agreed to have information notes she had received circulated to Councillors.

11351 **Public Session** – No members of the public elected to speak.

11352 **Discussions with District and County Councillors**

- a) Responding to a request by Cllr Brampton that booking of Church House meeting rooms should be made simpler by means of a diary on the premises, Cllr Arnold agreed to raise this matter with those concerned. It was also proposed that a procedure for opening and closing be agreed to avoid inadvertent tripping of the alarm.
- b) Cllr Arnold reported that a limited amount of money had been allocated to parishes by County for pothole repairs. She requested a list of priorities for repair by the end of the month.
- c) Cllr Ward reported that she had been in touch with the Benefits Manager regarding concerns of the library staff about handling benefits enquiries out of normal working hours. She would advise members when a response had been received.
- d) Cllr Cossins requested that action be taken to trim the tree adjacent to the Co-op store as quickly as possible.

11353 **Award of Grants**

It was **agreed** to adopt the draft policy on the awarding of grants, previously circulated. This was subject to an amendment stating that applicants' groups' accounts be provided 'where available' (para 2); also inclusion of an obligation on applicants to declare parallel applications to other grant-making bodies; also inclusion of a policy review date 12 months hence.

11354 **Financial Matters**

- a) The financial statements for the preceding month were received.
- b) Cheque payments for the month were approved according to the list previously circulated (dated 10 July) but subject to objection by Cllr Cossins in relation to cheque no 102571 payable to Bramhalls. Moore Stephens charges related to year end reporting, annual accounts and audit and meetings with Council representatives. The payment to 'Running Imp' was a correction of an underpayment for Jubilee bunting.
- c) Approval to make cheque payments in August was delegated to Cllrs Watson and Ward.
- d) It was agreed to approve transfer of funds from deposit to meet July and August expenditure.

11355 **Membership of Committees**

Appointments were **agreed** as follows:

Planning: Cllrs Turlington and Brewster (Cllr Ward to stand down)

Play Areas: Cllr Ward

Finance: Cllr Turlington

Manor Vale: Cllr Turlington

11356 **Old Library**

The Clerk reported that he had met Mr G Jenkins to clarify his proposals for use of the Old Library as a Community Media Centre in conjunction also with the History Group. He had advised that it would be necessary to establish a Community interest Company (CIC) or charity which could lease the building on terms to be agreed and which could equally apply for grant support. The CIC or charity would have to be properly constituted and its Board/Trustees would have to be representative of the organisations for which it was an umbrella. A representative of the Town Council should also be appointed.

No funding was currently available from RVA for the organisation's legal setup costs but the group would be able to apply to other potential funding sources such as Rural Action Yorkshire and Ryedale District Council.

11357 **Town Guide**

Cllr Turlington volunteered to précis a list of organisations and their objectives as part of the copy for the revised Guide.

11358 **Hosting of Council Website, E-mail and Related Services**

Cllr Dowie reminded members of a discussion at the previous meeting when review of the Council's IT arrangements had been suggested.

The Clerk requested a meeting with Cllr Brampton and one other Councillor (Cllr Brewster agreed to attend) at which all existing IT arrangements would be set out in a short report which would include companies involved, services provided, costs etc. This report would bring understanding of the current position and could be used as a basis for review and possible re-tender of service requirements. This was **agreed**.

11359 **Welcome to Kirkbymoorside Signs**

Cllr Dowie reported that the Rotary Club had approached her regarding the design of a new sign for the approach roads into town with the possibility that they would contribute to its costs if the club's logo was shown. The Business Partnership was also keen to see signs in similar positions and had put forward a proposal for the designs. Both had been circulated to members prior to the meeting (Annex A to these Minutes – Additional Notes).

It was **agreed** that given differences in design and questions to be resolved about siting and information to be shown, indicative prices for signs should be obtained in order to determine the viability of the proposal before proceeding further.

11360 **Dog Bins**

Fixed prices had been received from the district council for installation of the bins at sites previously suggested (see Annex A).

Members **agreed** to proceed with installation while expressing some reservations about whether the bins did improve the cleanliness of the streets.

11361 **NALC Code of Conduct & Register of Members' Interests**

A recommendation had been received from the district council regarding adoption of a new model NALC Code of Conduct and Register of Interests for Councillors. This had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Members were not clear about why the recommendation had been made to adopt the NALC model both because of other models in existence (such as LGA) and also because sanctions were apparently being dropped. It was therefore **agreed** to request further background information before considering adoption.

11362 **Street Lighting**

- a) Survey – It was **agreed** to ask the County Council to carry out a survey of lighting which would inform the Town Council of the viability of upgrading and adoption by the County of some or all lights in the town.
- b) Maintenance Tender – It was **noted** that the tender had been distributed, closing date 31 August, contract period only 18 months to allow for the possibility of change in responsibility for lighting in the medium term.

11363 **Councillors' Surgeries**

In the light of poor take-up by residents of the monthly opportunity to attend

surgeries, it was **agreed** that in future meetings with residents were to be available with Councillors on Thursday evenings during library opening hours but by appointment. Councillors would be available by rotation. This to take effect immediately and be advertised by notice and on the town blog.

11364 **Town Plan**

In view of the Council's agreement to fund the questionnaire, it was **agreed** that delivery of the questionnaire should go ahead as soon as possible with estimated costs at £1500. Delivery to be with Moorsider unless the next issue was to be delayed in which case the questionnaire should be distributed separately at extra cost. It was important that the cost of the survey did not come out of the precept.

11365 **Yorkshire Post**

It was **agreed** in principle that the Town Council fund the Yorkshire Post daily for the library. The cost of weekday purchase against annual subscription to be determined.

11366 **Activity Afternoons – Old Road Play Area**

It was **agreed** that the proposal by Juliette Langton-White for activities at the Old Road Play Area including bouncy castle on certain Mondays during the school holidays be approved, subject to the normal responsibility and liability checks being made (Annex A for dates).

11367 **Planning**

a) Planning Application 12/00599/MOUT Gladman Developments Ltd

The anticipated application by Gladman Developments to build 260 houses at Westfields had been received by the district council during June. The Town Council Planning Committee had held preliminary considerations of the issues raised at its meeting earlier in the evening, these including:

- The potential significant impact on the character of the town
- Building on agricultural land when brownfield sites were available
- Expansion of the town's boundaries
- Traffic, flooding, waste water, and transport issues
- Questions over whether there was such a need for sheltered housing for the elderly
- The methodology of the application which looked like an attempt to push the development through whatever the obstacles.

The Council had obtained an extension (to 10 August) of the period by which its comments had to be submitted to the district council (this revised deadline not having been extended to members of the public). It was felt that an additional meeting of the Council would be necessary to draft a response after further consideration and comments from people locally.

Points then raised in discussion by Councillors and members of the public included:

- While it was important to focus on 'material' considerations in the Council's response, it would also be important to stress that the planning authority should not ignore the significant concerns of the whole community about the

likely significant effect of the development on the town's character

- People should be encouraged to make their views known to Town Councillors and the district council as soon as possible. The Town Council had not carried out a formal opinion survey on the proposed development but people would have the opportunity to meet Councillors and attend meetings before a response was finalised. County Cllr Arnold was also keen to hear people's views and also agreed to determine the need for housing for the elderly in Kirkbymoorside and Ryedale.
- All views received so far appeared to be in opposition to the development. It was, however, possible that people not directly affected by the development were either not opposed or actually in favour and this should be kept in mind
- Consideration was required of the employment issues associated with the development: was there sufficient employment to support it or would the houses only be built and purchased if there were people in employment to do so?
- Outside office and commercial development, Gladman Developments appeared to have a strategy to develop retirement properties. This could mean they would focus on that element leaving the general residential development to others.
- In the general context of planning, it was important to remember that the requirement for homes in the Ryedale Plan in the next 15 years had been put at 300 such that the Gladman proposal met this requirement in full. If it was determined to oppose the development, it would be important to do so in the context of the development itself rather than the overall need for housing as the opportunity to protest over the general need had now passed
- 300 new houses represented a massive 33% increase in the size of the town over perhaps 10 years
- So-called windfall sites were not included in the 300 requirement in the Ryedale Plan. 97 windfall sites had been developed in recent years in addition to the 300 proposed. Overall limits should be respected and maintained despite the availability of additional sites coming onto the market.
- Cllr Ward agreed to look at the current site selection map to determine how many sites were available. Brownfield sites should be selected in the first instance rather than agricultural land. Development should be incremental.
- Questions about housing development were being included in the Community Plan questionnaire but people were advised that the results of this would not be available in time to inform a response to the Gladman proposal
- While recognising the potentially detrimental impact of such a large development it was important to realise that the town had to expand to accommodate local people in future. It was important such expansion was carried out in an appropriate manner
- The school would need to expand to meet the requirements of families on a large new estate. Any future compulsory purchase of the surrounding land could be expensive in relation to the Gladman proposal.

It was **agreed** that the Council hold an extraordinary meeting on 6 August to finalise its submission to the planning authority. In the meantime all views being received to be collated to form the basis of a draft response to be considered at the meeting.

b) Bridleway 25.54/7: High Park Farm

It was **agreed** not to oppose diversion of the above bridleway but in responding to the County Council to point out concerns about vehicular use, other than farm

traffic.

11368 Councillors voted to continue the meeting beyond the allotted finishing time.

11369 **Library Events**

County Cllr Arnold congratulated the Town Council on its role in promoting the various events to take place in the library during week commencing 23 July. Funding for publicity including a newspaper about 'Church House' and events had been provided by the County Council.

Cllr Dowie thanked Cllr Arnold and encouraged people to support the events by signing up as soon as possible.

11370 **Town Mayor's Report**

Cllr Dowie reported that she had presented Jubilee prizes to children in school during a recent 'Good Work' assembly. She had also attended a wonderful 'Showtime' performance in York by Kirkham Henry Theatre and had been invited to attend 'Yorkshire Day' celebrations in Scarborough on 1 August.

11371 **Reports from Members on Delegated Matters**

- a) Cllr Watson had attended a recent Police Liaison Committee meeting and had been reassured by the fall in crime as shown in the statistics. The police had confirmed that a local stabbing had been the result of a private dispute between individuals and was not seen as a matter of general concern.
- b) Cllr Coughlan reported on a meeting he had attended regarding the Community Infrastructure Fund. Eligible groups were to be invited to submit bids for grants in the ward with the two most popular projects (for which votes would be received) valued at less than £750 going forward. An event would be arranged at which voting would take place. Smaller projects were to be selected because they were often not supported in other forums. Applications to be submitted by 19 October.

11372 **Officer's Report**

The Clerk had previously circulated a written report (included in Annex A). He highlighted having been approached by Pickering Town Council about the possibility of appointing a part-time shared town caretaker to carry out general maintenance. This would require consideration at a future meeting.

In relation to the Council having a voice on Rural Action Yorkshire, a dialogue was now in progress about the possibility of representation.

11373 **Questions to the Chairman**

- a) Noticeboard – in the absence of news about a replacement for the board which had been destroyed by a van, it was **agreed** to follow up with the insurers
- b) Parking in the marketplace – In response to a question from Cllr Brampton the Chairman asked the police in attendance to monitor and deal with cars or vans which parked on the cobbles and obstructed the pavement.

11374 **Vote to Exclude the Public**

It was **agreed** to exclude members of the public for the following confidential staffing matter.

11375 **Confidential Staffing Matters**

Members were brought up to date, as appropriate, on current matters in hand.

11376 The date of the next ordinary meeting was noted as 17 September 2012 at 7.30pm in Church House.

The meeting closed at 10.45pm

Chairman

Date