



KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL
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Minutes of the Annual Town meeting held via zoom on 4th May 2021 at 7pm.

Present: Mayor Nick Holroyd, Councillors Coughlan, Dowie, Shipley and Wells.

Also present: The Town Clerk, L Bolland, 1 member of the press and 9 members of the public.

1 WELCOME FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

Councillor Nick Holroyd opened the meeting by expressing his honour to be Town Mayor and welcomed all, including special guests Charlotte Frost and Katy Kallagher, recipients of this year's Community Award.

2 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 7TH MAY 2019

The minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 7th May 2019 were **approved** and will be signed at the earliest opportunity.

3 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayors report was received. Appendix A.

4 PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY AWARD

The Mayor presented the Community Award to Charlotte Frost and Katy Kallagher. He expressed his appreciation of their selfless contribution to the community, saying how fantastic they have been by helping the vulnerable in this small society. On behalf of the Town Council, he said that he couldn't thank them enough. They have both demonstrated outstanding care, devotion and initiative throughout the coronavirus pandemic and particularly during the lockdowns. He offered congratulations explaining that they were worthy recipients of the award and thanked them for everything they have done.

Cllr Coughlan, supported Cllr Holroyd's acclaim. He referred back to the beginning of the pandemic when everyone was forced to shut themselves away in the first lockdown and all of a sudden leaflets offering support appeared through letterboxes and very rapidly a network of volunteers was established offering support to all the community. The Kirkbymoorside support network was initiated by Charlotte and Katy, together with active participation by their family members, including partners/spouses and children. He expressed his admiration that both Charlotte and Katy, despite significant personal commitments (Katy with a new born baby Ada at the start of the pandemic and Charlotte who gave birth in the second lockdown to baby Maia), were capable of adopting the role of community champions. The support effort has also involved considerable dedication by so many volunteers all of whom have played a selfless role in keeping the community safe and their commitment is also greatly appreciated. These community heroes include:

Charlotte's family, Murdo Campbell, Paige and Aston Southren, and baby Maia; Katy's family, especially baby Ada; helped and supported by:

Cherie Baines; Livi Boyle; Marj Coughlan; Sarah & Malc Hodgson; Sue Hooke; Ali Kay; Sarah Jennings

Natasha Jones; Alice Lishman; Lyndsey Moon; Louise Mudd; Maria Picken; Rebecca Richardson; Jacquie Simpson, to name but a few.

Katy accepted the Community Award and expressed her admiration for Charlotte, explaining that despite already having two children, Charlotte was pregnant and gave birth in the middle of the pandemic, but this did not deter her efforts and she continued to offer support and carried on managing everything. Katy also expressed her appreciation of Louise Mudd and Jackie Simpson who have been involved with the support network throughout the pandemic and despite returning to work when government guidance allowed they have continued to volunteer and offer support where needed.

Charlotte accepted the Community award modestly and explained that it has been lovely to be part of the support network and to see it grow.

Cllr Holroyd concluded that the willingness of so many to offer support to those in need is great for Kirkbymoorside and makes us value the community we live in.

5 PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr Dowie explained that there is an active nationwide campaign by "Plantlife" to save wild flowers on road verges and she encouraged members of the public to support the campaign by participating in 'No Mow May'. Details are available via the website www.plantlife.org.uk

She suggested that the Town Council should give consideration to adopting 'Plantlife's' guidelines for managing road verges to benefit wild flowers and other nature. Whilst appreciating that management of road verges by the Council is prioritised for safety and access, along with the Council's budget constraints, the adoption of a few basic principles will improve the grass verges for nature, bringing benefits for wildlife, for us and for future generations.

Nigel Richardson (NR) (member of the public) agreed that it would be good to promote the growth of wild flowers on the verges but that it is also important to ensure that the edges of the footpaths are kept clear.

David Jeffels (member of the press) suggested that the Town Council liaise with Pickering Town Council who are embracing 'Wildlife Friendly Pickering'.

Cllr Holroyd agreed that it is a good initiative and a review of the grass cutting schedule to include measures that encourage wildflower growth in areas and keep grass clear elsewhere would be a positive and sympathetic approach. The matter will be considered at the next available meeting once sufficient information is available.

Cllr Dowie had recently been made aware, via social media, of anti-social behaviour at the play area. It is apparent that incidents are not being reported to 101 and this affects the data logged by the police which would support any requests for an increased police presence. She suggested that it would be useful for the police to visit the play areas and establish a dialogue with the users. Her own experience is that the facilities are well used and for the most part behaviour is respectful but a minority are responsible for any misdemeanours. Cllr Holroyd agreed that people should continue to be encouraged to report all incidents as the build-up of data and regularity of incidents would demonstrate the need for an increased police presence. NR suggested that many people are reluctant to report incidents to the police for fear of any recriminations, however, the clerk confirmed that the identity of complainants is kept anonymous by the police and not disclosed to third parties.

Charlotte Frost (CF) (member of the public) explained that she had reported to 101, an incident of anti-social behaviour at Old Road which resulted in broken glass at the skate park. The subsequent dialogue with the police made it clear that they were not aware of any similar reports associated with the skate park. Since making that report the police presence in the area has increased so it is worthwhile making reports directly via 101.

NR raised concern about the litter and broken glass at the play areas and explained that in the past any items collected at the play areas, e.g. number of alcohol bottles, canisters, etc. were reported to the police and Streetscene. This would enable them to understand the nature of any activities taking place in that area and arrange for the debris to be cleared up.

Cllr Dowie confirmed that when reports are made to the Town Council about litter or broken glass, particularly at the play areas, Streetscene is notified and they will attend site to clear up.

Cllr Shipley confirmed that the litter and builders bag have been removed from Ryedale View play area which has made the area tidier.

Howard Mudd (member of the public) reported that he had found nitrous oxide canisters among the litter at the sports field. He confirmed that he had not reported it to 101 but was reporting it to the Town Council. The clerk reiterated the advice of the police to call 101 so the police can build up an intelligence picture and that the information must come from the person witnessing the issue, second and third hand reports cannot be submitted for intelligence.

NR referred to the fundraising for the Path for Everyone project. He had checked the width of the existing path and it was 1.7 metres originally but only one metre was recently tarmaced. He therefore thought the survey hadn't been very thorough and that the job could be done more cheaply. He also explained that he has been working on the footpaths, clearing them of debris and cutting back the edging, voluntarily. When he contacted NYCC Highway Authority 18 months ago to raise concern about the condition of the footpaths he was informed that they only maintain footpaths that are evidently in use, if it is not used it will be left untended. He explained that if the path edging is not managed the footpaths would become overgrown and eventually would be lost.

Cllr Holroyd suggested that the Town Council could pursue the matter with NYCC Highway Authority to determine what the extent of works are, if any, to address the network of footpaths throughout the parish, particularly those that are interconnecting the neighbouring villages. This matter will then be included for consideration at the next available meeting after receipt of a response.

6 REPORTS FROM CHARITIES AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Cllr Wells reported that the Community Fridge is going from strength to strength. The composition of volunteers has changed with people going back to work. The initiative is supported by local businesses including the Moorside Store, Summit Bakery, Wainds Butchers and the Co-op, with additional food supplied from DEFRA. The fridge is attended by 20-25 people per week, so catering for 40-45 people per week. Approximately £20 is received in contributions each week, which means the group is able to make a donation to the Methodist Church, who offer their venue at no charge, to contribute to running costs. The Kirkby Community Fridge group is now fully established with adopted policies, constitution etc. and training is available to new volunteers. Cllr Wells wished to express thanks again to Charlotte Frost for her involvement setting up the initiative.

CF explained that the vandalism in Kirkbymoorside is likely due to the lack of facilities/activities available to youths locally. She would like to set up a youth group after covid-19 and hopes to use The Moorside Room. Community appreciation would be encouraged through activities such as litter picking and the arranged exercises will provide the kids with an opportunity to make friends and stay engaged socially. Cllr Holroyd said that he was confident the Council would be happy to support the group as best they can. Cllr Shipley agreed that the local families would appreciate a youth club and he is confident there would be wider support among the community for this service.

Cllr Holroyd concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their time and active participation.

The meeting ended at 8.07pm.