



KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL
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Minutes of the Annual Town meeting in The Moorside Room at 7pm on Tuesday 3 May 2022.

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

Also present: The Town Clerk, L Bolland, and 11 members of the public.

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Councillor Dowie.

1 WELCOME FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

Councillor Nick Holroyd opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present to this, his first live Town meeting, with the interference of the pandemic meaning that there was no town meeting in 2020 and the 2021 meeting was held remotely via Zoom. He also explained that this will be his last meeting as Town Mayor and thanked fellow councillors for their support over the past three years. To the town clerk, he expressed appreciation of her professional and efficient approach to a challenging role and said that it had been a pleasure to work with her.

2 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 4 May 2021

The minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 4 May 2021 were **approved** and **signed**.

3 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayors report was received. Appendix A.

4 PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY AWARD

The Mayor presented the Community Award to Helen Gundry and John Warriner.

HELEN GUNDRY

Helen was nominated by friends and members of the Kirkbymoorside Environment Group and Public Transport Group.

For many years, Helen has worked unceasingly on improving the local bus services and creating safe cycle track/footpath along the A170. The survival of the summer Moorsbus service is entirely due to her perseverance. The 'Path for Everyone' project, which is intended to provide a cycle track from Kirkbymoorside to Helmsley, involves complex surveying, planning, permission seeking etc. Fund-raising in going well, but there is some way still to go. Nevertheless, Helen never stops working on this project. It will be wonderful when children from both Kirkbymoorside and Helmsley can cycle safely to Ryedale School in Nawton Beadlam.

Helen has also made a significant contribution to the community through her voluntary work with the Environment Group, which she is currently Chair. Kirkbymoorside Environment group was adopted as the Co-op's Good Cause for 2022.

Over the years Helen has initiated a number of climate change projects and many activities that promote the physical and mental health of those involved, for example the 'Give or Take days' encouraging people to re-use and recycle and the 'Thermal Imaging Camera' project increasing household energy saving.

Helen's active participation with the Environment Group has inspired others in local villages and towns to set up their own groups.

Thanks to Helen for her commitment to the community and active participation with these local groups.

JOHN WARRINER

John was nominated by friends and fellow members of the Kirkbymoorside Bowling Club.

John has been the greenkeeper and caretaker of the club since its inception in 1977. He is also the club president.

John has voluntarily maintained the Bowling Club grounds, enthusiastically and tirelessly over the past 45 years. As any good groundsman will tell you, it's not just a matter of cutting the grass, it needs to be scarified, brushed, fertilised and rolled in order to be maintained to John's high standard. The quality of the Kirkbymoorside green has been such that Bowls England have asked the club to host annual inter-county matches and from 1990-2012 Yorkshire Bowls Association used the Kirkbymoorside Club facilities for their National County play off matches. This in addition to the League and Cup matches played by the Club throughout the summer months. Not surprisingly, John is often asked for advice and guidance by other Bowling Clubs in the area and it is always willingly given.

John has never received any re-numeration and on occasion when he has received a gift as reward for his efforts he has always donated this by return as a raffle prize, unwilling to accept any credit for his time.

Thanks to John for giving Kirkbymoorside one of the best Greens in Yorkshire.

5 PUBLIC SESSION

Helen Gundry explained that the Moorsbus will be running again in the summer. Also, the Environment Group have a plot at the allotment which they have been using to cultivate a variety of tree saplings including Oak, Horse chestnut, Willow and Birch. There are now a considerable number of saplings ready for planting, available to members of the public.

Cllr Shipley raised concern about the absence of a designated safe crossing place in the town centre. Cllr Holroyd responded by agreeing that the Town Council shares this concern and the matter has been raised with NYCC Highways Authority on several occasions. Most recently in September 2021, when the Town Council enquired as to the feasibility of designating a safe crossing place on Market Place the response received from NYCC Highways explained the determination by the Road Safety Team at County Hall that a controlled crossing facility was not justified. This was mainly due to there being no history of collisions involving pedestrians; waiting times to cross were not excessive, and there was no particular desire line where people crossed the road. At the time, the Town Council were dissatisfied with the response and invited a member/representative of the Road Safety Team to attend a meeting in order that the matter could be discussed further. Unfortunately there was no response to the invitation at that time. Acknowledging that the lack of a designated crossing place, both in the town centre and on the A170 east of the roundabout in proximity to the Co-op, remain a real concern for residents of Kirkbymoorside, an invitation will again be made for representation by a Road Safety Officer at a meeting of the full council.

6 REPORTS FROM CHARITIES AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Helen Gundry explained that fund raising for the 'Path for Everyone' project is ongoing and whilst the project is ambitious with continued community support she believes that it is achievable.

The Town Clerk shared information provided by Ryedale District Council in respect drop-in sessions that will be held on the second Wednesday of every month, between 11am to 1pm at the Methodist Church, Piercy End from 11 May.

The drop-in sessions provide an opportunity for residents to chat to a range of representatives from various organisations including:

- * Ryedale District Council
- * North Yorkshire County Council
- * North Yorkshire Police
- * North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
- * Ryedale Community Support Organisation
- * Yorkshire Housing
- * Carers Plus

Details of an update on the Kirkby Fruit Project, provided by Chris Simmonds, was presented by the Town Clerk as follows:

Kirkby Fruit Project update April 2022

The idea of a group of volunteers using surplus local apples to produce bottled apple juice was suggested 10 years ago and the first tentative steps were taken in autumn 2012 using borrowed equipment. After a very steep learning curve, the fruit project in its current form began in 2013 using equipment bought with grant money from Kirkbymoorside town council and the Kirkby fund. Since that initial injection of money to cover set up costs, the project has been completely self-funding, with money set aside from profits each year to provide an ongoing equipment purchase and replacement fund. This has allowed us to upgrade and improve our equipment when needed.

Our primary aim has always been to make use of surplus local fruit (mainly apples) that would otherwise go to waste. To date we have juiced just over 35 tons of surplus apples to make apple juice, cider and cider vinegar. Money generated by the sale of this produce covers the running costs of the project and a contribution to the equipment fund, then any surplus profits each year are distributed to local volunteer led community groups. To date we have given just over £14,000 to a wide range of local community groups.

In the past 2 years we have established links with Helmsley Walled Garden, processing their apples into juice at cost price for them to sell to raise much needed funds.

We also make apple juice from fruit grown at Kirkbymoorside primary school. The children then design labels for the bottles and sell the juice to raise funds for the school. We have begun helping volunteers from the school to manage the school orchard, and there are plans to develop further fund raising activities using the orchard trees.

The last 2 years have proved challenging for everyone but fortunately we were able to provide a juicing service within the restrictions in place at the time of harvest. The service had to adapt and change to do this, but it has perhaps provided us with some insight into what will be needed to make the juicing service more resilient for the future.

As we move forward we will concentrate on our core activity of pressing and bottling apple juice and make small amounts of cider and cider vinegar to meet demand.

The ongoing success of the project would not be possible without our volunteers, many of whom have been with us from the very early days. We currently have around 20 individuals involved in different aspects of our work with several others expressing an interest in getting involved in the future. It will be essential to continue to recruit new volunteers to ensure the long term future of the project.

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

The meeting ended at 7.40pm.