



KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL
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Minutes of the Annual Town meeting in The Moorside Room at 7pm on Tuesday 2 May 2023.

Present: Town Mayor Jill Wells, Councillors Coughlan, Dowie, Illingworth, Moffat, and Woodhams.

Also present: 29 members of the public.

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from the Town Clerk.

1 WELCOME FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

Councillor Jill Wells opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

2 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 3 May 2022

The minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 3 May 2022 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 Pam Towler and Sean Kay.

PAM TOWLER

Pam was nominated for setting up and then running the Christmas tree scheme. She started the Christmas tree scheme in 1979 on behalf of the Traders Association and persuaded about 25 to 30 of the shops and banks in Kirkbymoorside to display a Christmas tree on brackets outside their premises. For over 40 years this tradition, now involving more than 165 trees, has been synonymous with Christmas in Kirkby. It has set our town apart from the rest. Pam and her band of volunteers has ordered, collected and delivered these trees every year with the process running like clockwork. The results of her volunteering work has delighted the community in Kirkbymoorside since 1979 and we so much appreciate everything you have done. Along with her work on the Christmas trees, I know Pam has volunteered with the girl guides in Kirkbymoorside as well as volunteering at Kirkbymoorside Primary School, right up until covid.

On behalf of Kirkbymoorside we thank you for your service to the town.

SEAN KAY

Sean was nominated by the Memorial Hall Committee for helping and inspiring youngsters in Kirkbymoorside with his Karate teaching over the last 23 years. It was always obvious when there was a session taking place because there would be loads of children in town wearing their Karate Gi. Through his teaching he has created respect and confidence in these girls and boys as well as always making sure they have fun and giving them the care and consideration they need to blossom. Also after 18 years of loyal and exemplary service as a retained firefighter for the Kirkbymoorside Fire Service, he is now retiring.

On behalf of Kirkbymoorside we would like to express appreciation for everything you have done for your community.

5 PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public thanked the Town Council for its endeavours to address the issue of flooding. They referred to the recent Community Engagement event at the Kirkbymoorside Fire Station on 25 April 2023 which was attended by associated agencies including representatives of North Yorkshire Council's Flood Risk Management Team and Resilience and Emergencies Team, the Environment Agency, JBA Consulting and Fire and Rescue.

A member of the public raised the issue of the Mennell Motors vehicle recovery truck parking on West Pasture, opposite Poplar Avenue. They initially registered a complaint with the police on 5 November 2022 and have spent a considerable amount of time trying to determine alternative locations for the vehicle. However, the vehicle remains in situ and they have been informed that the police have told the driver that it is ok to park there and to obstruct the pavement. They referred to the Highway Code which explains that you should not park close to a bend, driveway or junction. The problem has been going on for a considerable amount of time and has still not been resolved. They explained that there have been at least 2 incidents involving a threat of violence followed some time later by a report of physical violence. The children like to cycle down the road, to the junction where the vehicle is parked. They would like to know what the police are doing and have submitted a complaint to the Police Commissioner and MP but despite the communications being acknowledged no response has been provided.

Another member of the public suggested that the conditions of the operator's licence could be checked to determine if they are able to park their vehicle on a residential street.

Cllr Wells explained that the Town Council are aware of the situation and it has been referred to the Police as the appropriate authority. The matter will be revisited to ensure that the responsible agencies are aware that the issue is ongoing.

A member of the public referred to the persistent traffic violations in the town and referring to West End there are ongoing issues affecting pedestrian safety with vehicles driving and parking on the pavements, and children riding scooters on the pavements. They complained that there has been an Increase in precept for the police but no corresponding improvement to services and an absence of local enforcement. The parking offences involving vehicles parked on the pavement are particularly prevalent at the junction of Tinley Garth. They explained that their car has been bumped six times in the last three weeks and complained about motorist racing up and down West End which is 20mph because there is no enforcement of the speed restrictions.

Another member of the public added that the main issue on West End is that the 20mph signage is inadequate and bigger signs and more speed limit stencils should be installed.

Cllr Wells offered assurance that the Town Council will persist with its representation to the respective authorities, referring to the Police to address the traffic violations and to North Yorkshire Council Highway Authority with regards to road signage and speed limits. Members of the public are encouraged to make reports directly so that there is representative data logged by the respective agencies in order to accurately demonstrate the frequency and volume of incidents.

A member of the public explained that speeding is also an issue on Gilamoor Road and asked if there was a way to improve awareness of the 30mph speed limit in this area.

A resident commented that it is particularly difficult to cross Market Place in the absence of a designated safe crossing. Another resident had noticed that the length of road designated for access to the Town Farm car park offers significant width to accommodate a pedestrian crossing and that this might offer a suitable location.

Cllr Wells explained that this is another issue which has been raised by the Town Council with the Highways Authority as Kirkbymoorside is the only town in Ryedale that does not have a designated safe crossing point in the town. Each time the matter is raised the response from the Highways Authority has been that there is not an appropriate point along the length of Market Place and High Market Place that would accommodate a pedestrian crossing. However, the Town Council will revisit this concern.

Cllrs Wells impressed the importance to report all concerns/incidents to the police via 101 to ensure that

every issue is logged and the relevant authority can then respond appropriately. Additionally, as of 1 April 2023 the new unitary authority, North Yorkshire Council is now established and the local Councillor is Greg White. He has responsibility for quite a few different areas within the Council and it would be useful for issues to be emailed directly to Cllr White, by both the Town Council and members of the public, in order that he is made aware of all local issues including speeding, inadequate signage on the roads, road condition, policing etc.

A member of the public, having lived in the town centre for a long time, added their concern about the speed of the traffic on Market place and said that in the absence of a safe place for pedestrians to cross it is a wonder that there has not been an accident.

On the subject of North Yorkshire Council and Highways a member of the public expressed concern about the state of the roads. Many of the repairs that are carried out are superficial and do not last. Apparently, there was a significant amount of money allocated to North Yorkshire Council for repair of the roads and they would be interested to know how much and what proportion of that would be allocated to Kirkbymoorside for road repairs.

Another member of the public commented that they had been overtaken by a vehicle when driving within the 20mph speed limit on West End. They then referred to the first issue reported about the Mennell Motors vehicle parking on West Pastures, and explained that they had been involved in the physical altercation with the driver, who was accompanied by their wife and a friend. When they reported the incident to the police they were informed that in the absence of any other witnesses it would be hard to pursue the matter as there were three accounts to his one.

Referring to the recent works to repair the potholes on Market Place, a member of the public explained that they had watched the works in progress. The exercise involved two men, each with a shovel, and they simply dropped tarmac into the holes and smacked them in with a shovel. The resultant quality of the repairs is likely to be inadequate.

A member of the public asked if there were still regular police and community meetings in the town. Cllr Dowie explained that she wasn't aware that these had been held since covid. The Town Council will make enquiries as to reinstatement of the same.

Referring to the condition of the roads, a member of the public expressed thanks to the Town Clerk for chasing Highways to repair the pot holes on Church Street, which were on the start and finish line, in time for the 10k event on 30 April. Unfortunately none of the other pot holes on the length of the course were fixed.

Finally, a member of the public suggested that it would be useful to have notices of the Town Council meetings available via a link to Kirkbymoorside What's Going On Facebook page so that people who don't look at the notice boards will have access to the information and this will get more people in the town involved.

6 REPORTS FROM CHARITIES AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Reports from local charities and groups were **received**.

Kirkbymoorside History Group

2022 has been a busy and productive year for the History Group. Thanks to the Town Council for their participation and support in the restoration of the Town Pound. It's a very good addition to the town's townscape.

Major Project was the Kirkbymoorside 2022 Project which involved two exhibitions in the Memorial Hall.

In terms of future projects, there used to be some magnificent Horse Chestnut trees next to Ings Lane. The History Group reclaimed a cross section of the trunk and is trying to find some way of displaying the wood to celebrate an event of local significance.

Kirkbymoorside History Group Report - Appendix A.

Memorial Hall

The AGM will be held on 15 May, at 11am in the Dugout. The memorial Hall Committee are inviting attendance by members of the public and welcome interest in committee membership.

Moorsbus

The Moorsbus CIC expressed thanks to the Town Council and members of the community for their support of the service.

Moorsbus Report - Appendix B

Ryedale Carers Support

A Trustee of Ryedale Carers Support made the following address:

"Ryedale Carers Support, based in Kirkbymoorside is a very well respected local charity focussing on giving practical and emotional support for carers. We offer several specific services such as 'the sitting service', visiting lonely older people, connecting communities through My Neighbourhood, Farmers Breakfasts, virtual and real walks etc. Our ongoing need is for volunteers to provide some of these services and, for example, we currently have 22 people awaiting a volunteer to come forward. Our Manager, Claire Hall, recently had the wonderful opportunity to meet King Charles at an event in Malton based on the Kings big push on 'Volunteering'. Obviously we are very reliant on grants, donations and contracts without which we would not be able to continue to offer our package of services. My thanks to everybody in the room and in the town who have volunteered and helped families and people caring for their loved ones."

CLlr Wells concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their time and active participation.

The meeting ended at 8pm.