



KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Kirkbymoorside Town Council held on 16 December 2024 at 7.30pm in Church House, 7 High Market Place, Kirkbymoorside, YO62 6AT.

Present: Councillors C Bettany, J Coughlan (Chair), C Dowie, J Illingworth, A Moffat, and A Riby.

Also present: County Councillor Greg White, North Yorkshire Council representatives - Matt Robinson, Head of Resilience and Emergencies and Meirion Jones, Flood Risks Manager, and Town Clerk L Bolland.

Cllr Coughlan welcomed all present.

24131 Agenda item 1. Apologies for absence

- a. Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting were **received** from Cllrs Shields and Woodhams.
- b. Reasons given for absence were **approved**.

24132 Agenda item 2. There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

24133 Agenda item 3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- a. The draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 18 November 2024 were **received and approved**.
- b. There were no matters arising.

Cllr Coughlan proposed to revise the order of the agenda to consider item 8. the next matter of business. **Agreed.**

24134 Agenda item 8. Community Resilience Plan

- a. Cllr Coughlan welcomed North Yorkshire Council representatives, Matt Robinson and Meirion Jones and invited them to report on the emergency response to the flooding subsequent to Storm Darragh on 7 and 8 December 2024.

Information reported by Matt Robinson, Head of Resilience and Emergencies and Meirion Jones, Flood Risks Manager:

As the Resilience Authority, North Yorkshire Council is a partner of the Local Resilience Forum (also known as LRF) that respond to large-scale emergencies when a combined multi-agency coordination results in a more effective and efficient outcome. All LRF partners share responsibility to develop York and North Yorkshire's ability to respond and recover from large-scale emergency situations, with support from lead government departments and agencies, local authorities, emergency services, health, utilities and communication providers, and transport companies.

- About 50 properties were flooded in villages including Kirkbymoorside (24), Sinnington and Marton due to the heavy rainfall that Storm Darragh brought across North Yorkshire.

- Hundreds more properties were cut off without power and there were 160 reports of fallen trees blocking the county's roads.
- North Yorkshire Council has been working closely with the town council and local partners and swiftly launched a local assistance centre in Kirkbymoorside to support residents affected by flooding.
- Residents who visited the Moorside Room in the town were offered advice and guidance and to ensure they could safely return to their homes.
- The centre is not only supporting the local community, but it is also serving as a base for operational staff to provide on-the-ground assistance.
- North Yorkshire Council's teams have been working closely with emergency services, town and parish councils, local volunteer groups such as a newly formed veteran group and the Major Incident Response team.
- The community response in the wake of Storm Darragh has been praised as North Yorkshire Council has pledged to take action to protect homes and businesses from the threat of future flooding.
- Householders and business owners are being urged to share their experiences of flooding in the wake of Storm Darragh in the county to help shape future emergency responses.
- North Yorkshire Council is overseeing the survey to gather people's views following the storm that swept across the country during the weekend of December 7 and 8.
- And work is under way to extend a major scheme that has provided vital measures to protect homes and businesses from flooding with the Government being asked to provide more funding for the initiative.
- Following significant flooding, the council has a duty to investigate events to try to establish the circumstances, including reviewing weather data, river levels and the experience of residents and any evidence they may have.
- The investigation will help to ensure that the council and other partner organisations are sufficiently prepared for flooding events in the future.
- The study will also result in a final report that may make recommendations for future improvements to support communities across North Yorkshire.
- The scheme has already proven particularly successful with high participation rates in Malton and Norton, with properties receiving flood door barriers, airbricks that close automatically to keep out water, non-return valves on drains to prevent floodwater or sewage backing up, waterproof copings on walls and pumps to remove water.
- Anyone affected by flooding caused by Storm Darragh is being asked to email floodriskmanagement@northyorks.gov.uk outlining their experiences. More information about the flood resilience scheme can be requested from the same email address.
- Support for householders and businesses affected by the flooding is available by calling North Yorkshire Council on 0300 131 2 131 and saying "flooding information" when prompted.

The Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) will be visiting some of the areas impacted from flooding during Storm Darragh in the coming week.

There will be LLFA officers visiting Kirkby Mills from 10am on Wednesday 18th December 2024. This is a site visit and an opportunity to investigate the extent of flooding, reach out to those impacted and discuss the ongoing Property Flood Resilience scheme North Yorkshire Council are running. As part of its responsibility to investigate flooding (Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act) North Yorkshire Council will be investigating the mechanisms and circumstances around this flood event.

For any individuals not available on Wednesday 18th December 2024, appreciating that not all residents will be in during the day and with such short notice, drop-in sessions have been arranged at the Moorside Room on Tuesdays 7th and 14th January.

For those without insurance, or struggling with re-insuring post flood, Flood Re is a re-insurance Scheme that makes flood cover more widely available and affordable as part of home insurance: <https://www.floodre.co.uk/>

Cllr Dowie acknowledged that to support people who have been affected by an emergency it is good for there to be a familiar face at the response centre. However, the Town Council's role in an emergency is unclear. She would welcome a review of the role of the Town Council as part of the process of the review of the Town Council's resilience plan.

Cllr Moffat commented that the community works in spontaneous ways and it is not possible to predict the reaction to different emergency situations. Councillors can only be the local face if communicated with by the appropriate responsible authority (in this case North Yorkshire Council) and members of the community.

Cllr Coughlan explained that whilst the Town Council is best placed to provide responsible agencies with local intelligence and contacts, (detailed in the Community Resilience document which is logged with North Yorkshire Council so that it is available to the Resilience Forum), it is apparent that the Town Council is not best placed to act as the first responder to emergencies. There is now an opportunity for the Town Council to draw on this experience and explore the opportunity and interest of those local groups and individuals who have been active participants in this recovery, namely members of the Veterans Breakfast Club, to take on the role of emergency responders for future incidents. In tangent, it will also be opportunistic to determine the most appropriate composition of individuals to take on the role of community anchor organisation in direct partnership with North Yorkshire Council and the Emergency response agencies.

Cllr Illingworth explained that it is the intention of the Community Interest Company currently being set up, led by Ryedale Group, to act as the Community Anchor Organisation. More information will be received when available.

The recommendation of Matt Robinson, Head of Resilience and Emergencies, would be to have a de-brief meeting to assess how the emergency was responded to by North Yorkshire Council as the LLFA and by all active participants of the recovery. The second recommendation would be to liaise with Ray Wood, Resilience and Emergencies to determine the best strategy for emergency planning specific to Kirkbymoorside.

Cllr Coughlan proposed to schedule the de-brief meeting on 14th January at 7pm following conclusion of the drop in session scheduled to be held at The Moorside Room. **Agreed.**

Cllr Coughlan once again extended thanks to all North Yorkshire Council Resilience and Emergencies team members for their participation in the recovery efforts, and to Matt and Meirion for their attendance and the thorough information shared.

Cllr Coughlan reverted to consideration of agenda item 3. c. and d.

24135 Agenda item 3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- c. The draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 24 November 2024 were **received**.
- d. The draft minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 11 December 2024 were **received**.

24136 Agenda item 4. Public Session - to allow members of the public to make representations, ask questions and give evidence in respect of any items of business. None present.

24137 Agenda item 5. Discussions with Councillors in respect of questions already posed, and any new matters. None.

24138 Agenda item 6. Financial matters

- a. Accounts paid since the last meeting of the Council were reported and cheque payments **approved** according to the list provided.
- b. The Financial Summary to 30 November 2024 was **received**.
- c. The renewal cost of £720.00 + VAT for 12 month CCTV contract at Old Road play area was **agreed**.

24139 Agenda item 7. 2025/26 Budget

- a. The 2025/26 Budget Monitoring Document was **considered**.
- b. Recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding the budget for 2025/26 were **received** as follows:
 - i. Capital Budget - Allocation of £80,000 reserves:
 - I. To retain the level of general reserve at £40,000¹ in line with recommendations for Smaller Authority's.
 - II. Allocation of £40,000 to specific reserves:
 - £5,000 Staff sickness;
 - £4,000 By-election provision;
 - £6,000 Manor Vale provision;
 - £10,000 Moorside Room provision– earmarked for project costs to improve the Moorside Room (considerations at Minute 24115 dated 18 November 2024); £15,000 development (including repairs) of the sportsfield, play area and skatepark.
 - ii. Revenue Budget for the financial year 2025/26 of £102,650, as detailed in the budget monitoring document.
 - iii. To set the 2025/26 precept of £102,650 being the budget requirement for 2025/26 and the amount needed to meet the general expenses of the Town Council applying to the whole of the Kirkbymoorside area.

The clerk explained that the proposed precept of £102,650 would equate to a -3.10% adjustment to the Council Tax.

The recommendations of the Finance Committee were **agreed**.

¹ JPAG (March 2020 edition) advises: "The generally accepted recommendation with regard to the appropriate minimum level of a Smaller Authority's General Reserve is that this should be maintained at between three (3) and twelve (12) months Net Revenue Expenditure (NRE)."

- c. The budget for 2025/26 was **agreed** and the Council **resolved** to set the precept of £102,650.

24140 Agenda item 8. Community Resilience Plan

- a. Further to report **received** earlier in the meeting from Matt Robinson, Head of Resilience and Emergencies and Meirion Jones, Flood Risks Manager an additional report prepared by Cllr Illingworth, detailing the emergency response to flooding subsequent to Storm Darragh, was **received**, in the supporting documents,
- b. Authorisation of expenditure to facilitate local flood recovery efforts, all expenses to be reimbursed by North Yorkshire Council, the Local Flood Authority, was **considered**. The Clerk explained that since issuing the agenda the grant offer of £3000 had been received from Two Ridings Community Foundation's North Yorkshire Disaster Recovery Fund to support the Town Council's emergency response to the impacts of Storm Darragh over the Christmas period.

At the request of North Yorkshire Council, Two Ridings Community Foundation have offered a grant of £3,000 from its North Yorkshire Disaster Recovery Fund to the Town Council. The purpose of this grant will be for Kirkbymoorside Town Council to make emergency purchases and hire essential equipment for the assistance of affected households in the vicinity of Kirkbymoorside affected by the impacts of Storm Darragh, such as flooding and prolonged periods without power.

This funding is separate to other funding awarded by Two Ridings Community Foundation through the Storm Darragh Emergency Assistance Fund, for which a separate application process is being administered by North Yorkshire Council.

Cllr Coughlan proposed delegated authority to the Clerk to administer expenditure of the grant for the specified purpose. **Agreed**.

Cllr Coughlan proposed to defer consideration of agenda item 8c) and d) pending guidance and recommendations from the de-brief meeting on 14 January 2025. **Agreed**.

- c. To review the Community Resilience Plan. **Deferred**.
- d. To consider any proposals for development of emergency response protocol and strategies. **Deferred**.
- e. Information on free community emergency conferences for North Yorkshire and York was **received**.

Cllr Coughlan wished to record thanks on behalf of the Town Council to the clerk, Cllr Dowie and especially to Cllr Illingworth for their participation in the recovery efforts following Storm Darragh. With particular credit to Cllr Illingworth for working tirelessly to assist everyone affected by the flooding, Cllr Coughlan explained that he had contacted the Lord Lieutenant to request a commendation by way of recognition for her efforts in response to the emergency.

24141 Agenda item 9. The proposal by Cllr Illingworth to consider making representation to North Yorkshire Council Highways Authority with regards to safety concerns for pedestrians at the junction of Howe End and Piercy End/Market Place was **considered**. It was **agreed** to request a review of pedestrian safety at the junction.

24142 Agenda item 10. Thanks were **received** from the KMS Christmas Tree Scheme for the funds awarded to invest in the manufacture of additional brackets.

24143 Agenda item 11. It was **noted** that emergency works have been instructed to be carried out in Manor Vale, necessitated by the extent of storm damage, authorised by the clerk within the scope of delegated authorisation in accordance with Financial Standing Orders. Cllr

Coughlan wished to record thanks to Phil Gospel for prioritising the Town Council's work demands to ensure public safety whenever necessary.

24144 Agenda item 12. Details of the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire's consultation on funding for policing and fire and rescue services in York and North Yorkshire, closing date 20 January 2025 York and North Yorkshire Precept Survey 2025/2026 were **received**.

24145 Agenda item 13. Reports from Members representing the Town Council at meetings of outside bodies and on delegated matters.

Cllr Illingworth's active participation in the recovery efforts and her presence at the Moorside Room as the face of the community since the Storm on 7 December was acknowledged with much appreciation.

Cllr Riby referred to a matter raised with County Cllr White earlier in the year with regards to the cost and necessity for works to resurface the length of road known as Woodhead Field Lane, north of Kirkbymoorside, which is a cart track servicing a pheasant farm only.

Cllr Illingworth followed up this reference to road surfacing works to ask if any repairs or resurfacing works are scheduled for Kirkbymoorside in 2025. Cllr White confirmed that there are no works scheduled.

24146 Agenda item 14. The Town Clerk's report was **received**. Since the last meeting the priority has been arrangements for connection of the town Christmas lights and recovery efforts necessitated by Storm Darragh.

24147 Agenda item 15. The Town Mayor reported no engagements since the last meeting with exception to participation in recovery efforts in response to the flooding caused by Storm Darragh.

24148 Agenda item 16. To exclude members of the public from discussion of item 17. Cllr Moffat explained that there was not sufficient information to allow consideration of agenda item 17. at this time.

Coughlan proposed to defer agenda items 17 to the January meeting. **Agreed.**

24149 Agenda item 17. Consideration of recommendations of the Staffing Committee. **Deferred.**

24150 Agenda item 18. Questions to the Chair

Cllr Dowie referred to the recent Ryedale Environment Group conference and information presented by Elspeth Ingleby, Ecologist at North York Moors National Park Authority in respect to North Yorkshire Council's call for sites in the Local Plan and asked if Kirkbymoorside Town Council would consider registering Manor Vale as a 'nature corridor stepping stone'. Further information will be received and consideration given at the January meeting.

Cllr Illingworth referred to arrangements for a Community Christmas Buffet and explained that the event has received much support with more than £1000 in donations having been made. She asked if an item could be included on the agenda for the January meeting to receive a report on the success of the event and consider continued support of an annual event.

24151 Agenda item 19. The date of the next ordinary meeting of the Town Council on 20 January 2025 at 7.30pm in Church House was **agreed**.

The meeting concluded at 8.44pm.