



KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Kirkbymoorside Town Council held on 20 January 2025 at 7.30pm in Church House, 7 High Market Place, Kirkbymoorside, YO62 6AT.

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

Also present: Town Clerk L Bolland and two members of the public.

Cllr Coughlan welcomed all present. Having checked which agenda items were of interest to the members of the public present, Cllr Coughlan proposed to revise the order of the agenda to consider items 10. and 13. after item 5. **Agreed.**

24152 Agenda item 1. Apologies for absence

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

24153 Agenda item 2. There were no Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

24154 Agenda item 3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- a. The draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16 December 2024 were **received** and **signed**.
- b. There were no matters arising.
- c. The draft minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 8 January 2025 were **received**.

24155 Agenda item 4. Public Session – Cllr Coughlan invited members of the public to make representation at the respective item of interest.

24156 Agenda item 5. There were no questions already posed, and any new matters for discussion with Councillors.

24157 Agenda item 10. Street Lighting and Dark Skies

- a. Cllr Coughlan proposed to consider item e. in respect of concerns raised by a member of the public in respect of night light pollution from business premises in the town. **Agreed.**

The member of the public explained their concerns about the night light pollution from the industrial properties, particularly but not limited to the premises at the junction of Ings Lane and the A170. This is evidenced by the photographs provided (refer to the supporting document) which clearly evidence the amount of light emitted from Yorkshire Laundry, Sylatech, Ryedale Printers, Jet petrol station and Grace Lane vets. The intensity of the night light is impacting the local wildlife as demonstrated by the sound of bird song late at night when the skies should be completely dark. The member of the public asked if it would be possible to request the businesses to review their night light settings and commented that where lights are necessary for the purpose of security, motion activated lights are more effective than lights left on all the time as they provide an alert as to movement on the premises. This would also offer environmental and cost benefits.

Another member of the public added their observation that some of the premises at the business centre on West End also have high intensity lighting on late at night.

Cllr Riby commented that the night lights of many of the commercial premises are not for security purposes but for advertising. He considered it appropriate that the Town Council should make representation to the businesses concerned to voice concerns of the residents.

Cllr Dowie proposed the Town Clerk, on behalf of the Town Council contact the local businesses to politely enquire as to the necessity of their night lights in order to bring to their attention the impact of light pollution and appeal to them, where possible to make adjustments. **Agreed.**

- b. It was noted that 6no. lanterns on Swineherd Lane require upgrading to LEDs. The allocation of a ceiling budget of £2,660 (£360 + VAT per fitting plus £500 contingency for replacement brackets and boxes if necessary) from cost code 30 to cover the upgrades was **agreed**.
- c. Information was **received** from North Yorkshire Council in response to the request for a review of the street lighting schedule. Cllr Dowie expressed frustration and disappointment that whilst North Yorkshire Council have determined that it would not be possible to reduce the all night lighting by 25% in Kirkbymoorside, consideration will not be given to a more modest reduction by addressing the 'small pockets' that have been identified as areas where the lights might be changed from all night to part night.
- d. Information on North Yorkshire Council's proposed streetlight upgrade to help protect dark skies was **received**. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crrwrwzqd2jo>
- e. Consideration was given to the Town Council making arrangements for a presentation by Mike Hawtin, Head of Nature Recovery Projects, North York Moors National Park Authority on Dark Skies. Cllr Dowie explained that the subject of 'Dark Skies' would be of interest to all local parish councils and their respective environment groups and inviting attendance to a presentation will encourage an increased awareness of how to protect and promote dark skies. The proposal was **agreed** and the clerk will make arrangements with Mike Hawtin for a presentation to be hosted locally, courtesy of the Town Council.

24158 Agenda item 13. Consideration was given to transferring supply of the public wi-fi to the NY-Net scheme, for the same service provision and the same costs of £72.39 per month.

A member of the public objected to the proposal and opined that NY-Net was a commercial entity looking to capitalise on the public sector by poaching contracts from local service providers.

The member of the public also wished to express gratitude to Cllr Illingworth, on behalf of the residents of Castlegate, for setting up a crowd funding page in support of the family affected by the recent house fire. Cllr Illingworth explained that the response from Kirkbymoorside (and a contributor in Japan) has been overwhelming with so many offers of support both financially and in kind. This is another demonstration that Kirkbymoorside is such an incredible community to be a part of.

Consideration reverted to the public wi-fi. Cllr Dowie explained that a benefit of transferring the contract to NY-Net would be inclusion on the North Yorkshire Council scheme and associated publicity of free wi-fi provision in the town. As has been referred at several meetings, Kirkbymoorside is not featured on the North Yorkshire Council listing of towns offering free wi-fi. However, while the contract has been offered at the same cost and service provision as the existing arrangement no indication has been given of forecast adjustments to the contract rates.

Cllr Coughlan proposed the Town Council request additional information to allow a more informed decision, including confirmation of the term of fixed rate @ £72.39 per month,

specification of the service provision including a map of the coverage area and details of an additional costs. **Agreed.**

Cllr Coughlan reverted to the order of the agenda and consideration of Financial matters as the next item of business.

24159 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 31 December 2024 was **received**.

24160 Agenda item 7. Community Resilience - Response to Storm Darragh

- a. A report of the North Yorkshire Council Resilience and Emergencies Team De-Brief meeting on 14 January 2025, attended by members of the Resilience & Emergencies Team, Town Councillors and Veterans Breakfast Club members who were the key responders to the flood, was **received**. Cllr Coughlan reported the following recommendations of actions/measures for the Town Council:
 - i. Encourage participation by residents of the affected areas to form a local emergency response team with assignment of flood wardens. Any necessary training opportunities to be explored with Ray Wood as recommended;
 - ii. Arrangements to provide a store of sandbags and appropriate equipment on site, to be immediately accessible to the local emergency response team in the event;
 - iii. Liaise with Ray Wood to determine the most appropriate format for an emergency response strategy and encourage participation by members of the community;
 - iv. To note that North Yorkshire is the Resilience Authority. Participation by members of the public, and the Town Council, in emergency response efforts is entirely voluntary.

Cllr Coughlan proposed the Town Council agree all recommendations as received. **Agreed.**

Furthermore, Cllr Coughlan proposed to request the allocation of any remaining funds from the Two Ridings Community Foundation's North Yorkshire Disaster Recovery Fund to cover the costs associated with provision of supplies and equipment to assist future recovery efforts, under the guidance of the Resilience and Emergencies Team. **Agreed.**

- b. A report on the recovery efforts to support properties affected by Storm Darragh, prepared by Cllr Illingworth was **received**.

Cllr Illingworth explained that many of the recommendations identified in the report (detailed at pages 5 – 7) have already been actioned or are in progress with the appropriate authority/agencies.

Identifying that many of the recommendations relate to matters that are the responsibility of North Yorkshire Council as the Resilience Authority, Cllr Dowie stressed that the Town Council must be clear on its role and not involve itself in areas/on matters that are the responsibility of other agencies/authorities. **Noted.**

Cllr Coughlan thanked Cllr Illingworth for the considerable amount of time and effort she has committed, both in immediate response to the flood recovery and in preparation of subsequent reports. Cllr Coughlan proposed to assign time with the clerk to review the recommendations to identify specific action points for consideration by the Town Council at the next appropriate meeting. **Agreed.**

Referring to the recommendation detailed at item k) in respect of suitable comms, Cllr Woodhams proposed purchase of Motorola Waterproof Walkie Talkie (H20 T92), or a similar product, having experience of use of this device and confirming their effectiveness with a range, dependent on environment, of 1-2 km. **Agreed.**

- c. A review of the Community Resilience Document was **considered**. Cllr Dowie proposed that it would be appropriate for the clerk, as the Officer of the Town Council, to update any information on the document. **Agreed.** Cllr Illingworth offered to suggest amends by providing tracked changes to the document, for Council approval.

24161 Agenda item 8. The Order dated 18 December 2024, that burials should be discontinued in All Saints churchyard, Kirkbymoorside (Burial Act 1853 as amended) pursuant to Notice recorded at Minute 24092 dated 21 October 2024 was **received**.

24162 Agenda item 9. Urban Grass Cutting

- a. Information on North Yorkshire Council's arrangements for urban grass cutting in 2025 and guidance on how to encourage biodiversity within highway verges was **received**.
- b. The available funding for grass cutting of urban highway visibility splays of £1,122.89 (based on the rate of 8p per m²) was **noted** and continued grass cutting arrangements **agreed**.

24163 Agenda item 11. It was agreed to submit Manor Vale as a 'nature corridor' in response to the call for sites by North Yorkshire Council Local Plan.

24164 Agenda item 12. The Events Committee recommendations were **considered**:

- a. Revised Terms of Reference with the addition of an item 6.2, in respect of additional meetings to allow progression of arrangements. **Agreed.**
- b. Format of the 2025 Community Awards as follows:

Community Celebration Event

- to be held triennially;
- timings adjusted to allow an earlier finish in response to feedback from the 2024 event;
- the format to be determined according to the appetite of the participants at the time.

Community Awards Ceremony

- to be held annually;
- to hold the 2025 event in late September, date to be determined by availability of the venue;
- to be held in the Memorial Hall if available. Alternative venues to be considered if necessary including the Band Hall and Moorside Club;
- to include window dressing competition;
- to secure sponsorship for full event costs;
- to include the following award categories: an individual, a group/organisation, young person(s) and the Town Council's award;
- judges to be appointed by the Town Council

Honours Board

- to note that permission has been given for installation of the honours board in the

Memorial Hall (as per Awards Policy adopted 18 March 2024¹) and the funds to cover the cost of the board have already been secured and funds are being held

- to delay production of the physical honours board until the design specifications are finalised (accommodating a variation of award categories) and agreed. Details of all Award recipients will continue to be published on the Town Council website.

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

24165 Agenda item 14. The application for supply and installation of a new grit bin on How Keld Close, Kirkbymoorside at a cost of £87.50 + VAT was **agreed**.

24166 Agenda item 15. Information from Power For People on efforts to amend the Great British Energy Bill was **received**. Continued support of its public advocacy for community-led renewable energy across 2025 by encouraging members of the local community to sign up was **agreed**. <https://powerforpeople.org.uk/sign-up?>

24167 Agenda item 16. It was **noted** that the Riponian Stages Rally will be held on Sunday 9 February 2025 and competitors in the rally are scheduled to pass Kirkbymoorside.

24168 Agenda item 17. Reports from Members representing the Town Council at meetings of outside bodies and on delegated matters.

As delegated representative to the Environment Group, Cllr Dowie reported the date of the forthcoming Eco Fair on Saturday 10 May, with stalls in the Memorial Hall and a programme of talks in the library.

24169 Agenda item 18. The Town Clerk's report was received as follows:

Safety concerns at Howe End/Piercy End junction (pursuant to minute 24141)

The Highways Officer has advised that collision data is awaited and further information concerning the review of pedestrian safety at the junction of Howe End and Piercy End will be available for consideration at the next appropriate meeting.

CCTV – This will be included as an agenda item for February meeting:

Invitation to open discussion with the Town Council about investing in CCTV in the town has been received from PC 1047 Holly Hornsby, recently taken over as the Beat Manager for the Kirkbymoorside and Helmsley area. In light of a number of events recently and events over the years the addition of CCTV to safeguard the public and aid in investigations would have been incredibly beneficial in the town. The CCTV at the Old Road play area appears to have resolved the majority of issues that were happening there.

There have been incidents including, but not exclusive to ASB, criminal damage and road traffic offences where CCTV would have aided at the time or with post incident investigation. They are a valuable tool in the prevention and detection of crime and making the public feel safe.

Anti-social behaviour at the Bowling Club & Insurance implications

Notification has been received from the Bowling Club of an incident of anti-social behaviour. The incident was reported to the police, as appropriate and a crime reference allocated. The Bowling Club enquired as to the insurance implications of any injuries resulting from trespass, particularly where youths were seen on the roof of the club house.

¹ Extract of Awards Policy: The Awards will consist of recipients having their names enrolled on an **Honours Board** (the property of Kirkbymoorside Town Council but hung by kind permission of the Kirkbymoorside Memorial Hall Management Committee in the Memorial Hall and on permanent display).

The following information, received from the Town Council Insurers, has been shared, with regards to the Public Liability Insurance associated with the premises at the sports field:

For cover to apply under the Public Liability section of the policy, it must be shown that you as the client has been negligent.

Therefore in the instance of anyone climbing on a roof, which is not something that they should be doing and hurting themselves, then you (the policy holder) as the client cannot be held negligent but any claim made will be reviewed by the claims department.

If you are worried about people climbing on the building, it may be worth investing in anti-climb paint etc.

Memorial Tree on Old Road

In Bloom would like to plant a memorial tree on verge on Old Road near the junction with the A170. The clerk has been liaising with NYC Highways to determine a suitable location that will support an application for street furniture licence. Consideration will be given at the next appropriate meeting once information is available.

Kirkbymoorside name plate on walled stone sign

A response has been received from NYC Streetscene team regarding replacement of the town name plates on the stone wall signs. The matter is now in progress and hopefully new signs will be installed soon.

Christmas lights

The commercial Christmas lights have all been de-rigged and the majority of town icicle lights have been dismantled with exception of the length outside Children in Distress on Market Place which are not accessible due to the Northern Powergrid works having excavated the pavement in this location. These lights will be removed at the earliest opportunity.

Storage Container – allocation of space to REG (pursuant to Minute 24087)

The clerk confirmed that she had carried out the exercise to sort the storage container and any surplus/refuse items have been collected by NYC Streetscene at minimal cost. This option being necessary to responsibly dispose of defunct Christmas lighting motifs and other electrical items. Space has subsequently been allocated to REG and the clerk met with Peter Winter on Friday 17 January 2025, on site.

Sports field Development

The clerk has arranged a meeting on 3 February with representatives of the Squash and Football Clubs to discuss options and objectives for development of the sports field premises, in advance of a meeting with the Football Federation later in the month.

The North Yorkshire Local Plan - Public Release of 'Call for Sites' Submissions

Information has today been received in respect of preparation of the new local plan for North Yorkshire. Information will soon be released on the sites submitted. These can be viewed on the North Yorkshire Council Maptionnaire portal at: <https://app.maptionnaire.com/q/6h6aur4sn3c8>

Any queries should be directed to a member of the Planning Policy & Place Team by contacting callforsites@northyorks.gov.uk

24170 Agenda item 19. The Town Mayor reported attendance at the North Yorkshire Council Resilience & Emergencies de-brief meeting at the Moorside Room on Tuesday 14 January 2025.

Judging, together with Nigel Richardson, is in progress for the winners of the 10k poster competition. The Town Mayor explained that he has authorised the cost of £40 from the Mayor's Allowance for 4no. £10 gift vouchers to the competition winners.

24171 Agenda item 20. It was **agreed** to exclude members of the public from discussion of item 21.

24172 Agenda item 21. Staffing Committee recommendations were **considered**:

- a. revised Terms of Reference **Agreed**.
- b. An honorarium to the clerk for additional tasks carried out in association with the 2024 Community Celebration Event **Agreed**.

24173 Agenda item 22. Questions to the Chair

Cllr Riby voiced concern that Kirkbymoorside does not feature to the same extent as the other market towns in Ryedale and asked if the Town Council would raise this concern with North Yorkshire Council and demand equal promotion and publicity?

In response to concerns raised by members of the public Cllr Riby referred to the boundary hedge of Ancoats on Piercy End which is now significantly encroaching the pavement and asked if the matter could be referred to North Yorkshire Council for address?

Cllr Riby expressed concern about the state of the derelict property at 42 Piercy End, which has been vacant since 2021, and asked if North Yorkshire Council would determine an appropriate course of action to get the property renovated, suggesting the feasibility of a Compulsory Purchase Order?

Cllr Illingworth explained that she has applied to North Yorkshire Council for the £1000 grant available to build a town website to promote the town and asked how the Local directory was progressing? The clerk confirmed that the process is very arduous but good progress is being made and it is hoped that the final product will be ready for receipt at the next meeting.

Cllr Illingworth commented on the impact of the Northern Powergrid works on Market Place to local businesses and asked how much notice was given of the planned works? The lack of available parking has had a detrimental impact on local businesses and she considered that had sufficient notice been given then the Town Council would have had the opportunity to consider making application to North Yorkshire Council to negotiate concessionary or free parking in Town Farm car park. She asked if an agenda item could be included on the agenda item regarding parking?

In response to concerns by the business owners soon to occupy the premises at the corner of Market Place and Church Street, formerly Corner Café, Cllr Illingworth asked if it would be possible to request North Yorkshire Council to relocate the cigarette bin commenting that it was a ridiculous location for a bin? The clerk explained that this had been determined a suitable location as people were often seen smoking here and there was a prevalence of cigarette butts littering the pavement in this location.

24174 Agenda item 23. The date of the next ordinary meeting of the Town Council on 17 February 2025 at 7.30pm in Church House was **agreed**.