

**DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Pickering Town Council held on 17 September 2018 in the Memorial Hall, Pickering**

Present: Councillor N Armstrong ,Councillor J Andrews, Councillor B Baker, Councillor A Gadsby, Councillor H Haythorne, Councillor S Jenson, Councillor P Littlewood, Councillor H McAnulty-Rickard, Councillor J Lovejoy, Councillor W Oxley and Councillor J Stott.

Nine members of the public attended the meeting.

**83 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The council accepted apologies for absence from Councillor Danks.

**84 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

The council noted that none of its members had applied for a dispensation.

**85 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PRESENTATIONS**

A member of the public addressed the council on agenda item 10, proposed Government reforms to planning applications for shale gas exploration and production. The member of the public had concerns over exploratory drilling sites becoming permitted developments, and the proposals to make shale gas wells Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP)s. The suggestion was made that the town council should follow the action taken by Ryedale District Council in supporting the local Mineral and Waste Joint Plan and letting planners decide on whether fracking should be allowed in the local area.

Another member of the public spoke about agenda item 16, the town bus service. Two residents have formed a group to support the town bus service which is being run by North Yorkshire County Council on a six-month trial basis.

This group have attended a recent Northern Ryedale Transport Group meeting and following that meeting carried out a survey of town bus users. North Yorkshire County Council and the town council have been provided with the results of this survey and it was clear from the comments made that residents were grateful for the service currently provided and had concerns over its long term viability.

Some issues, such as accessibility and the bus not travelling on the planned route if it was full have been addressed but there are still concerns about whether the size of the bus is adequate and North Yorkshire County Council have said that they cannot provide a larger bus.

A third member of the public addressed the council about agenda item 8 iii), the proposed development of land on Thornton Road for a Premier Inn hotel and industrial units. The resident said that he owned a Bed and Breakfast establishment in Pickering and had concerns about the effect on both tourism and local shops and trades who support the tourist industry. He also made the point that many B&Bs and small hotels in the town are old, historic properties and are expensive to run.

**86 TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported that she had not undertaken any official engagements since the last meeting.

**87**      **MEMBER’S VERBAL AND WRITTEN REPORTS**

Councillor Jenson reported that he had attended the AGM of the Friends of Moorsbus and said that it was notable how difficult it was for voluntary organisations like the Moorsbus to generate the income required to continue to operate. He said that this also highlights the value of the town’s voluntary organisations.

Councillor Jenson also reported that another successful litter pick had taken place.

Councillor Lovejoy said that the Caretaker Working Party group had done some quite extensive research, had investigated the tasks that a caretaker might do and had considered whether an operative might be employed or self-employed. A summary sheet showing the staff employed by town councils of a similar size to Pickering had been provided to all councillors.

The Working Party believed that further research should be carried out and a Working Party meeting had been arranged for the 9 October so that a recommendation could be brought to the council on 15 October.

Councillor Baker said that there would be report on the Slowing the Flow project at the October meeting.

Councillor Oxley said that the Events Group would meet on 25 September and a report would be given at the October meeting.

**88**      **THE TOWN CLERK’S REPORT**

i)      Meeting schedule: October/November<sup>1</sup>

| Date     | Meeting                         | Venue         | Time |
|----------|---------------------------------|---------------|------|
| October  |                                 |               |      |
| 2        | Planning Committee              | Kitching Room | 7pm  |
| 5        | Councillors Audit               | Kitching Room | 9am  |
| 8        | Community Park Committee        | Beckett Room  | 7pm  |
| 15       | Ordinary meeting of the council | Mill Room     | 7pm  |
| 30       | Planning Committee              | Kitching Room | 7pm  |
| November |                                 |               |      |
| 2        | Councillors Audit               | Kitching Room | 9am  |
| 12       | Community Park Committee        | Beckett Room  | 7pm  |
| 19       | Ordinary meeting of the Council | Mill Room     | 7pm  |

ii)      Notes, magazines, documents lodged in the council office:

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<sup>1</sup> The specified rooms are in the Memorial Hall, Potter Hill unless stated otherwise.

- Agenda for the Parish Liason Meeting on 19 September 2018.
  - Agenda for the Thirsk and Malton Constituency Committee meeting to be held at Ryedale Indoor Bowls Club on 20 September at 10am.
  - A poster from Helmsley Walled Garden who are looking for new volunteers.
  - Agenda for the Police and Area Community Police Group Tier 2 Meeting and AGM to be held at RVS Hungate on 19 September at 7pm.
  - Information from Trackrod Rally Yorkshire about their event which will pass through Pickering on 28th and 29th September.
  - Responses to the Consultation for “identified improvements or better access” at 35 Market Place, Pickering for Boots UK Ltd.
  - A letter from Next Steps thanking the council for their grant.
  - A newsletter from the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Partnership.
  - The Autumn Programme from Musical Memories.
- iii) The town clerk reported that:
- Ryedale Foodbank have contacted the council asking for funding and have been given a grant application form and invited to meet with the Town Clerk and Councillors to find out more about their organisation.
  - The Probation Service will clear the verge on Castle Road on 18th September and sow grass seed so that once the grass is established this can be cut by the council’s contractor.
  - Councillor Haythorne will attend a full day YLCA training event on 28 November with the town clerk. Councillors will be given an update on this event in December.
  - The council’s annual play areas inspection will take place on 19th September and a report will go the October meeting. Work to install two new pieces of equipment in Troutbeck Close and Hawthorn Lane will take place between 17th and 28th September.
  - North Yorkshire Police have informed the council that a “Community Point of Contact” is being set up to deal with any policing matters related to Fracking in the local area. This will mean a change of PCSOs for Pickering and the Town Clerk has been given details of the staff changes.
  - The metal picnic table in Hawthorn Lane play area has been damaged with initials scratched into the paint work. The police have been informed and the small works contractor will be instructed to repair the damage.
  - North Yorkshire County Council’s Highways Department have been asked if they would deal with the encroachment of grass onto the pavements at Middleton Road and High Back Side.

## **89     PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The following planning applications were considered by the council:

|              |  |   |
|--------------|--|---|
| 18/00858/FUL | Erection of building forming 2 no. units for B1/B8 use adjacent to the building approved under 17/00398/FUL dated 14.07.17 together with formation of additional car parking and landscaping on land East of Outgang Road, Outgang Lane. | The council had no objections to these plans. |
|--------------|--|---|

The council received and noted the outcomes to four planning applications.

|               |  |          |
|---------------|--|----------|
| 18/00689/LBC  | Installation of Bank of Ireland ATM at 7 Market Place (revised details)  | Approved |
| 18/00656/MFUL | Works to Pickering Beck and adjacent land to allow formation of two new meanders with spoil to be distributed within Big Crooks field at land off Ings Lane, Pickering.  | Approved |
| 17/01536/MFUL | Erection of 28 no. four bedroom dwellings, 76 no. three bedroom dwellings, 43 no. two bedroom dwellings and 14 no. one bedroom dwellings with associated access, garaging, parking, infrastructure, landscaping and public access space on land South of Firthland Road. | Refused  |

The council received a letter from a Planning Consultant about proposals to develop land off Thornton Road for the construction of an 81 bedroom hotel and four industrial units. It was acknowledged that no detailed plans were yet available, but the following comments were made:

- Access and traffic movement is a concern, particularly as the hotel is some distance from the town centre and guests are likely to drive if they want to go to local shops and restaurants. This could then take up some of the parking spaces in town, for which there is already a high demand in peak season;
- A hotel could generate noise and will be very visible on one of the main entrance roads into the town;
- Concerns were raised about this hotel taking trade from local hotels and other types of guest accommodation and also whether the hotel would be economically viable;
- Local hotels and B&Bs use local shops and trades and these businesses could be affected as Premier Inn are likely to have their own supply chain;
- The council acknowledged that there could be benefits in building this hotel and some businesses may see an increase in trade. The industrial units may also be beneficial, particularly as they would be close to the existing industrial estate;
- Councillors felt that a Premier Inn would be better suited to another site in Ryedale, perhaps at the Eden Business Park development close to Malton.

The council asked the clerk to pass on these comments to the Planning Consultant and requested that if a planning application is received for this development that it goes to full council for consideration, if possible.

The council received an update on the transfer of the Community Park to the town council, including advice from the council's solicitor. The council resolved to contact the drainage engineer appointed as their consultant in 2015 to ask if he would visit the park, look at the current scheme of French Drains and advise on their future maintenance.

**91 PLANNING REFORMS FOR SHALE GAS EXPLORATION AND SHALE GAS PRODUCTION**

The council received and accepted the following motion and resolved that the government consultations should be responded to accordingly:

The government has put forward proposals via a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) to allow the exploration phase of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to be allowed under Permitted Development (PD), therefore requiring no planning permission. They also propose to bring the production phase of fracking under Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), to be decided centrally by government and the planning inspectorate, thus taking decisions away from local control. These proposals would over-ride local plans, local planning and local democratic decisions, including those within North Yorkshire. The Minerals and Waste Joint Plan (MWJP) was jointly produced by NYCC, CYC and NYMNPAA with considerable expenditure and officer time over several years. The plan was subject to extensive consultation with all stakeholders and the public. It was judged by a government appointed independent planning inspector to be sound, legal and compliant with national policy at an Examination in Public (EIP). Therefore:

1. This council endorses local control of fracking by Mineral Planning Authorities;
2. This council supports the current North Yorkshire MWJP and the definitions within it;
3. Although this Council wasn't informed or consulted directly via a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) this Council instructs our Town Clerk to write to the government rejecting the changes proposed for PD and NSIP and that the North Yorkshire MWJP should have primacy for all planning decisions at all stages of fracking;
4. Pickering Town Council requests NYCC to support this opposition to government policy.

**92 CONCERNS ABOUT TRAFFIC MOVEMENT AND PARKING**

The council received two letters from residents who had raised concerns about traffic movement and parking on Malton Road and Recreation Road. The council resolved that the clerk should contact the County Councillor to find out if he was able to ascertain when the new pedestrian crossing might be installed on Malton Road as this might help with traffic speeds and parking issues on Malton Road.

With parking and traffic movement on Recreation Road it was acknowledged that this street was regularly used for parking by visitors and those employed by businesses in the town centre, but the Police and North Yorkshire County Council have both said that there is no history of accidents and there is nothing that they can do. The council resolved to write to the resident who had raised the issue explaining this.

**93 COMMUNITY GRITTING SCHEME**

The council received information on the County Council's Community Gritting Scheme with a request from a member of the public that the council considers setting up one of these

schemes. The council supported this idea in principle and resolved to ask the clerk to carry out more research.

**94 BECK ISLE MUSEUM WORLD WAR ONE CENTENERAY COMMEMORATIONS**

The council gave their support to plans by the Beck Isle Museum to hold a World War One Centenary Commemoration at the grave of a Pickering man who died on active duty in 1918, and who is buried in the Closed Churchyard.

**95 CHRISTMAS MARKET**

The council noted the communication from Ryedale District Council to say that a Christmas Market will be held in the Market Place on Sunday 9 December. The council have asked if in future they can be informed of any such events earlier in the planning process so that the Business Group can be consulted about any events that they are planning.

**96 COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The council received a list of current policies to be reviewed and asked the clerk to complete these policy reviews for approval at the November meeting.

**97 THE TOWN BUS SERVICE**

The council acknowledged that the town bus service was important to the town and thanked the residents who had presented them with the survey and supporting information. North Yorkshire County Council have confirmed that they have received this survey and will give feedback to be reported at a future meeting.

**98 A REQUEST CONCERNING A GRAVE IN THE CEMETERY**

The council learnt that a grave in the cemetery needed to be levelled but it was difficult to do this without also stabilising the headstone, which is work that would not usually be done by the town council. It was resolved that the council would undertake this work if the family were prepared to meet half of the £120 cost and if they accepted a disclaimer that they will still responsible for future maintenance of the memorial.

**99 FINANCE**

i) Councillors Audit: August 2018

The council received and endorsed the report on the audit carried out on 7 September 2018.

ii) Delegated decisions by the clerk

The council received and endorsed the decisions taken by the town clerk since 14 August 2018.

iii) Office upgrade

The council received and endorsed a schedule of expenditure totalling £3820.10 for new computer equipment and new furniture for the council office.

iv) Hawthorn Lane Bowl Rocker

The council accepted the recommendation by the Tender Working Party to appoint Streetscape Products and Services to supply and install a “bowl rocker” at Hawthorn Lane play area at a cost of £3700.

v) Grants

The council received grant application forms and supporting information from Ryedale Swimming Club and Musical Memories and resolved to award a grant of £500 to each organisation.

vi) Councillors Audit

The council resolved that Councillor Gadsby would replace Councillor Littlewood on Councillors Audit with immediate effect.

vii) Stationery and Office Supplies

The council resolved that wherever possible the council should use local suppliers for office equipment and supplies, however, it was acknowledged that it may not always be possible to buy local and it was left to the Clerks discretion as to when an online supplier should be used.

viii) Financial statement for August 2018

The council resolved that the financial statement for August be received and noted.

ix) September Accounts

The council resolved that the July accounts paid and due for payment totalling £16030.22 be approved.

**100 STAFFING MATTERS (EXEMPT ITEM)**

The council resolved to make this agenda item exempt. A representative of the staffing committee confirmed that four candidates had been interviewed and Alison Mitchell had been appointed as Assistant to the Town Clerk. She will take up her new role on 1 October 2018.

**101 A LETTER FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC (EXEMPT ITEM)**

The council resolved to make this agenda item exempt. The council received a letter from a member of the public regarding the previous town clerk and an insurance claim that has already been fully dealt with. The council resolved to reply to this letter to say that the matter was closed and there would be no further correspondence about the same issues.

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**Town Mayor**

