



Tadcaster Town Council

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Open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7 PM IN THE ARK

PRESENT:	CHAIRMAN	S Cobb
	COUNCILLORS	D Bowgett, C Metcalfe, K Poskitt & P Tunney.
	CLERK	Present
	DEPUTY CLERK	Present
	ALSO PRESENT	None

- E36** **APOLOGIES – (Item 1)** - To receive, record and approve apologies for absence: - J Chiswick, R Sweeting & C Stephenson.
- E37** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – (Item 2)** - To receive and record declarations of interest at this point or at any other point on the agenda - None.
- E38** **PUBLIC SESSION – SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS – (Item 3)** - To allow members of the public to speak on any matter as it relates to the town – Members of the public are asked to submit any questions in advance of the meeting to the Clerk - None.
- E39** **REIMPOSE STANDING ORDERS (Item 4) –**
- E40** **CLERKS REPORT – (Item 5)** - Clerk to update members regarding any environmental matters not itemised on this agenda - None.
- E41** **PLANNING – (Item 6)** - Members noted and commented as required on the following applications received from North Yorkshire Council: -
- a. Refused Applications –**
- 12/23 – 17 Wharfedale Crescent** - demolition of garden shed and garage, and erection of 1No dwelling.
- b. North Yorkshire Council –**
- Broad Acres, Old Coach Road Healaugh – ZG2023/1194/HPA** - Residents request for Council to respond to the application.
- RESOLVED – Members agreed to reiterate Councils previous comments and to request a reply to comments.**
- ACTION – Clerk to deal.**
- E42** **CORRESPONDENCE – (Item 7)** - members noted and commented as required: -
- a.** North Yorkshire Council - Area 7 – Highways Workshops – 19 February 2024 6.00pm, online, 21 February 2024 10.00am or 2.00pm Selby Highways Depot - members to discuss and consider attendance.
- P Tunney agreed to attend the above Workshop.
- K Poskitt reported that she was in regular contact with Selby Area 7 and was able to raise any Council matters as required.
- E43** **BRIDGE CLOSURES – (Item 8)** -
- a.** North Yorkshire Council update on bridge closures.
- K Poskitt reported that Tadcaster Bridge Closure Criteria, Question and Answers Briefing Note had been circulated to members and was in the public domain. A further Briefing Note was imminent and would be circulated to members as instructed by North Yorkshire Council.

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She had attended a meeting of North Yorkshire Council representatives where community and Councillor issues regarding Bridge Closures were raised and discussed. Representatives were aware that the present coordination of closures was inadequate. Signage on the A64 was proving difficult as it was National Highways responsibility and a live situation.

There was general misconception that there had been a total rebuild of the bridge in 2016, the bridge was repaired and strengthened as required following its collapse, not all the bridge had been renovated.

P Tunney asked if K Poskitt was aware of any issues regarding the bridge that the public were unaware of.

K Poskitt reported that she was not aware of any issues that the public were not aware of. She felt that improvements to NYC communications could be improved. The situation was to be improved by next year.

P Tunney reported that he had emailed K Poskitt with concerns regarding NYC Bridge Closure Briefing and the lack of a response from NYC Corporate Director for Environment.

Regular Inspections of ancient bridges was required, he felt the Council needed sight of Bridge Inspection Reports since 2016.

C Metcalfe reported that reports were not sent to Councils as a matter of course a request would be required.

K Poskitt questioned the need to see reports as the Council was not qualified to act.

P Tunney felt that if there were any concerns raised in the reports then it would be of importance to the community, the Council should be aware of any long-term potential interests, the past required examination to help the future.

K Poskitt reported that the Town Council did not have the skills required to move forward with this.

C Metcalfe reported that clarity and transparency was required, the author of the Bridge reports would have made conclusions.

RESOLVED – Council to send a Freedom of Information request to North Yorkshire Council for copies of Tadcaster Bridge Inspection Reports from 2016.

ACTION – Clerk to deal.

P. Tunney pointed out to members that the volume of river water (flow) during the overtopping event in February 2022 was the second highest on record, reaching in excess of 300 cubic metres per second. The only time in living memory that figure had been exceeded was during the Boxing Day flood in 2015. The upstream gauge failed on that occasion and the Cambridge University Remote Monitoring Report, which had been circulated, suggested that the flow at that time was over 550 cubic metres per second. He said it was no wonder the Bridge succumbed due to scouring. He disagreed the claim that there had been scouring over recent highs in the river as the flows did not get above 160 cubic metres”.

He asked K Poskitt if she had received replies to his questions sent to Corporate Director for Environment.

If repairs were required for a section of the bridge could this be completed during the low river season avoiding the same issue occurring in following years?

K Poskitt suggested that P Tunney took the above matters of concern back to NYC Corporate Director for Environment.

P Tunney reported that he had contacted the above Director on three occasions and had not been impressed with replies.

K Poskitt reported that she did not like to pursue matters of conspiracy i.e. information being held back.

P Tunney felt there was a lack of transparency.

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C Metcalfe felt that the Question and Answers document had created more questions, and it included a lot of misleading information. More information was required to broaden the debate and have clear focus.

D Bowgett felt that the matter could not advance until the Briefing document had been received.

K Poskitt agreed there had been inconsistencies regarding closures, a way forward was proving challenging, answers were required.

b. Members noted a statement received from North Yorkshire Councils Environment regarding Bridge Closures.

c. Members noted a Councillor email received regarding Bridge Closures.

d. Members noted and discussed a Remote Monitoring of Bridge Movement Report.

P Tunney reported that the above Report had been circulated to members. The report related to bridge failure in 2015.

He was in contact with authors of the Report at Cambridge University who would be willing to come and talk to the Council. The author had been unsuccessful in contacting NYC Bridges section. He was concerned that if NYC had not seen the report, then why not?

C Metcalfe reported that NYC may not be in a position to answer following changes in authorities and officers. He felt that the NYC Director should be made aware of the Report.

ACTION – K Poskitt to contact NYC Corporate Director to ascertain NYC interest for contacting the Report Author at Cambridge University and report back.

E44 NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE – (Item 9) - Members update of North Yorkshire Council matters.

K Poskitt reported that she had met with NYC Local Plan Officers which had been informative. Heronby was to be removed from the plan and there was to be another LP consultation.

C Metcalfe reported that parked cars on Station Industrial Estate was excessive making it difficult for visitors to the Recycling Centre.

ACTION - K Poskitt to report to NYC.

E45 VEHICULAR ACTIVATED SIGNS – (Item 10) - Members discussed a way forward for VAS Data.

D Bowgett reported that he had downloaded data from the Wetherby Road VAS, the data was detailed and asked for members guidance regarding data publication.

K Poskitt reported that as the data had shown that the average speed was above 35MPH she felt there may be enough evidence to ask the Police to speed check the area. Police speed checks had previously been denied due to road layout. In the interest of transparency, she was keen that data be shared where appropriate.

C Metcalfe was reluctant to share data as it would be minimal at the early stages and which may not be a true reflection. He suggested that the Police and NYC Area 7 be contacted to ascertain their views.

ACTION – K Poskitt to: -

- **Contact Local Police and NYC Area 7 for Data sharing advice.**

- **Contact Police regarding the possibility of Speed checks on Wetherby Road.**

D Bowgett suggested that data be downloaded/analysed on a three-monthly basis when they are relocated.

The Clerk reported that the York Road VAS was not working correctly and was being investigated by the supplier.

E46 CIL & 106 – (Item 11) -

a. Members to discuss future plans for CIL monies received by the Council.

b. Edgerton Lodge - Members discussed Recreational Open Space spend following the conversion of former homeless persons hostel at Edgerton Lodge, Edgerton Drive.

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C Metcalfe reported that the Council did not need to decide until the planning process required. He felt clarification and reasons were required for why funds could not be used on the riverside, money would be well spent for the community in this area.

ACTION – K Poskitt to contact NYC Planning to enquire and clarify how CIL monies could be spent and report back.

E47 BIODIVERSITY POLICY – (Item 12) - Members discussed a way forward for a Town Council Biodiversity Policy.

S Cobb reported that a NYC Councillor had offered to advise the Council as to a way forward. Members felt that an initial group meeting to discuss a way forward was required.

RESOLVED – D Bowgett, S Cobb and C Stephenson to arrange an initial meeting to discuss a way forward and report back to Council.

E48 VIADUCT MAINTENANCE – (Item 13) - Members discussed and agreed a way forward for Viaduct Maintenance.

The Clerk reported that Viaduct last had a Principle Inspection in 2019. It is recommended that an inspection be carried out every 6 years.

An interim General Inspection could be considered, cost would be in the region of £500.

C Metcalfe felt that the Council was required to show due diligence by carrying out a General Inspection followed by a principle inspection in due course if required.

The Clerk reported that following a crack found in span 10 of the Viaduct in the previous Principle Inspection a gauge had been fitted to monitor movement.

Members felt that a General Inspection would cover all aspects.

RESOLVED –

- **That a General Inspection of the Viaduct be undertaken.**
- **That the Clerk had the discretion, in consultation with the Chairman for expenditure in the region of £500 for the above general inspection.**

ACTION – Clerk to deal.

P Tunney reported that Cambridge University Remote Monitoring were doing bridge/viaduct work nationwide and could be considered regarding an inspection.

E49 CHRISTMAS MARKET – (Item 14) -

a. Members update of plans for Christmas Market on 1 December 2024 – The Clerk reported that plans were on track and ongoing.

An email had been received prior to 2023 from a charity not based in Tadcaster requesting that that the lower rate be applied for a stall.

Members agreed that charities should adhere to the Criteria, the lower community rate should only apply to charities/orgnisations based in Tadcaster, therefore higher rate should apply in this instance.

The Clerk reported that Local Air Cadets had helped to steward at the 2023 Christmas Market due to the lack of volunteers. They had been thanked for their help.

K Poskitt reported that the Cadets had been a great asset on the day.

ACTION – Clerk to ask Air Cadets to steward at the 2024 Market.

b. Members discussed stall prices 2024.

RESOLVED – That stall and pitch prices remain the same for 2024.

c. Members to agree a Market Manager for Christmas Market 2024.

RESOLVED – Members agreed R Sweeting for Market Manager 2024.

E50 ILLUMINATIONS – (Item 15) - Members update of group meeting on 16 January 2024 to discuss plans for 2024 illuminations in the town.

The Clerk reported that the above group meeting had recommended the purchase of second-hand illuminations for 2024 as prices were at present reduced.

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The group also recommended for the purchase of more reflective stars and moons and a tree lighting event separate to the Market.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to the purchase of second-hand illuminations and reflective moons and stars and a Tree Lighting event.

ACTION – Clerk to deal.

E51 LITTER BIN/ DOG BIN AND BENCHES SURVEY – (Item 16) - Members discussed a way forward for a survey of Litter/Dog Bins and benches in the town.

The Clerk reported that the last survey had been carried out in 2023.

RESOLVED – Members agreed for the completion of the above surveys every other year.

E52 LITTER PICK – (Item 17) -

a. Members discussed a date for a Community Litter Pick.

RESOLVED – Members agreed the 13 April 2024.

b. Members to agree Councillor attendance at a Litter Pick event.

K Poskitt agreed to volunteer to help at the above event, D Bowgett to confirm.

ACTION – Deputy Clerk to contact Councillors to ask for volunteers for the above event.

P Tunney suggested that a local volunteer litter picking group be approached to ask if they would like to take on the event.

Members felt that the event was symbolic to the Council and should remain a Town Council event.

The Deputy Clerk suggested that a newsletter article regarding the volunteer group be included in the next edition.

E53 TREE MAINTENANCE POLICY – (Item 18) - members to consider a recommendation from Tadcaster Neighbourhood Development Steering Group regarding additional policy for Tadcaster Tree Maintenance Policy – Members agreed to defer this item following advice from the Chairman of NDP.

E54 ALLOTMENTS – (Item 19) -

a. To discuss any matters relating to the allotments.

b. **Transfer of Land - Westfield Crescent** - Members update of the transfer of land to the rear of 24 Westfield Crescent to North Yorkshire Council.

The Clerk reported that many emails had been sent to NYC since 2019 with no reply.

ACTION – K Poskitt to chase.

E55 WEBSITE, NEWLETTER AND MEDIA ITEMS – (Item 20) - To suggest appropriate matters from this meeting to place on the website, Facebook and before the media – Tadcaster Litter Volunteer Group.

E56 MINOR MATTERS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING – (Item 21) - to bring to the attention of the meeting, or the Clerk any relevant items of business for the next meeting of the **Environment Committee**

- P Tunney felt that as the town had no banks remaining a banking hub to help the community could be an option.

Members felt the idea was worth exploring.

ACTION

- **P Tunney to investigate the possibilities for a town banking hub.**
- **Clerk to raise an agenda item at the next appropriate meeting.**
- Members suggested that the Council writes to King Charles III regarding his recent health diagnosis.

ACTION – Clerk to deal.

To consider exclusion of the press and public by virtue of the Public (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed at agenda items only.

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E57 ARK MAINTENANCE – (Item 22) -

a. Members update of planning requirements for the rewiring and replacement heating in the Ark.

The Clerk reported that following invalidation of the Planning Application the Council had been waiting for an onsite visit appointment from a Conservation Office.

An officer had attended on 30 January 2024. The officer advised that flooring be replaced owing to rising damp and electrics be raised off the floor. It was agreed that this be dealt with as two separate projects.

The officer changed the location of the proposed two air conditioning units in the office and chamber this would require redrawing of the plans. The Clerk explained costs for redrawing of the plans.

A funding scheme for floor replacement was being investigated. A funding advisor had been approached for guidance regarding funding and completion of applications. A quote for a daily rate had been received.

It was advised that an Energy Performance Certificate be sought as this could help future funding. A quotation had been received.

RESOLVED –

- **Members agreed the above quotations.**
- **A funding advisor be commissioned for 2 days.**
- **An EPC Certificate be sought as required.**

ACTION – Clerk to deal.

C Metcalfe suggested K Poskitt approached NYC Planning to highlight the urgency of the application.

ACTION – K Poskitt to deal.

b. Members considered an additional quote received for a Planning Consultant for planning application for rewiring and replacement heating in the Ark.

Members suggested that a decision regarding redrawing of the plans be considered following the above consultation with NYC Planning.

RESOLVED – The Clerk be authorised to spend funding required for redrawing of the plans as required.

ACTION – Clerk to deal.

E58 QUOTATION – Vehicular Activated Sign – (Item 23) - Power upgrade. Members discussed and considered a quotation received for a power upgrade required for the transfer of VAS data.

D Bowgett reported that a power upgrade would help the transfer of data.

RESOLVED – Members agreed the above quotation.

ACTION – Clerk to deal.