

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Harrogate Branch of Yorkshire Local Councils Associations held in the Jubilee Room, St James Square, Boroughbridge on Monday, 12 June 2017 at 7.00pm.

**PRESENT**

Cllr S Fawcett (Chairman)	Spofforth with Stockeld Parish Council
Cllr R Lynn (Vice Chairman)	Killinghall Parish Council
Cllr M Dawson	Bewerley Parish Council
Ms N Heavisides	Boroughbridge Town Council
Cllr A Cotterill	Darley with Menwith Parish Council
Cllr S Reid	Dishforth Parish Council
Ms T Eyles	Dishforth Parish Council
Cllr I Bailes	Green Hammerton Parish Council
Cllr I Andrew	Green Hammerton Parish Council
Cllr A Rickards	Kearby & Netherby parish Council
Mr A Macdonald	Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council
Cllr D Oswin	Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council
Cllr M Holt	Pateley Bridge Town Council
Cllr J Leggett	Pateley Bridge Town Council
Cllr D Bishop	Roecliffe and Westwick Parish Council
Cllr T O'Flaherty	Scriven Parish Council
Cllr R Gibbs	Sicklinghall Parish Council
Cllr C Warrington	Sicklinghall Parish Council
Cllr J Mosley	Skelton on Ure Parish Council
Ms K Rayner	Skelton on Ure Parish Council

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Sheena Spence	Chief Officer, YLCA
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**APOLOGIES**

Mr D Taylor	Azerley Parish Council
Cllr J Fowler	Bishop Monkton Parish Council
Mr D Taylor	Bishop Monkton Parish Council
Cllr R Young	Boroughbridge Town Council
Cllr C Lee	Kirk Hammerton Parish Council
Cllr M Collins	Langthorpe Parish Council

**SPEAKER – CLLR RICHARD COOPER, LEADER OF HARROGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Cooper to the meeting and thanked him for coming to update the parishes on the Council's current activities and plans for the upcoming year.

Cllr Cooper explained that the Borough Council office move is progressing well with the new build being on target and on budget. He informed those present that this was a capped cost exercise which controlled the budget and that it was necessary that the new premises are ready at the end of September 2017.

He discussed the green garden waste changes with the meeting, informing them that a charge for the collection of such waste would be introduced from the end of June this year. He estimated that the cost per household would be c£40 per year. He explained that it was difficult to raise the council tax because of the 2% cap which, if exceeded would trigger a costly referendum and therefore the council needed to raise revenue in other ways.

The parishes were encouraged to take interest in the new Economic Development Strategy which is being developed. Cllr Cooper informed that this is no longer based entirely on tourism and now contains other proposals, ie innovations, to future proof the prosperity of the Borough due to lack of jobs and opportunities.

The issue of government funding cuts was raised and although Cllr Cooper was unsure of the effects of the recent general election in this regard, the Council was still working with a run down of rate support grant to £0 by 2020. He explained that to date the Council had managed budget reductions without cutting frontline services. He also said that he would like to see changed to planning policy with more local control being given to principal authorities. Also mentioned was the devo deal in the region that is struggling to make any headway. Cllr Cooper explained that a draft agreement drawn up between West and North Yorkshire some time ago is now on hold. Parish representatives present felt that the Northern region was missing out on opportunities because of this and Cllr Cooper agreed with this saying that he felt that politics should not be involved in the arrangements but that any agreement should be focused on local people and services being made to them.

Various questions were asked by member representatives.

Cllr Leggott suggested that when the Allerton Park recycling plant is fully open there could be some reduction in the current cost of recycling and Cllr Cooper felt that this might be the case. Cllr Leggott also raised the issue of the need for affordable housing and Cllr Cooper explained the Borough Council's current policy. He also mentioned that there have been no large site residential developments for some time, although this would change in the near future, and it was the larger developments where a reasonable number of affordable homes could be achieved.

Cllr Cotterill expressed concern about the lack of social housing and a discussion on council housing and shared equity schemes ensued. He also reported that the Borough Council is to build some council owned houses across its area.

Cllr Bailes reported that there are plans to build 3,000 new homes in the parish of Green Hammerton. A number of other representatives reported on plans to build substantial developments in their parishes. Cllr Cooper reminded those present that a consultation on preferred sites is to be underway very shortly and that this is where parishes have an opportunity to make their views known. He also reminded the meeting that HBC has to build between 600-800 new homes per year; this is a Governmental instruction and these developments must be divided between rural, Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon. It is envisaged that the only way to meet Government demands is via a new settlement but as with any other site, there are objections from local communities. Many of those present expressed concern about the lack infrastructure support for new development such as schools, employment and transport links. Cllr Cooper explained that potential traffic impact and transportation is taken into consideration as part of a sustainability/feasibility assessment when a large residential development is planned. He explained that the Borough Council is working with North Yorkshire County Council modelling potential developments. He advised that is local councils (parishes) feel that infrastructure is inadequate to support any new development they need to challenge via a well-reasoned argument.

The meeting also discussed the provision of cycle paths as raised by Cllr Bishop. Cllr Cooper reported that there is evidence that the cycleway from Bilton to Ripley has had a positive impact but that implementation of the project was a costly exercise due to the Council having to purchase land and particularly utilise private land for the purpose.

Cllr Gibbs enquired about the Council's policy for homes for the elderly and Cllr Cooper informed the meeting that the Local Plan would have a mix policy and single persons residing in family homes, ie council housing and housing association stock, will be encouraged to move into smaller houses.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Cooper for attending the meeting and giving a very informative presentation.

#### 10/17 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

##### **RESOLVED**

That the following officers and representatives be elected for the ensuing year.

Chairman: Cllr S Fawcett (Spofforth with Stockeld Parish Council)

Vice-Chairman Cllr R Lynn (Killinghall Parish Council)

Joint Executive Board: Cllr S Fawcett (Spofforth with Stockeld Parish Council)

Cllr R Lynn (Killinghall Parish Council)

Joint Executive Board Deputy: Cllr D Bishop (Roeclyffe and Westwick Parish Council)

#### 11/17 **MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2017 be confirmed and signed by the chairman as a true and correct record.

#### 12/17 **MATTERS ARISING**

The Chief Officer updated the meeting on progress in the matter of revised governance arrangements for YLCA. She encouraged member councils to be represented at the Joint AGM to be held on 15 July at York University, although it was acknowledged by the Branch that it did not have any objections to the proposals.

#### 13/17 **JOINT EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Cllr Lynn gave a verbal but comprehensive report from a meeting of the YLCA Executive Board held on 22 April 2017.

## **RESOLVED**

That the approved minutes of the Joint Executive Board meeting held on 14 January 2017 and the draft minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2017 be received.

### **14/17 WORK OF THE YLCA AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

The Chief Officer gave a verbal report and referred to an issue of the White Rose Update newsletter that had been published recently. She also drew the attention of members to new National Training Strategy publications in the form of the updated Good Councillors Guide, Guide to Neighbourhood Planning and Guide to Finance and Transparency which is to be launched at the end of June. She also mentioned changes to the Data Protection Act 1998 that would be implemented in May 2018 and referred to a recent NALC Legal Briefing that had been sent to all member councils. Those present were urged to encourage their councils to read the Information Commissioner's guide to the new rules.

### **15/17 BRANCH BUSINESS**

#### ***Transparency Fund***

Councils that had not applied were encouraged to do so as the Chief Officer reminded them that although there was £1.1m of funding available to all eligible parishes in the current financial year there would be no further funding when this has been claimed. She also reminded councils that have already applied to the Fund that they can apply again for further hosting, training and officer support costs.

#### ***YLCA Training programme***

The Chief Officer gave details of upcoming courses being run directly by YLCA and informed the meeting that a programme of seminars presented by external speakers would be circulated shortly.

### **16/17 OPEN FORUM FOR LOCAL ISSUES**

A question was asked about a council being the trustee of a village hall and whether because of this, the Transparency Code for smaller councils applied. The Chief Officer confirmed that in this context it did not as the Council was acting in charitable, not statutory capacity and charity accounts must be kept separate from the council's statutory accounts.

### **17/17 TO AGREE A SPEAKER IF REQUIRED**

#### **RESOLVED**

To invite Nigel Smith from NYCC Highways Department to discuss traffic impacts caused by new developments.

### **18/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the date had been agreed previously as Monday, 2 October. It was agreed to use the new Borough Council offices if possible but if not, to return to the Library at Boroughbridge.

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and contributions.

Chairman..... Date.....