

YARM TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of Yarm Town Council Meeting

held in the Town Hall at 7.14pm on Tuesday 11th June 2019

PRESENT: Councillors L Casey (in the Chair); P Monck, Barbara Wegg, Bob Wegg, P Smailes, P Addison, J Hadlow, S Luwero (part). Also in attendance: T Chapman (Town Clerk) Cllr Tony Hampton (Borough Councillor), A Metcalfe (Local Democracy Reporter).

Minute No.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllrs Addison and Monck both declared an interest in item 14b (Snaiths Field) as members of Yarm 1914.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the **14th May 2019** were **accepted** as a correct record of the meeting.

4 MATTERS ARISING.

The Chairman **advised** the meeting correspondence has been sent by the Council's Solicitors to a member of the public and to her daughter regarding their inappropriate behaviour, misleading comments and statements on social media. In addition, the meeting was **advised** that both the Chairman and Vice Chairman have met with the Police to raise these matters and the long-standing harassment of Town Council employees.

5 To accept the minutes of the Weigh and Tolls Committee held on the 14th May 2019.

The minutes were **accepted**.

6 To accept the minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on the 20th May 2019.

The minutes were **accepted** and the Town Clerk **updated** the meeting on plans to update the Cemetery Rules and in lobbying the Borough Council to identify and provide further Cemetery Space in the south of the borough.

Cllr Hadlow **reminded** the meeting of several improvements in Yarm Cemetery and Cllr Barbara Wegg **suggested** placing an appropriate sign in the Cemetery reminding visitors and grave owners that Yarm Cemetery is a "lawned" Cemetery. This was **agreed**.

7 To accept the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on the 10th June 2019.

The minutes were **accepted**.

8 COUNCIL FINANCES

- a. Members approved the following payments and income:

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| Payments by Direct Debit | | £ | £ |
|---|--|-----------|------------|
| Creditor | Service | Sub Total | Total |
| EE | Mobile & telephone 17.5.19 | | £26.99 |
| EE | Mobile & telephone 17.6.19 | | £26.99 |
| Stockton-on-Tees BC | Willey Flatts Cleansing. 1.5.19 | | £198.29 |
| Stockton-on-Tees BC | Cemetery refuse bin. 1.5.19 | | £55.80 |
| Stockton-on-Tees BC | Cemetery rates. 1.5.19 | | £36.00 |
| Npower | Allotment Hut & Chapel 17.5.19 | | £89.18 |
| Npower Northern LTD | 10.5.19 | | £244.97 |
| Payments by Cheque | | £ | £ |
| Creditor | Service | Sub Total | Total |
| BWS Gardening | Watering of Hanging Baskets/Strimming job. | | £60.00 |
| Leighton Landscapes | Grounds Maintenance Inv | | £1,999.70 |
| Cornerstone | Business Premium Licence Inv 31639 | 11.28 | |
| Cornerstone | Offsite Backup Invoice No 31424 | 48.00 | |
| Cornerstone | IT Support Invoice No 31631 | 36.00 | £95.28 |
| Town Clerk | Printer Ink 28th May 2019 | 50.99 | |
| Town Clerk | Postage | 13.00 | |
| Town Clerk | Brackets for Hanging Baskets | 30.39 | |
| Town Clerk | Volunteer Refreshments | 9.58 | |
| Town Clerk | Office stationery. | 18.94 | £122.90 |
| Town Clerk | May Salary | | £1,766.33 |
| Teesside Pension Fund | May EE & ER Pension Contribution | | £566.33 |
| HMRC | May Tax and NI liability | | £566.30 |
| Geoff Price | McAfee Fee | | £89.99 |
| Merritt & Co Solicitors | Legal advice | | £528.00 |
| The following items remain in dispute. | | | |
| Npower | Continuous Public Lighting | | 242.53 |
| Npower | Lighting at Town Hall | | 684.77 |
| Income | | | |
| NatWest | Reserve Account Interest 31st May 2019 | | £38.72 |
| Co-op | Burial Fee (DA) | | £650.00 |
| HM Revenue & Customs | Refund of VAT paid. | | £13,865.86 |

The option of using BWS Gardening for several small/ad hoc jobs was discussed. Contractual/tendering implications to be reviewed by the Town Clerk.

b. Bank Reconciliation Statements

The Reconciliation Statement for the end of April 2019 was presented with a nil difference between the Cashbook and the Bank Statements.

c. Bank Signatories

It was agreed to update the following as Bank Signatories: Cllr L Casey, Cllr R Wegg, Cllr J Hadlow, Cllr B Wegg, Cllr P Smailes and T Chapman (Town Clerk) and to remove former Cllr C Neil as a signatory.

(Cllr Luwero arrived at the meeting).

9 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence list was **presented** and **reviewed**.

Following receipt of correspondence, it was **agreed** to write to Cllr Hampton to request assistance to identify standards applied by the Borough Council in maintaining the cobbles.

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The option of making an application for funding to the Thirteen Group for a 5 a side football pitch on Willey Flatts was **discussed** and to be decided at agenda item 14b..

A request for funding for Yarm Angling and Twinning and a contribution of £300 was **agreed**.

10 PUBLIC SESSION.

The Chairman invited the members of the public in attendance to ask one question each about Council business itemised on the agenda:

No questions were asked.

11 POLICY & RESOURCES.

a. To consider, review and accept the Council's Financial Regulations.

The Financial Regulations were reviewed and **agreed**.

b. To consider and approve a statement regarding the WW1 Memorial Garden.

The following statement was **agreed**:

"Yarm Town Council gave permission to Yarm 1914 to establish a small Memorial Garden on Snaiths Field to commemorate the end of World War One and recognising all those from Yarm that fought in that war.

A precedent has already been established for other sympathetic uses Snaiths Field following the planting of a small orchard.

It would not be appropriate for the Town Council to withdraw approval from Yarm 1914.

Furthermore, many, indeed the majority, are quite content with the inobtrusive feature that has also become a platform that encourages discussion and thought amongst young people and, in particular, local schoolchildren whom find the Memorial Garden more relatable than other memorials.

The location of the small Memorial Garden is such that it improves safety as it forms a "barrier" between the field and the narrow, adjacent road.

The Town Council is saddened that one or two residents have used the creation of this feature as a platform to make mischief out of a Memorial Garden that has been dedicated to those from Yarm that served in the Great War, at a ceremony attended by Councillors, Clergy, Schoolchildren and Residents and welcomed by many."

c. To consider options regarding repair or replacement of the play area surface on Willey Flatts.

It was **agreed** to obtain pricing for the replacement of the play area surface at Willey Flatts.

d. To consider progress in siting a 5 a side pitch on Willey Flatts..

It was **agreed** to create a 5 a side football pitch on Willey Flatts and to make an application to the Thirteen Group for funding in full or on part.

e. Allotments

It was **agreed** to hold the annual allotments inspection on 13th June at 1pm

f. Councillors Training Session

Councillors were **reminded** of the forthcoming training session at Preston Hall Museum on 19th June 2019.

12 Staffing.

The planned attendance of the Town Clerk at the CILCA related courses at Shildon on 8th and 15th July was **noted**.

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13 To agree content for the Town Council website.

Flood warning information.

14 To receive items for information and consideration for the next agenda.

1 Cllr Monck asked for the issue of Air Pollution to be on the next agenda.

2 Benches/seating.

3 Snaiths Field 1920 – 2020.

15 To confirm the date of the next meeting of the Town Council as Tuesday 9th July 2019.

16 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM.

It was agreed to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting to progress the co-option process

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Signed Chair of the meeting

Date:
