

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of  
Yarm Town Council to be held at

**The Fellowship Hall (side entrance)**

**West Street, Yarm TS15 9BT.**

**Date: Tuesday 18th May 2021**

**Time:** Immediately following Weigh & Tolls & The Annual  
Meeting scheduled at **6.00pm**

Members of the public are invited to  
attend the meeting (**COVID: 6 MAX.**)

**COVID: PPE MUST BE ADOPTED**

**in line with government guidance**

**Juliet Johnson, Proper Officer to YTC**



Yarm Town Council  
Town Hall  
High Street  
Yarm  
TS15 9AH

In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is permitted; the Chair will notify those present of this at the start of the meeting and ask whether they agree to be filmed, recorded or photograph

## YARM TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Alan Gallafant (Chairman)

Cllr Patrick Morton

Cllr John Coulson (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Chris Neil

Cllr Philip Addison

Cllr Pam Smailes

Cllr Alan Moffitt

Cllr Barbara Wegg

Cllr Peter Monck

Town Clerk - Juliet Johnson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ward Councillor Sherris

**1.0 To appoint a Chairman in the absence of the Chair and/or Vice Chair**

**N/A**

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 – section 100A(4), members of the public (other than those prohibited from doing so) are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda

## 2.0 Apologies for Absence

2.1 **Cllr Marjorie Simpson.** **Cllr Chris Johnson** gave his apologies and left the evenings' meetings (6.28pm).

## 3.0 Code of Conduct | Declaration of Interest | Dispensation

- a) To record declarations of interest from members of any item to be discussed
- b) To consider, vote upon and record any requests for dispensation

3.1 No declarations of interest or requests for dispensation were received.

## 4.0 Confirmation of Minutes

**To accept the minutes of the previous meetings:**

4.1 The minutes of the **Weigh and Tolls Committee** held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 were approved for signature by the Chairman of the meeting.

**(Proposed: Cllr Moffitt                      Seconded: Cllr Monck)**

4.2 The minutes of the ordinary **Yarm Town Council meeting** held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 were approved for signature by the Chairman of the meeting.

**(Proposed: Cllr Moffitt    Seconded: Cllr Morton)**

## 5.0 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous Ordinary YTC meeting, 13th April 2021:

5.1 **Additional High St. Banners** **- Clerk / Cllr Coulson**

**The Clerk** updated the meeting that following the designs being signed off and final amends (addition of photography credits), the print company would forward to the installation team. She understood that this team had quite a backlog of work. **Cllr Smailes** asked if another company could be bought in to install. The Clerk promised to follow-up with Stockton Council (SBC) for date ASAP.

5.2 **River Walk / EA Suggestion - Floodgates** **- Cllr Moffitt / Cllr Gallafant**

5.2.1 **Cllr Moffitt** read out a response received by Matt Vickers MP (following his meeting with the Environment Agency - EA) regarding the floodgates issue in which it was identified that the floodgates are understood to be substandard (copy of letter refers). Cllr Moffitt recapped the key issues relating to the floodgates and the undesirable impacts upon residents of the EA's suggestion to brick them up (see previous minutes including note from residents' group). Cllr Moffitt confirmed that he had submitted a Freedom of Information request to the EA and had received confirmation that the ANCO floodgates installation had cost £280k but that it was still unclear as to whether this included

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the cost of the gates (awaiting further response). Individual conversations were being held with residents and the EA attitude seemed to be that the gates will be bricked if the EA chooses to.

**5.2.2 The Clerk** confirmed that a formal letter had been sent to the CE of the Environment Agency (and other key directors) as previously agreed and circulated. Acknowledgement of the letter but no answer has been received to date.

**5.2.3 Cllr Monck** stated that he understood that the church diocese would object to their gate being bricked up. **Cllr Gallafant** asked if the diocese was part of the residents group and suggested they should be put in touch.

**5.2.4 Cllr Moffitt** is keeping in touch with the residents group as the issue progresses and the **Clerk** will share any response from the EA with Councillors when it arrives.

### **5.3 Yarm & Eaglescliffe Rocks (YER) - Bench Update**

**5.3.1 Cllr Coulson** confirmed that this bench had now been ordered and will take 8 weeks to produce. He also confirmed that he had found a much cheaper option for installation and foundations that had originally been thought (meaning that the group did not need to ask for a contribution to this from YTC).

**5.3.2 The Clerk** confirmed that Estates at SBC had also now confirmed to her in writing that they gave permission for the bench to be sited at Willey Flatts field (the foundation to be placed up against the pathway, not set further into the field).

**5.3.1 Cllr Coulson** understands that YER will receive a Risk Assessment of the bench from the blacksmith, prior to installation.

### **5.4 Snaith's Field - Driveway**

**5.4.1 Cllr Gallafant** moved this item to the confidential section of the meeting.

### **5.5 Grass Cutting Contract**

**5.5.1 The Clerk** reported that the temporary grass cutting contract had been awarded and recommended that it be extended throughout June and July (as per quoted values) in order to properly develop a tender specification for each of the jobs (no record exists re. any specification issued previously) . **(Proposed: Cllr Monck Secoded: Cllr Moffitt).**

**AGREED.**

### **5.6 Litter Bins & Litter Signage**

**- Cllr Moffitt / Cllr Coulson**

**5.6.1 Cllr Coulson** had shared images and costs regarding Keep Britain Tidy campaign which councils can sign up for (and receive branded campaign leaflets and posters etc.) and asked councillors what they felt about the costs provided. **Cllr Smiales** commented that she felt it was expensive. Cllr Coulson confirmed to **Cllr Moffitt** that the cost did include printing. Cllr Coulson reported he'd asked for a reduced rate for YTC as a parish council but nothing was offered.

**AGREED:** too expensive to proceed at the rates offered by Keep Britain Tidy.

**5.6.2 Cllr Moffitt** recapped the issue regarding build up of litter around the town particularly on (fine) weekends. The Clerk had requested details of support on this from SBC. More rounds of litter picking and bin emptying had started approximately 4 weeks ago. All such rounds, however, end by 2pm and 12.30 respectively Saturday & Sunday

**AGREED:** Clerk / Councillor Moffitt to monitor the situation re whether SBC extra rounds have made a difference.

## 5.7 CCTV

**5.7.1 Cllrs Gallafant, Moffitt and the Clerk** are due to meet to review provision and policy.

## 5.8 Planning Objections and Queries (4 Items submitted)

**5.8.1 The Clerk** confirmed that 2 objections (ref. development on land south of Yarm School Playing Fields and the Old Riding School) 1 agreement / support subject to amendment (West St long stay car park subject to traffic calming) and a request for further information (123 High St., ex-Riggs Butchers premises) had all been sent to SBC planning for featuring on the portal.

**5.8.2** Answer had been received that no further measures were being applied to West St and that the application information as regards 123 High St was as featured currently on the planning portal.

## 6.0 Council Finances

### 6.1 To authorize payment of the accounts

**6.1.1 Cllr Addison** requested that councillors note and approve the Payments List (document refers) and asked for approval of additional items just arrived:

- a) **£3,679.07** - YTC's insurance premium (increased by approximately £100 on '19/'20)
- b) **£876** - first invoice as part of and in line with the current grass cutting contract
- c) **£32.79** - postage and stamp books (purchased by the Clerk)

**6.1.2** Agree payment of the 2021/22 Insurance Premium - AS ABOVE

**AGREED:** Agreed by all that the Payments List, additional items as detailed a)-c), including the insurance premium, should be paid **(Proposed: Cllr Monck; Seconded: Cllr Coulson)**

## **7.0 To Review and Consider the Correspondence List**

**7.1.** The correspondence list was noted and no queries raised.

## **8.0 Adjournment and Questions From the Public**

**8.1 The Chairman** adjourned the meeting for questions from the public.

**8.2.1** A member of the public asked Cllr Moffitt about the current river paths access issue re. True Lovers Walk through to 'pathways' across private properties adjacent to the river. A 'Footpath Closed' sign is currently being ignored despite the obviously decaying footpaths on private land and potential for falling into the river. The ensuing discussion clarified that it is currently understood that none of YTC, EA, Rivers and Canal Trust or SBC have ownership / responsibility to deal with the issue (SBC took action and placed the 'Footpath Closed' sign, however). Further information and clarification is currently being sought by YTC.

**8.2.2 Cllrs Moffitt and Gallafant** stated that as a notice stating that the footpath was closed (and private landowners had similarly notified 'private property') people choosing to ignore these signs were doing so at their own risk.

**ACTION:** Clerk to continue to follow up.

## **9.0 Policy and Resources**

### **9.1 Cemetery Report (Update)**

**9.1.1** General Update - **Cllr Moffitt** reported that the redecoration of the Chapel was now complete. The floor renovation work would take place from 10th June.

**9.1.2** Reuse of Graves 100 years + (ref. Cemeteries Legislation)

**Cllr Moffitt** briefed the meeting re. need for further cemetery space, previously discussed along with the option of buying more land for the purpose. The legislative context of graves over a certain age (75 yrs) being able to be reused (Yarm Cemetery grave owners having a 50 yr. deed) means that significant space could be identified within the existing Yarm Cemetery e.g. if graves over 100 years old were reused. The legislative context was referenced re. notifying, advertising, receiving and observing any objections if this approach was to be adopted. Cllr Moffitt advocated that this approach would be preferable to purchasing new land (given the complexities and cost involved in the latter). Reusing graves of 100 yrs+ would mean that 1,200 grave spaces would be available (potential for approximately another 85 years' space).

**9.1.3 Ward Cllr Sherris** briefed the meeting that SBC's Place Committee has identified Ingleby, Yarm and Kirklevington cemeteries as needing further space.

**9.1.4 Cllr Monck** enquired as to whether this applied to graves without headstones. Cllr Moffitt confirmed that it would apply to all graves 100yrs+ (the practice for any new burial being that the new headstone is placed at the opposite end to any existing headstone).

**9.1.5 Cllr Wegg** enquired as to what had happened to a donated Chapel Cross. **Cllr Coulson** answered that the suggestion had been to decorate and display this cross for key dates such as Easter and Christmas.

**AGREED:** Reuse of graves 100+ yrs to be further discussed at a future meeting.

## **9.2 Allotments Report (Update)**

**9.2.1 Cllr Gallafant** confirmed that the policy of subdividing larger allotments as they became available was working well in the context of increased demand (nationally and locally) with many 'beginner' allotment holders and an increasing waiting list (allotment holders having the chance to transfer allotments if they require different/larger/smaller plot in the future). All plots are currently occupied and there is a waiting list of approximately 15 people. The 60 tree orchard was progressing with the area also having been rotivated for wildflower planting recently.

## **9.3 Developing/Improving Our Council: Speaker & Training**

**9.3.1 The Chairman** carried this item forward to a future agenda.

## **9.4 Roundabout: Worsall Rd. & The Spital**

**9.4.1 Cllr Coulson** updated the meeting that he and the Chairman had met with a residents group who'd kindly volunteered to tidy up / plant The Spital bank and roundabout. It was proposed that a small amount of money (approximately £30) be made available to the group for purchasing perennial plants for this purpose. **Cllr Smailes** commented that she was also in touch with this group.

**9.4.2** The meeting also re-noted that Hodgson Gardening Services would be tidying the planted area at the top of Bentley Wynd and the garden area adjacent to Scholars' Court on a monthly basis (at the usual rate).

## **9.5 Bowling Green**

**9.5.1 Cllr Gallafant** passed round the proposed designs for a bowling facility that Taylor Wimpey had offered to provide and create at Morley Carr should YTC be willing to accept it.

**9.5.2** The facility would be a community asset for Yarm, not just residents of Morley Carr, and would consist of an artificial pitch and club house. Provision of an artificial pitch would mean that costs and maintenance requirements would be significantly reduced and could also be multi-functional i.e. for a variety of activities (all year round). All equipment is being provided with £10K start-up funding.

**9.5.3 Cllr Morton** enquired as to whether the facility would be ‘self-run’ by a community group and **Cllr Gallafant** confirmed this stating that a management committee would be established with a simple fee charging model to cover basic costs. Once this was set up, the facility could be handed over.

**9.5.4 Cllr Sherris** stated that the club house / pavilion could be booked out and used for other purposes. He also has 30 people interested in being part of the project.

**9.5.5 Cllr Neil** enquired as to whether there was a date for opening the facility. This was understood to be Spring / Summer 2022.

**AGREED:** Unanimous agreement that YTC should accept Taylor Wimpey’s offer of the bowling facility  
(Proposed: Cllr Monck; Seconded: Cllr Coulson)

## **9.6 Hanging Baskets (inc. maintenance & costs for 2021)**

**9.6.1 Cllr Coulson** informed the meeting that the cost of the hanging baskets this year would be £29 each (inc. VAT; i.e. £1,670 for 72 baskets, excluding VAT).

**9.6.2 The Clerk** confirmed that she would go out for 3 quotations as regards maintenance of the hanging baskets (for this year and with option to extend) and requested dispensation to appoint a contractor to do this (as the baskets would need to be installed prior to the next meeting). The ‘19/’20 costs and specification would provide a baseline against which quotations would be assessed (cost and quality) and shared with councillors prior to appointing.

**AGREED**

## **9.7 Park Run Proposal - Support for the Idea**

**9.7.1 Cllr Moffitt** presented an idea submitted by a member of the public for a Park Run for Yarm (as per the national scheme), utilising Leven Park (best for the practical organisation of the run based on the Park Run model). No money had been requested. Leven Park is managed by SBC which would need to be approached.

**AGREED:** YTC supports the proposal in principle and would be happy to provide a letter of support.

## **10.0 Planning & Environment**

### **10.1 109 High Street (2 papers refer)**

**10.1.1 Cllr Monck** presented the issues regarding this planning application i.e. backyard of cafe premises being used to accommodate new outside tables provision (6) and that this would cause a negative impact for residents adjacent re. significant noise and loss of privacy. **Cllr Addison** reminded the meeting of the 2 letters of objection received from residents. Discussion occurred regarding the various issues for residents in the current climate of new ‘easier to obtain’ temporary licenses offered for restaurants/cafes to help recover from COVID. It is understood, however, that this application is for planning for permanent use of an outdoor area.

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**AGREED:** Objection to this application to be voiced

(**Proposed: Cllr Monck;** **Seconded: Cllr Addison;** in total, 7 councillors voted to support this motion - Cllrs Monck, Addison, Neil, Coulson, Gallafant, Wegg and Morton; Cllr Smailes & Moffitt abstained).

## **10.2 Any Other Matters Arising from SBC Planning Lists**

**10.2.1** Mention was made of the application for 5 Westgate - Ward Cllr Sherris thought this had been approved.

**10.2.2** A query was raised as to whether there was a planning application in process for the old Campbell's site (south end of High St.) - it is understood nothing is in process.

## **11.0 To agree any content for the YTC website and requests for Facebook features**

### **11.1 Feedback on Items to date & proposed new items**

**The Clerk** confirmed that posts across 4 Facebook sites had included sharing Visit Yarm posts (re. businesses reopening post May 17th - COVID roadmap to recovery milestone) and a piece regarding the current arrangements for the public to attend YTC meetings.

**11.2 Cllr Wegg** asked if pieces could be submitted between meetings. **The Clerk** confirmed that she could receive / place a suggestion for a post e.g. if there was some reason it couldn't wait for the next agenda (items normally being agreed here).

## **12.0 To receive items for information and consideration for the next agenda**

N/A

**13.0 To confirm the date and time of the next YTC meeting:** 7pm, 8th June 2021

- The Fellowship Hall (current COVID guidelines will apply - Clerk to monitor.

## **14.0 Confidential Item(s)**

**14.1** Councillors discussed a request regarding a driveway near Snaith's Field (letter and emails refer) in the context of :

a) information requested & received from the Land Registry (as shared) and

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b) YTC and resident user frequency (i.e. 28 compared to 2,200, respectively)

**14.2** An outcome was agreed by majority (to be documented as a formal letter to those who made the request).

Signed (Chairman): .....Date: .....

Signed (Clerk): .....Date: .....

In accordance with the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960, press and the public shall be excluded for this item due to its confidential nature.  
LGA Act 1972 schedule 12 paragraph 10(2)(e)