

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 12th April 2022
Time: 7pm
Members of the public are invited to
attend the meeting
COVID Guidance at the time applies.
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 photographed

Weigh and Tolls Committee

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Cllr. John Coulson (Vice Chair)	Cllr. Patrick Morton
Cllr. Philip Addison	Cllr. Chris Neil
Cllr. Alan Moffitt	Cllr. Pam Smailes
Cllr. Peter Monck	Cllr. Barbara Wegg

Proper Officer / Town Clerk - Juliet Johnson

The Rate Payers' Representative (RPR) Karen Shields was in attendance.

Ward Councillor Andrew Sherris

- 1. To appoint a Chairman in the absence of the Chair and/or Vice Chair**
 - 1.1 Cllr. Coulson, as Vice Chair, took the Chair.**

Prior to the start of the meeting:

Cllr Coulson read a tribute to Cllr Alan Gallafant, Chairman and Mayor.

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

A 2 minute silence was held in respect for Mayor and Chairman Cllr Alan Gallafant, who died whilst in office on 11th April 2022.

1.2 Also prior to the start of the meeting, The Chair handed over to the Clerk as regards a recent disqualification matter (Section 85, Local Government Act 1972).

1.2.1 The Clerk addressed Mr Chris Johnson and Councillors;

1.2.2 The Clerk welcomed Mr Johnson as a member of the public. She stated that she was saddened to have to apply Section 85 (LGA 1972) as per the letter notification delivered to Mr Johnson on the morning of 12.04.22. She acknowledged that there was a tight timeline in this instance.

1.2.3 The Clerk stated that she had conducted research into comparisons (application of Section 85 and the exact timeline) and examples of aspects of the application of Section 85 (e.g. with local authorities in Teesside).

(Mr Johnson stated there were no case law examples).

1.2.4 The Clerk stated that she had taken advice from the National Association of Local Authorities as to the interpretation of the timeline and they had agreed with the interpretation of the timeline applied here.

1.2.5 The Clerk stated that the wording of Section 85 states that it is 'from the date of his last attendance'.

1.2.6 The Clerk informed Councillors that the detail of the above information is part of a legal position and that Cllrs are welcome to view this at the YTC office.

1.2.7 The Clerk confirmed that it was Mr. Johnson's prerogative to hold a different interpretation and challenge the above. She reiterated that he was welcome as a member of the public this evening but would not be participating as a Councillor.

Mr. Johnson left the meeting stating that he was still a Councillor and that this was not a Council meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

2.1 Apologies were received from **Cllr Marjorie Simpson**. Ward Cllr Fagan had also forwarded apologies.

3. 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 a) No declarations of interest were received

3.1 b) **Request for dispensation - Cllr Marjorie Simpson.**

The Clerk confirmed that a request for dispensation had been received from Cllr Marjorie Simpson due to continued illness.

The Clerk briefed the meeting that **Cllr Marjorie Simpson** had requested dispensation for non-attendance at meetings due to continued illness (in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972) until such time as she is able to attend.

APPROVED: The request for dispensation from Cllr. Simpson was approved by all Councillors.

4. Confirmation of Minutes:

4.1 a) To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the Weigh and Tolls Committee

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

(8th March 2022)

PROPOSED: Cllr Addison

SECONDED: Cllr Monck

AGREED

5. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

5.1 Yarm Gala & Queen's Jubilee (5.06.22): Update From Leisure & Culture Committee (DOCUMENT REFERS)

5.1.1 The Clerk referenced the Gala & Jubilee Progress document circulated with the meeting papers and asked leisure & Culture Committee Councillors if they would like to feedback on the Leisure & Culture meeting held. **Cllr Smailes** suggested the **Clerk** should feedback.

The Clerk briefed the meeting as to progress to date (AS DOCUMENTED IN THE PROGRESS PAPER CIRCULATED).

5.1.2 Any further contacts for charity stalls were requested from Councillors (Yarm Lions hadn't got capacity to help with this this year). **Cllr Wegg** suggested the Guides

ACTION: Clerk to reserve Guides a stall.

5.1.3 The Clerk confirmed that the High Street business suggested to provide a street barbecue had declined due to staffing issues but offered to provide an on street bar. Councillors confirmed that they were happy with this.

AGREED.

ACTION: An on street caterer is still being sought. Councillors were invited to forward suggestions to the Clerk as a matter of urgency.

5.1.4 The Clerk briefed the meeting as to the remainder of the offer including a range of traders - care had been taken to have only several food purveyors (who provided food to take home) so as to encourage spend on the day with on the High Street. The summary of the programme to date includes: Northeast Veterans- Boat for the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge; 13- 14 professional street theatre performances (walkabouts) from 4-6 different companies/artists totalling £4 -4.5K; two different vintage singers covering different decades of the Queen's reign; a Gospel Choir; Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band; balloon modeling; local singer songwriter Tom Powell; 3 x fairground rides; 6-8 charity stalls; 11-12 different local businesses - food, clothes, art, products for dogs, homewares, plants and produce.

5.2 Proposal to purchase a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Flag - Cllr Monck confirmed the flag had been received.

5.3 Request for Queen's Jubilee Beacon re. 02.06.22

5.3.1 The Clerk is awaiting further notification from Stockton Borough Council (SBC) as regards arrangements for this. YTC Event Manager has confirmed the location as the same as that for the Christmas Tree (further away from the pavement / buildings into the cobbled area). A Piper and the Gospel Choir are booked for this event (and are following songs / guidance issued from the Palace for Beacon Events).

5.4 High Street Audit: Update

- K. Shields

5.4.1 The RPR is awaiting plans of the High Street. **Cllr Monck** suggested that the new SBC Heritage Officer may be able to help.

ACTION: Clerk & RPR to liaise & chase up further

6. Finance - To authorise payment of the accounts (Weigh and Tolls)

6.1 **Cllr Addison** asked the meeting to note the 3 payments on the Payments List (DOCUMENT REFERS) that pertain to the Weigh & Tolls meeting.

7. Town Hall Heritage Centre Project : Update

7.1 **Cllr Monck** informed the meeting that the outcome of the planning application was awaited and expected very soon. This is being dealt with as a delegated decision. SBC have appointed a new Heritage Officer who is currently reviewing the plans and requesting further information regarding some areas of the building's history. Some slight modification to plans for the interior may be suggested.

8. Proposal for Yarm Gala and Jubilee Budget Increase

8.1 **Cllr Addison** presented the case for increasing the budget for Yarm town Gala and Jubilee celebrations, the 2019 budget having been £16k (which included the Event Manager's fee). The Event Manager's fee is now paid separately but this year's Gala is an enhanced event including the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (noting this weekend also meant that some hire costs are increased. Cllr Addison also referenced that the Gala is currently budgeted at **£8.5k** and that the Council is due to be underspent when 2021-2022 finances are finalised (See agenda item under YTC meeting). The proposal is to increase the Gala & Jubilee budget to **£15k** as a maximum with the Clerk charged to achieve best value and lowest costs possible.

PROPOSED: Cllr Moffitt **SECONDED:** Cllr Monck **AGREED**

9. To receive items for information and consideration for the next agenda - none currently.

10. To confirm the date and time of the next Weigh and Tolls Committee meeting: **10th May 2022**

SIGNED (Chair):.....**DATED:**.....

SIGNED (Clerk):.....**DATED:**.....