

Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure & Culture
Committee held at

The Fellowship Hall

West Street, Yarm TS15 9BT.

Date: Monday 31st October 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

YARM TOWN COUNCIL - LEISURE & CULTURE COMMITTEE

PRESENT:

LEISURE & CULTURE COMMITTEE MEMBERS -

CLlr Pam Smailes (Chair - Leisure)

CLlr Peter Monck

CLlr Patrick Morton

CLlr Barbara Wegg

Proper Officer / Town Clerk

2 members of the public

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE -

CLlr John Coulson (Chair of YTC)

CLlr Chris Neil

CLlr Robert Wegg

Karen Shields (Rate Payer's Representative)

Glen Layfield - Events Infrastructure Manager

1.0 Notice of Meeting - public notice of the meeting has been given in accordance with schedule 12, paragraph 10 (2) of the LGA 1972.

2.0 To appoint a Chairman in the absence of the Chair and/or Vice Chair - N/A

3.0 Apologies for Absence - CLlr Moffitt and CLlr Addison

4.0 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

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

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

4.2 **Cllr Coulson** requested a declared vote throughout the meeting.

5.0 To note the minutes of the previous meeting and any matters arising

5.1 The minutes of the last Leisure & Culture Meeting were noted (14.03.22, previously approved)

6.0 Riding of the Fair & Yarm Fair (22.10.22)

6.1 **Cllr Smailes** stated she had not attended the Ridings Ceremony but she'd heard a carriage and horses had stopped on the highway (delaying the road closure) and felt this should not have been there and should have been moved. **The Clerk** reminded the meeting that The Showmen's Guild controlled the overall event and the closure of the highway for which they relied on Traffic Management & Enforcement Officers (supplied by Stockton Borough Council and paid for by the Showmen's Guild). The arrival of the carriage had put the Showman's Guild in a difficult position. The YTC Proclamation Procession had to wait until the road closure 'all clear' was given, which eventually happened (15-20 mins delay).

6.2 **The Clerk** reminded the meeting as to the history of why the Proclamation Procession was now on foot on the highway (for 2021 & 2022) e.g. including DVLA legislation preventing the use of the steam engine trailer and ISAG (Independent Safety Advisory Group - Stockton) ruling out the use of the Steam Engine alone with on foot procession on both the High Street and West Street. Councillors had voted to go with an on foot procession again this year (rather than the Clerk continuing to look for a horse drawn option large enough to take all councillors/key ceremonial guests and less costly than initially found; vintage bus option not being available, established soon after last event).

6.3 **PROPOSAL:** that a Charabanc (motorised or large horse drawn) be identified ASAP for the 2023 Ridings Ceremony.

6.4.1 **Cllr Smailes** stated that she disliked the table layout for the Ridings Reception, that people had commented to her about this and that it lacked dignity i.e. some people had their backs to each other and the top table had partners facing each other rather than in a long line facing the room. It was noted that, to accommodate guests at the top table, this would have taken a line of 4-5 tables (24 - 30 feet) facing the room. **The Clerk** confirmed that top table guests had been consulted as to the intended more informal/social layout (seemingly appropriate for the less formal meal of a hog roast) and had seemed very happy with this (those due to speak being positioned to face the room). **The Clerk** proposed thanks to Cllr Monck's wife Avril, who'd given great help on the day & had suggested the chevron layout of tables to accommodate large numbers of guests/tables (i.e. with spaces between tables enabling accessibility across the room).

6.4.2 **PROPOSAL: Cllrs Smailes and Monck** proposed Full Council should specify a long line 'wedding style' top table (as per layout in the past), so that the civic importance and dignity of the event be retained.

6.5 **Cllr Smailes** stated that she had disliked the hog roast option voted for by Councillors (the preferred, usual option being unavailable at the last minute and the hog roast being chosen over the other alternative of a 2 course meal option). As a separate issue, **the Clerk** stated that communications within the chosen catering company were not good and she'd had to repeat details previously confirmed to different parts of the company on repeated occasions. The preferred and usual option for catering could be asked for a quotation for next year along with 2 further quotes. A number of councillors present expressed a preference for a formal 3 course meal as in the past.

6.6 **The Clerk** stated that there had been a small hitch with the backing tracks for the Hymn and the National Anthem at the Blessing Ceremony (the hymn accidentally played twice instead of the National Anthem). This had been rectified and those gathered largely found it amusing.

6.7 As regards how the 3 day Yarm Fair went overall, it was suggested that there had been more challenges than in the previous year. The Clerk had given more time than usual to leafleting houses/businesses (supported by several Cllrs), responding to requests for help & queries (from the Showmen's Guild and the general public).

6.8 The Clerk confirmed that an evaluation of Autumn/Winter 2022 events would take place with all partner participants in January '23. A single meeting (rather than 1 after each event) was more efficient (many partners being the same people across different events) and benefitted from a diverse range of people bringing their skills to analyse the range of event practicalities. This had been successful in 2021 and had informed planning for 2022.

6.9 **Cllr Morton** referenced positivity regarding the Ridings event and the Clerk confirmed that, despite the unpredictable issues discussed which largely went unreferenced, people/ guests had stated they had really enjoyed the event and it had gone well.

7.0 Remembrance Day (13.11.22)

The Clerk confirmed that arrangements were in place, a programme prepared and that confirmation of an independent parade marshal was awaited.

8.0 Christmas Events

i) Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On and Carols on the Cobbles (04.12.22)

8.1 **The Clerk** confirmed that a programme had been prepared with local brass band, a community choir, professional solo singer, youth performing arts school and special street theatre item. No contact had been received from the Victorian costumed volunteers Cllr Smailes had requested. **Cllr Smailes** confirmed that she was in contact with them and the Clerk asked that she/the events manager be put in direct contact soonest so that the ISAG submission could be completed ASAP.

ii) Christmas Eve on the High Street (24.12.22)

8.2 **The Clerk** recapped the history to the development of this event programme of street theatre and local musicians 'busking'. This programme is largely complete for 2022. More local musicians are required. The event enables lively performances to take place without losing parking spaces, encouraging visitors on Christmas Eve, boosting spend with local businesses and at the same time providing free professional entertainment (the day before Christmas) for families with children that may be struggling financially. **Cllr Morton** confirmed the impact and very positive comments from businesses regarding this event last year.

8.3 **The Clerk** confirmed a meeting arranged with YTC Charity of the Year - Corner House - to agree on the package of benefits they could achieve from involvement in YTC events throughout the year.

9.0 The Coronation of King Charles III

9.1 **Cllr Smailes** advocated that, given there would be braziers/ beacons for this on 6th May 2023, a community event should be organised in celebration on Willey Flatts Field (the 1914 group had held an event there very successfully). This would include a choir, community sports and the beacon. **The Clerk** confirmed that the open space provided a good location for certain types of events. **Cllr Coulson** remarked that consideration should be given for local residents as regards demands on parking for an event in this area. **Cllr Smailes** commented that the location would make a change from the High Street and pressures on parking there. **Glen Layfield** (Boss Events) stated that Stockton Council needed to be notified by the end of November as to any events taking place on their land in 2023.

ACTION: the Clerk to notify SBC of this proposal re use of Willey Flatts

PROPOSAL: Cllr Smailes to propose the Willey Flatts Coronation event to Full Council and convene a working group to plan this, should the proposal be agreed.

The Clerk & Cllr Monck referenced initial ideas for the Yarm Gala '23 to celebrate the opening of the heritage centre with a 'Yarm Through the Centuries' Pageant, starting with/including a viking re-enactment company, featuring different events/achievements in Yarm History up to the present day. The Clerk suggested it could be considered as to whether this could be one and the same event as the Coronation Celebration (e.g. the themes fitted, limited time for two big events to be organised, funds being scarce and savings could be achieved). Councillors largely thought that these should be 2 separate events.

10.0 To receive items for information and consideration for the next agenda

Cllr Smailes to convene Coronation Working Group and feed back to L&C Committee meeting (to be scheduled) and Full Council.

11.0 To confirm the date and time of the next Leisure & Culture meeting. TBC

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)

The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec 1 (2) - A body may, by resolution, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies.