

Minutes of the December meeting of
the Weigh & Tolls Committee held at
The Fellowship Hall (side entrance)
West Street, Yarm TS15 9BT.
Date: Tuesday 13th December 2022
Time: 7pm
Members of the public were invited to
attend the meeting
COVID Guidance at the time applied.
Juliet Johnson, Proper Officer to YTC



Yarm Town Council
Town Hall
High Street
Yarm
TS15 9AH

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Weigh and Tolls Committee

MINUTES

Present:

Cllr John Coulson (Chair)

Cllr Chris Neil

Cllr Philip Adison

Cllr Pam Smailes

Cllr Ian Carter

Cllr Barbara Wegg

Cllr Peter Monck

Cllr Robert Wegg

Rate Payers Rep: Karen Shields

Town Clerk/Proper Officer: Juliet Johnson

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

2. Apologies for absence

2.1 Apologies for absence have been received by Cllr Alan Moffitt, Cllr Patrick Morton, Cllr Marjorie Simpson and Ward Councillor Andrew Sherris.

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 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. Confirmation of Minutes:

- a) To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the Weigh and Tolls Committee (8th November 2022)

PROPOSED: Cllr Addison **SECONDED:** Cllr Coulson **AGREED**

5. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting -

5.1 Autumn / Winter 2022 Event Updates: Planning and Delivery Clerk

5.1.1 Remembrance Day - The Clerk briefed the meeting on positive feedback about Remembrance Day Including points acted upon from last year's evaluation that had worked well e.g. Independent Parade Marshall for cohesiveness of groups participating; including additional readings and music prior to the main service beginning - Rev. Ramsden had led this and received lots of positive feedback. **The Clerk** will check the suggestion that the curved barrier (Central St) positioned as in previous years was a problem. A further issue was that one of the readers involved in the ceremony had to read part of the Exhortation / Kohima as the person nominated to do this had not made themselves known. Congestion on West St had been a problem (re. the diversion) as the support of Enforcement Officers (who have powers to control traffic) from SBC had been withdrawn days before due to capacity issues.

5.1.2 Christmas Lights Switch-On - appalling weather had meant approximately half the usual number of attendees and deployment of some alternative in terms of planning. Nevertheless there had been excellent feedback on the programme (now including children's activities and street theatre), including extensive social media. In response to a number of points made in last year's evaluation (re speeches being too early & switch on too late), the switch on moment had been brought slightly earlier (@10-15 mins., just after dusk). Despite comprehensive publicity about timings a few people missed the switch on. **The Clerk** suggested that any Cllr. requests for additions to the programme that involved volunteers needed to be put to her much earlier for the sake of properly supporting such volunteers (e.g. the Vicotrian costume interpreters). **The Clerk** suggested that the event seems too 'strung out' / bare given the need of the fair rides to extend their opening time to make it worth their while attending (hence addition of a few children's activities).

5.1.3 Christmas Eve on the High St. - The Clerk reported that arrangements are in place with the 5 street theatre companies providing @ 8-10 different acts with 17-18 performances taking place around the High St., as for last year. Weather is a concern for all street theatre. Buskers are planned (who regularly donate their takings to charity). Given the rising costs of event infrastructure the Clerk requested volunteers for stewarding (Carole Jones - member of the public - & Cllr Addison volunteered and were thanked).

6. Finance

6.1 To authorise payment of the accounts (Weigh and Tolls) **Cllr Addison** referenced the market tolls/cobbles rates and the Virgin Media payment (document refers) and requested these payments be authorised.

PROPOSED: Cllr Carter **SECONDED:** Cllr Neil **AGREED**

7. Town Hall Heritage Centre Project

7.1 General Update & Timeline **The Clerk** gave an update as regards an insurance issue that had been ongoing since 11th November (re. Insurance of the works for all parties - YTC, Stockton Council and the Contractor). The legal fees incurred to date are £5.3k. This issue had unexpectedly taken a lot of time but was now just about solved and a best solution found for all 3 parties who have worked hard to achieve this given challenging circumstances. **Cllr Monck** detailed the new timeline for the project (starting the week of 9th January; avoiding placement of site hoardings prior to Christmas).

7.2 Engagement Update **Cllr Monck** has given a talk to the Rotary Club about the project and participants filled in the Matthew Rosier consultation postcards (re. Input to the permanent exhibit using AV

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work). One of the members has forwarded the original publication of 'Yarm Walks' (previously published by the Yarm Civic Society) which can be used as part of the heritage centre's programmes. Cllr Monck has also continued to work with Yarm School - the D of E project there are keen to be part of the Heritage Centre's volunteer programme and link up with the Friends of Yarm Heritage Centre group.

7.3. Research and Development for Ground Floor Exhibition **The Clerk** confirmed that the research and development phase of the ground floor permanent exhibition was well underway (Rosier and his team) based upon all of the consultation sessions feedback held this autumn with input from residents. A production meeting had been held this Monday and The Clerk had written several documents to support this re. the basis of the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid. The research and development work would further inform the bid (aimed at topping up the existing budget to hopefully expand the engagement work possible).

8. Morley Carr Bowling Centre: Handover Taylor Wimpey have forwarded the details of the scheme to YTC's solicitor. **The Clerk** has requested a quote from the solicitor prior to proceeding, to be forwarded to Councillors.

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

10. To confirm the date/time of the next Weigh and Tolls Committee meeting: **7pm, 10th January 2023**

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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.

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