

Minutes of a meeting of
the Weigh & Tolls Committee held at
The Fellowship Hall (side entrance)
West Street, Yarm TS15 9BT.

Date: Tuesday 10th October 2023

Time: 7pm

Members of the public were invited to
attend the meeting

SIGNED: 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

PRESENT:

Cllr. Peter Monck (Chairman)

Cllr. Alan Moffitt

Cllr. Philip Addison

Cllr. Yvonne Pybus

Cllr Marje Blair

Town Clerk - J.Johnson

Cllr. Joyce Hardy

12 members of the public (inc. 1 member of the Press)

Weigh and Tolls Committee

MINUTES

1. **Notice of Meeting** - public notice of the meeting has been given in accordance with schedule 12, paragraph 10 (2) of the LGA 1972.
2. **To appoint a Chairman in the absence of the Chair and/or Vice Chair**
3. **Apologies for absence**
 - 3.1 Apologies were received from **Cllrs. Pam Smailes, Robert Wegg, Barbara Wegg and John Coulson**. Apologies were also received from **Ward Cllr. Andrew Sherris**.
4. **Code of Conduct | Declarations 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

5. Confirmation of Minutes:

- a) To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the Weigh and Tolls Committee
(12th September 2023)

PROPOSED: Cllr Addison

SECONDED: Cllr Blair

AGREED

6. Events Update

6.1 Yarm Fair and Ridings

General Update : Yarm Fair: Issuing of parking access permits and household letters; Ridings Ceremony

The Clerk reported that the letter to go out to residents confirming arrangements has been delayed in being approved by Stockton Borough Council (SBC) for the Showmen's Guild to then get copies to YTC (YTC posting by hand to residents in and around the High St). Pre-arranged sessions to collect car access passes were therefore happening whilst some letters were still to be delivered. Sessions to collect passes were also notified on Facebook and further sessions are taking place. **Cllrs Blair, Hardy and Pybus** were thanked for their time distributing letters and passes. The operational base for the Fair is at the Methodist Church this year (with thanks to the Church) due to the Heritage Centre still awaiting handover to YTC.

We are currently still searching for a coach horn player for the Proclamation Fanfares (usual player can't help this year). There are currently 39 guests attending the Ridings Reception and The Golden Jubilee is doing the catering at the Fellowship Hall.

6.2 Remembrance Sunday

The Clerk confirmed that a trumpeter or bugler is still to be identified (the player from Yarm School who has helped in previous years has now left).

West St. will be a clearway for the length of the Remembrance Sunday event (i.e. no cars parked at all) in response to the congestion issues experienced along this diversionary route last year.

An Independent Parade Marshall is also being sought (last year's being unavailable).

Cllr Blair mentioned that some people had been unable to hear the service last year, despite the professional sound system. **The Clerk** will feed this back - this may be due to larger numbers now with many at a further distance from the War Memorial (e.g. west side of the High St.).

6.3 Christmas Lights Switch-On

The Clerk reported that 3rd December had now been confirmed. The Singing Christmas Tree is unavailable at any point as SBC will be programming this. As per previous discussions, a more compact event is being planned with Fair Rides starting at 3pm (bit continuing later than usual), Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band plying carols from 3.30pm accompanied by the St. Mary Magdalene Community Choir. AJ Productions will also be bringing entertainment from the performing arts clubs they run across schools in the area. Tom Rolfe's Panto will also provide the usual programme. A Gingerbread House lighting installation will also be present for people to take Christmas Selfies. However, our usual Santa is away so a replacement is being sought (a member of the public present volunteered and the Clerk will coordinate arrangements).

Councillors were to consider who to invite to switch on the lights. It was proposed that this could have a 'heritage' them given the pending opening of the Heritage Centre - the gentleman who found the Yarm Helmet and a member of the Clapham family are to be invited.

PROPOSED: Cllr Monck

SECONDED: Cllr Addison

AGREED

7. Finance

To authorise payment of the accounts (Weigh and Tolls)

Cllr Addison confirmed the 2 payments listed on the Payments List that fall under Weigh and Tolls and it was proposed for these to be paid.

PROPOSED: Cllr Moffitt

SECONDED: Cllr Monck

AGREED

8. Town Hall Heritage Centre Project

8.1 General Update on Build Project & Key Risks

Cllr Monck gave an update regarding progress with completing Yarm town Hall Heritage Centre (YTHHC). The handover press call had taken place successfully resulting in articles featuring Cllr Monck and Cllr Nigel Cooke. However, final snagging and handover cannot take place until the electricity meter is fitted. SBC and the Clerk have been trying to confirm an upgrade to the meter since mid July with EDF (including trying other companies - 2 of whom stated they were not taking smaller supply accounts with small businesses). The company concerned is EDF (having been the supplier to SBC for the previous meter). An upgrade has been requested since July and mid August this was confirmed as taking 20 working days. The Clerk has now written confirming contact is to be made with the Ombudsman and CEO regarding the issue. Following this a response has been received suggesting a date will be confirmed soon - this must be by 20th October and fitted by early November in order that significant penalties are not incurred against the fit-out contract (against which a contingency exists).

Cllr Monck reported on the issue as regards motorbikes parking outside/against the Town Hall. This was raised at site meetings with SBC 18 months ago given the issues of fumes, noise and obstruction that were occurring with the Town Hall in its previous condition and would therefore have significant detrimental effect on the establishment of a Heritage Centre. The solution identified by SBC is signage and Enforcement Officers to properly enforce both sides of the double yellow line so that motorcyclists will find alternative parking e.g. in normal bays. A special arrangement of hoardings is in place to protect the refurbished Town Hall whilst the Fair is on.

8.2 Engagement Update, Fit-Out of Ground Floor Main Exhibition Space, Upper Floor Development, NLHF Bid & Launch

**- Development Manager
(J.Johnson)**

The Development Manager gave a report on latest work towards the main ground floor installation, Island in a River: filming has taken place with the Allotments Association and Sprouts Food Charity (in relation to the Bushel Measure artefact), and most recently with a reimagining of the first Stockton and Darlington railway meeting, featuring 6 local women who have/had significant roles in the town and/or links to our heritage, supported by Time Bandits theatre company. Unfortunately Stonegate Group would not permit filming at the George and Dragon (where the original meeting took place) but the Cleveland Bay ('first railway pub') were helpful and welcomed filming taking place there. The Friends of YTHHC are progressing two temporary exhibitions for the upper floor along with 1 part of the 9 part permanent exhibition as a pilot installation to be tested at the launch to gauge reaction to the style of presentation.

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, 14th November 2023