

## STOKESLEY TOWN COUNCIL

### The Annual Town Meeting was held in the Town Hall, Stokesley On Tuesday 25 April 2023

Present: Cllrs Mike Canavan, David Cook, Bryn Griffiths, Christopher Johnson, Marin Luxton, David Oxley, Audrey Scott, Graham Sowerby and Andy Wake.

Clerk – Julie McLuckie and Assistant Clerk Debbie Young

Five residents.

#### **1/25/04/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1. **RESOLVED** that the apologies provided in advance of this meeting from Cllr Sally Atkinson be received.
2. **RESOLVED** that the reasons given for absence be approved.

#### **2/25/04/23 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 25 April 2022 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

#### **3/25/04/23 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4/25/04/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman presented the following report:-

Members of the Council and the clerks have again worked hard this year and have achieved a great deal and successfully got things back up and running following the end of the lockdown. Although this is primarily the report of the Town Council, I would point out that each Councillor is also a Trustee of both the Town Hall and the Manorial Lands and responsibilities do overlap. Additionally, two councillors are trustees of The Globe, two are Preston Educational trustees, one representative on the Climate Action Group, one on Fairtrade and we also have a representative on Lady Hullock's trust.

The day-to-day tasks undertaken by the Town Council on your behalf include grass cutting, tree maintenance, hedge work, managing the allotments, maintaining the public toilets, maintaining the North Road Play Park, funding the Globe Library Manager and her Deputy, providing of the Town's Christmas Lights and commenting on Planning Applications etc. Additionally in May each year the Council sets a number of Strategic Objectives for the year. For 2022/23 these related to the Cobbles, Parking and Electrical Vehicle Charging Points, plus River Leven Project (managed by Manorial Lands Trust).

Below is an update on each of the objectives:-

**Cobbles** – The Disc Parking areas are currently leased to Hambleton District Council (HDC). The Town Council was keen to have the cobbles returned to its control on behalf of the Manorial Lands Trust and to maintain them properly. The Town Council worked hard in 2021/22 with the team at HDC and succeeded in issuing and concluding a tender for the refurbishment of the cobbles, selected a preferred contractor and project manager and formally applied to HDC for a grant to cover the costs of cobbles refurbishment. However, at the Cabinet and Full Council meetings in June 2022 HDC then decided it would retain the lease and carry out the refurbishment itself. Work to repair the cobbles areas leased by the now North Yorkshire Council commenced on 17 April 2023 and will be carried out in a number of phases. The repairs will include re-marking of the parking bays.

**Parking** – In 2021/22 an Off-Street Parking Places Order (OSPPO) was drafted and consultation completed. Stokesley became the first Parish / Town Council to be accepted as a member of the national Traffic Tribunal, a necessary step for the Town Council to enforce the OSPPO, and a draft enforcement contract negotiated with Scarborough Borough Council. In 2022/23 Implementation of the OSPPO was delayed by the change of mind by HDC, but we now have legal confirmation that the Town Council can part-implement the OSPPO covering the areas which remain in the control of the Town Council, i.e. College Square, The Plain and the High Street cobbles from Bridge Road to West Green. In 2023/24 we plan to make the OSPPO by summer 2023, subject to North Yorkshire Council re-confirming the contract previously agreed with Scarborough BC. New signs will be in place prior to implementation. Enforcement means that parking notices can be issued notices to anyone parked outside of the designated parking bays and on double yellow lines. Further details on timings will be promoted through social media and our website. Thanks go to the Parking Committee and in particular Cllr Canavan for all their work.

**Electrical Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP)** – Stokesley Town Council continues to look at installing EVCP along the High Street, but locations are limited by the availability of appropriate power supply and is looking to secure funding towards such a scheme. Separately HDC has now installed EVCP in the Showfield car park.

**River Leven Project** – This project is managed by the Town Councillors in their role as Manorial Lands Trustees. The project is funded by a mix of MLT reserves, Community Infrastructure Levy funds, S106 funds and third party grants - no funding is provided by the Town Council. Planning approval was gained in December 2021 and our contractor, CLS, commenced work in March 2023 on improving the riverside footpath. Some changes have been made to the approved scheme including agreement not to progress the replacement of the Golden Lion Bridge at this stage and the elimination of the in-river works. The new footpath will ensure a safe and accessible to all and we hope will encourage more people to visit our lovely riverside. Thanks to the project team, led by Cllr Oxley, for taking this project forward.

**Newsletter** - The Council continues to produce a bi-monthly newsletter that can be found in the 'Market Place' magazine as well as on the Town Council website.

**Surgeries** - Town Council surgeries are now back up and running and take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month in the Town Hall between 11 am and 12 noon. If you are unable to attend, we are always happy to take any questions in writing or via email. They will be submitted to the appropriate Committee or full Council / Trust meeting when a response will be agreed and issued.

**Toilets** – We have had a few issues with criminal damage and people treating the toilets as a place to leave empty bottles as well as unravelling the toilet rolls and throwing them all around. This led to the Town Council installing a new disabled toilet and we are currently looking at replace the current toilet roll holders to the ones that discharge a single sheet at a time. I would like to thank our Caretaker, Kevin, for carrying out the cleaning and dealing with often unpleasant situations.

**Book and Trails Festival** – Stokesley Town Council is looking forward to hosting its first Book and Trails festival on Sunday 25 June 2023. The event will welcome various authors some of who will provide a presentation, answer questions and promote their books. There will be lots of activities for children and we hope that the day will prove a great success.

**Manorial Lands Trust** - Our Friday Markets continue to take place and offer a varied selection of stalls selling a wide range of goods. The Trustees took the decision to offer the Friday Market Traders a free rent period over the 'miserable months' of winter as long as they committed to attend every week (unless severe weather conditions meant that it was unsafe to do so). This proved to be a great success with most

traders signing up, this meant that the market was well attended. We have also welcomed various charity organisations including, Citizens Advice, Cleveland Rotters, RSPB, and the Woodlands Trust. The Farmers Market on the first Saturday of the month continues to be very well supported and the new Northern Makers Market on the third Saturday of each month is steadily growing. The annual fair took place and we look forward to welcoming it again this year. The decking areas outside some of the local businesses have also been well received and a lot of favourable comments made about the new 'café culture' feel that this offers along the High Street.

**Town Hall Trust** - The Town Hall is very busy and we are delighted to see that we have a lot of new groups meeting regularly and for the second year in a row the Town Hall has not needed to receive any funding from the Manorial Lands Trust. The Town Hall now hosts craft and gift fairs on the first and third Saturdays to run alongside the Farmers Market and Northern Makers Market, plus additional ones at popular times of the year, thanks go to the Assistant Clerk for all her hard work in organising these. Our music events are also proving to be a great success with recent performances been a complete sell out. Sincere thanks go to Cllr Johnson and his team of volunteers who run the bar at these events which means that all the money raised goes to the Town Hall.

**Volunteers** - The town is very lucky so many volunteers who give their time freely. The Town Council would once again like to say thank you to the following groups:

**SPIOTA** for their continued hard work planting and maintaining the splendid displays in the ziggurat, flower tubs and baskets around the town and keeping public areas clean and tidy. We understand they also have some special planting planned for the Kings Coronation and the Ziggurat may once again be wearing a crown.

**Friends of the Town Hall** who raise funds for the Town Hall and support various events and activities in the Town Hall. Not only have do they host the coffee mornings assigned to them but they have also covered, at short notice, any groups that were unable to attend.

**The Globe** volunteers who ensured a library service was provided during the pandemic and have ensured that the facility goes from strength to strength providing not only key services to the residents of Stokesley but as a hub for activities and events. Our thanks also go to the former Library Manager, Gill, who retired from the post at the end of January but who still regularly volunteers. We welcome the two new Library Managers Carol and Louise who are filling the post on a job share basis.

The many individuals who litter pick around the Town and the volunteers who joined us for the 'Great British Spring Clean' event. It makes a real difference.

This list is not exhaustive and the Council thanks everyone for their voluntary efforts for the benefit of the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all our staff. The Town Hall Stewards, Bill, Keith and Phil who make the Town Hall a friendly and welcoming place to come into, Kevin who tidies the Play Park and cleans the toilets and our two Clerks, Julie and Debbie who work hard to support both the Town Council and the two Trusts.

I would also like to thank all my fellow Councillors who volunteer to serve the Town, those who continue to serve, those who retired at the May 2022 elections and those who have become councillors in the last year. It is sometimes a thankless task but one that we continue to be dedicated to doing.

**5/25/04/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Housing Developments – Brierley Homes – disappointed to read that there are proposed changes to the number of affordable houses to be built and asked what the Town Council can do to oppose this. The Town Council confirmed that as a statutory consultee they will continue to submit their dissatisfaction with the proposed changes and that there is clear evidence supporting the requirement for smaller properties and affordable housing. Brierley Homes is owned by North Yorkshire Council (NYC) who promote that they are committed to providing affordable housing is another piece of evidence that the Town Council will remind NYC of. The Town Council following their last meeting wrote to NYC to raise several concerns they have had with planning in the past with a plea that they rectify these issues from the offset of the new Authority, we await a response. That letter also expressed our concerns about public accessibility to the Planning Committee meetings when they are held in Richmond and included evidence that if you were to travel by public transport the only way you could attend a meeting was with an overnight stay.

Traffic Issues – Carricks Corner – residents continue to be concerned about the junction at Carricks Corner and the impact this has on residents trying to pull out onto the road. The parked vehicles obstruct their vision and the speed of vehicles coming round onto Thirsk Road has led to several near misses for people both in vehicles and pedestrians trying to cross the road. There is also a similar problem with vehicles parking on West End and this causes a particular safety problem for cyclists. One resident stated that you can regularly see the black tyre marks on the corner where vehicles have had to come to an abrupt stop or pull away quickly and he had carried out a survey which confirmed that it took a vehicle 2 seconds to drive round the corner and be at the Carricks corner drive entry point. Extending the double yellow lines on this section of road would make the egress for residents from the driveway and pedestrians much safer. The Town Council confirmed that they continue to support this request and have held several meetings with what was, North Yorkshire County Council, to raise these concerns but they were reluctant to do anything stating that no accidents have been reported. A meeting is due to take place on Friday this week with the North Yorkshire Council Executive Member who will be shown all the areas of concern across the Town and the Town Council are committed to seeking a proactive approach from NYC rather than a reactive one.

Kings Coronation – a resident asked if there were any plans for events in the Town. The Clerk confirmed that there would be a ‘volunteers’ promotional event in the Town Hall on the bank holiday Monday which would include music performances and refreshments along with flower displays by the flower club and historical displays. The church would be screening the coronation live and also hosting refreshments etc.

North Road Club Site – a resident requested an update regarding the section 215 notice served. The Clerk confirmed that the notice stated that all the work detailed within the notice must be completed by 21 May 2023. The Clerk has asked for confirmation from the Planning Enforcement team that they will be ready to follow the next legal step immediately if the work is not completed and will ensure that this is progressed.

Newsletter – two residents advised that they do not receive copies of the Market Place magazine which include the Town Council newsletter. The Clerk would notify the distributors to get these locations added.

**6/25/04/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8 pm.

Signed: .....

Date: .....