

North Yorkshire County Council

Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee held at Selby Civic Centre on 4 June 2018 at 6.00 pm.

Present:-

Members:-

County Councillor Karl Arthur, Stephanie Duckett, Mike Jordan, Andrew Lee, Cliff Lunn, John McCartney, Don Mackay, Richard Musgrave, Andy Paraskos, Chris Pearson and Cliff Trotter.

Other Member in attendance:-

County Councillors David Chance and Carl Les.

In attendance:-

Howard Ferguson (Nigel Adams' MP Area Constituency Office), Daniel Harry (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager), Alice Gill (Business Support), Steve Loach (Democratic Services).

There were six members of the public in attendance.

Apologies: County Councillor Mel Hobson

1. Appointment of Chairman

Resolved -

That County Councillor Richard Musgrave be appointed Chairman of the Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee until the first meeting of the Committee following the Annual Meeting of the County Council in May 2019.

County Councillor Richard Musgrave in the Chair

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

2. Minutes of the meeting of the former Selby Area Committee held on 26 March 2018

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the previous Area Committee be noted.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved -

That County Councillor Andy Paraskos be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee until the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the County Council in May 2019.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Public Questions or Statements

The Chairman of Monk Fryston Parish Council, Councillor Bill Holmes, outlined the following public questions/statements:-

- (i) Proposals have been submitted to NYCC, by a third party, to alter the roundabout at the junction of the A63 and A162. The purpose of which is to cater for the significant increase in traffic from the expanded Sherburn industrial area and the increase in Sherburn housing. The Parish Council has concerns about, firstly, the effective flow arrangements around the roundabout and, secondly, about the safety hazard the new design presents to the residents fronting the alterations. NYCC Highways Department has declined a meeting with the Council to discuss both of these concerns. What steps should the Council take in the circumstances to have its concerns and suggestions properly considered, and to arrange a site meeting, with the appropriate officers, to discuss the Parish Council's concerns?
- (ii) The Parish Council, in conjunction with South Milford Parish Council, is seeking to improve the highway infrastructure between the two villages, particularly with regard to facilitating safe provision for both pedestrians and cyclists. This will allow better, safer pedestrian access to facilities such as trains, schools, doctors and shops. With the increase in housing and the expanding commercial provision in and around South Milford and Sherburn, the traffic on Lumby Lane will also increase. This will make it even less safe for pedestrians and cyclists especially as part of its 60 mph. How should the Council proceed to further this objective with NYCC?

The Chairman stated that, in respect of the first question submitted, the issue related to a planning condition in respect of the Sherburn to industrial area, which had been considered by Selby District Council. He stated that he had referred the issues raised to the Area Highways Manager with a view to a response being provided to the meeting as the questions had been brought to his attention prior to the meeting by Councillor Holmes.

Subsequent responses from the Area Highways Office had indicated that they were willing to meet with the Parish Council(s) to discuss both the proposed alterations to the A63/A162 roundabout and the objectives/proposals in relation to infrastructure between South Milford and Monk Fryston Parishes.

The Chairman outlined his frustration that the issues had a public question to the Committee before agreement was given to a meeting between the Parish Councils and Area Highways, however, he was satisfied that progress was now being made and that talks would be taking place in relation to the development of these matters. The local Member for the parishes involved, County Councillor Chris Pearson, stated that he

was aware of the issues outlined and was also pleased to see that discussions were to take place in respect of these developments.

It was stated that an update on the progress being made on these matters would be provided at a subsequent meeting.

6. Business relating to the Former Selby Area Committee

Resolved -

That there was no outstanding business from the previous Area Committee that needed to be addressed.

7. Area Constituency Committees - A Suggested Way Forward

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) updating Members on the role of the Area Constituency Committees and outlining suggestions for a standard agenda; the co-option of members; management of regular updates; and links with NYCC Overview and Scrutiny.

Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, Daniel Harry, introduced the report highlighting a Guide to Area Constituency Committees (ACCs) attached as an Appendix to the report.

He explained that the ACCs provided a fresh start and a new way of working, different to the former Area Committees. The report provided details as to how their operation would vary and provided an opportunity for Members to ask questions in relation to that.

He noted that, with four scheduled meetings per year, ACCs did not have a substantial period of time to consider the minutiae of issues within the local area and it was expected that a scrutiny review approach would be adopted, giving consideration to in-depth issues at each meeting (one or two), enabling a more strategic approach to significant matters, within the constituency area, to be undertaken.

Co-option

It was noted that the previous Area Committees had co-opted a wide range of representatives, which had proved useful in terms of the consideration of specific local issues, but may not be compatible with the development of specialist, technical matters in terms of how the ACCs would be operating in future. It was stated that the ACC was free to co-opt whomever it wished, however, it may be more appropriate to undertake co-options to provide specialist knowledge, on a short term basis, to have an impact on the issues being considered.

Members raised the following issues and points in relation to the possibility of co-opting to the Committee:-

- ◆ There was broad support for the Committee to be predominantly County Council Member representatives and for consideration to be given to identifying specialist co-opted members to assist on specific issues.
- ◆ It was suggested, to assist with the co-ordination with local MP, Nigel Adams, that a representative of his Constituency Office be co-opted to the Committee, enabling engagement with the MP to be undertaken on a continuous basis, at

meetings. In relation to this a Member asked whether the local MP would attend any meetings, should the co-option of a representative of his office be undertaken. In response it was stated that the MP had indicated that he would be able to attend meetings of the Area Constituency Committee, but was unlikely to be able to attend all of those, and the co-option of his office representative would enable a consistent approach, and engagement between the Committee and the MP, to be undertaken. Members suggested that it would be appropriate to have a continuing link between themselves and the MP, through his office representative, enabling issues to be dealt with accordingly when the MP was unable to attend meetings.

North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, etc - Information previously received on a regular basis

It was noted that the former Area Committees previously received regular updates from organisations such as the Police and Fire Service and, whilst useful as information, did not have any specific purpose for the Committee as a whole, on occasions. In view of that it was suggested that updates could be provided to the Area Constituency Committees, from those organisations that regularly used to attend and update Area Committees, via email, and questions could be fed back to those organisations at the beginning of each meeting. One meeting per year could then be set aside to provide an update to the Committee in relation to the strategic work undertaken by the organisations identified. It was noted that the draft Work Programme highlighted that the update would be provided to the meeting scheduled for 25 March 2019.

During discussion of this matter Members raised the following issues and points:-

- ◆ It was noted that the CEFs operated in the Selby District, which provided a platform for the organisations outlined to provide public updates on a regular basis and it was suggested that any regular updates to ACCs would merely duplicate what was already provided.
- ◆ Members considered that receiving email updates and being provided with an opportunity to feedback questions was an appropriate way forward in terms of how the various organisations that regularly fed into the former Area Committees were accommodated at the ACCs.
- ◆ The annual update when the various organisations would be invited along was also seen as an appropriate method of communication for the ACCs.
- ◆ It was suggested that should any significant issues, of strategic importance, arise during the year, involving the organisations outlined, they could be invited to a specific meeting to discuss those matters.
- ◆ It was noted that the officers supporting ACCs would submit questions to the various organisations, arising from meetings, and act as a liaison point for the Committee.
- ◆ The good liaison between the former Area Committee and the Police/Fire Service was outlined and it was noted that, due to the work undertaken, particularly in respect of issues raised with the 95Alive Partnership, there had been a significant amount of re-connection with local communities throughout the Selby district and a number of issues had been addressed. It was emphasised that it had to be ensured that these connections were not lost through the new arrangements.

In respect of this issue it was stated that, previously, a great deal of specific work was undertaken by Area Committees, concentrating on specific locations. The aim, through the Area Constituency Committees, was to concentrate on strategic issues prevalent throughout the constituency and to pursue better outcomes for the whole area.

Highways

It was noted that previously Highways had a regular update slot at Area Committees, however, the new ACCs would undertake a more strategic consideration of highways matters, with more local issues dealt with directly through the local highways office.

Members emphasised that there was an appropriate reporting system available, both for themselves and for local Parishes, which could be utilised to address specific highways issues. It was suggested that a written report, providing regular updates on highways matters may be appropriate for the Committee, going forward, allowing questions to be submitted to the Highways Office by Members, where appropriate, and responses to be delivered via the officers servicing the Committee.

General Issues

A Member raised concerns regarding the development of the Committee and consideration of strategic issues for the constituency area, bearing in mind that there was now a crossover between highways teams, CCGs, policing services, social services, etc, to take in both the Selby and Harrogate areas that were covered by the constituency. In response it was stated that the various strategic issues considered by the Committee would take account of the pertinent issues from each of the Districts represented within the constituency and feed those into the discussion on the topics being considered. It was emphasised that there would not be a large amount of specific location based items, due to the more strategic nature of the development of the Committee in future.

In terms of the co-ordination of all the ACCs, a Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen's Group would be established with regular meetings taking place. The Democratic Services Officers and Scrutiny Officers assisting the Committees would ensure that co-ordinated activity between the various committees was being developed accordingly.

Officers would be invited to attend meetings in terms of the development of strategic matters, under the topics discussed by the Committee, however, they would not attend merely to provide updates or briefings. These would be provided via emails to Members, to assist with their work on specific local matters.

It was emphasised that the County Council required ACCs to consider some important strategic matters within the constituency areas, which required a move away from the more localised issues in which the Area Committees had become embedded. The re-organisation allowed a more strategic approach to be undertaken.

The representative of the local MPs constituency office, Howard Ferguson, outlined the role played by Nigel Adams MP in some of the issues likely to be discussed by the Committee, to provide an appreciation of how to move forward on those matters, involving the MP. He highlighted highways in terms of the involvement of Highways England and the regular meetings between them and Nigel Adams. He also noted the involvement in fly tipping issues that the MP had been addressing of late. He provided advice as to which issues would benefit from the involvement of Nigel Adams MP.

A Member suggested that it would be appropriate to undertake a review of how the ACCs were developing, after the 12 month period, to determine whether these were working for the residents within those constituencies.

Standard and Timed Agendas

It was noted that, with a view to adopting a consistent approach to dealing with local issues, and to address concerns around time being available to undertake focused review or scrutiny of issues identified in the Work Programme, it was anticipated that standard agendas, together with indicated timings, would be provided for future meetings. Details of the layout of agendas, and possible timings, were provided in the report, and it was noted that it was not expected that meetings would last longer than 2½ hours.

Links with Overview and Scrutiny

It was noted that the County Council's Overview and Scrutiny were to develop a closer working relationship with the ACCs, enabling the in-depth topics considered by the Committees to feed into scrutiny reviews, providing a local input into those. It was also expected that ACCs could identify local issues that may be worthy of consideration at overarching scrutiny level.

Scrutiny issues that were predominantly within a specific area could also be considered more in-depth by the ACC than the overarching Scrutiny Committee, which would be then able to develop overall scrutiny more strategically on county-wide matters.

Support would again be provided via Scrutiny Officers and Democratic Support Officers to ensure that appropriate dialogue was taking place to prevent duplication of scrutiny issues.

Members emphasised the importance of communication at all levels to ensure that scrutiny performed appropriately both locally and county-wide.

Further to discussions of the report the following resolutions were agreed:-

Resolved -

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That, with the exception of resolution (iii), below, co-option be limited to obtaining expert advice on specific topics, should that be considered to be appropriate, by the Committee;
- (iii) That Howard Ferguson, representing Nigel Adams MP Constituency Office be recommended to the County Council for co-option to the Committee;
- (iv) That the future consultation and feedback from the various organisations that regularly fed into the former Area Committee, as detailed above, be adopted;
- (v) That representatives of Highways do not routinely attend the ACC, unless required to do so in relation to a strategic topic being discussed by the Committee, and a written report be submitted to the Committee providing an update on highways issues, with questions and feedback invited from Members to be communicated via the Democratic Service Officer;
- (vi) That a standardised and timed agenda, as detailed within the report, be adopted; and
- (vii) That liaison with Overview and Scrutiny be undertaken as detailed within the report.

8. Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee Area Profile

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) providing an overview of some of the key issues in the area covered by the Area Constituency Committee.

Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, presented the report which highlighted the following:-

- ◆ Top line statistics and key topics.
- ◆ Map of area highlighting areas of interest.
- ◆ Local insight report containing key social and economic indicators.
- ◆ Education data for the past three years.

Headlines within the report included:-

- ◆ There are 99,935 people living in Selby and Ainsty.
- ◆ 11% of children are living in poverty compared with 20% across England.
- ◆ 2% of households lack central heating compared with 3% across England.
- ◆ The overall crime rate is lower than the average across England.
- ◆ 16% of people have a limiting long-term illness compared with 18% across England.
- ◆ 20% of people have no qualifications compared with 22% across England.
- ◆ 42% of people aged 16-74 are in full-time employment compared with 39% across England.
- ◆ 14% of all households have no car compared with 26% across England.
- ◆ The percentage of people satisfied with their neighbourhood is higher than the average across England.
- ◆ 48.1% attained eight score in GCSE results compared to the national average of 46.3%.
- ◆ 80% of secondary schools are Ofsted rated good or outstanding compared with 79.7% nationally.
- ◆ 16% of people have a limited long-term illness in the area compared with 18% across England.
- ◆ 74% of people aged 16-74 living within the area are economically active compared to 70% across England.
- ◆ The average household weekly income was £804 compared to £766 across England.

The data was presented for Members' information and to allow them to consider issues for the Committee's Work Programme based on the details indicated.

Resolved -

That the report, information provided and issues highlighted be noted.

9. Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committee - Work Programme

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) providing a draft Work Programme for the Area Constituency Committee to consider, develop and adopt. Members were invited to consider the issues raised within the Area Profile and the remit of the Committee, as set out in the report, with a view to developing and adopting a Work Programme for the scheduled meetings for 2018/19, going forward.

Members undertook a discussion of potential items for the Work Programme and the following issues and points were highlighted:

- ◆ Issues around the major routes passing through the Selby area (A1M/M62/A64), their impact on development, and connectivity were discussed. A Member suggested that consideration as to how to appropriately develop access and egress from the M62 into the Selby District was required. He highlighted the opportunities arising in terms of developments taking place along the industrial corridor in the south of the Selby District and the need for improvements to be made to the road junctions and roundabouts to allow better access to those developments and encourage further development alongside those. In view of that he considered it appropriate that Highways England be involved in a meeting of the ACC to discuss those issues. A Member suggested that it would be difficult to persuade a high profile representative of Highways England to attend the meeting to respond to such matters noting previous responses from them to similar matters. The MP's Office representative highlighted the need to develop plans in relation to what was required in the area, to present to Highways England at a meeting, for meaningful discussions to take place. Members stated that the experience and influence of the local MP may assist in developing this issue and his representative stated that he would make the MP aware of the matters raised in relation to this. The MP's representative indicated that for the developments, as outlined, to be considered a comprehensive case would need to be submitted to Highways England highlighting the economic development benefits for the area. Members agreed that the development of the area around the M62 corridor was highly important to the Selby District and provided an opportunity to create numerous well paid jobs.
- ◆ The issue of economic development within the Constituency area was considered to be a suitable topic, although it was noted that the former Area Committee had undertaken a great deal of work in relation to that and it was suggested that it may be appropriate to follow up with those that had been involved previously, at a forthcoming meeting, to determine how they had addressed the issues previously considered. It was suggested, therefore, that an update with those organisations, including the LEPs, the District Council, the County Council, etc., be included within the Work Programme for a later meeting.
- ◆ It was noted that community safety issues had been placed on the Work Programme for 25 March 2019 and this would provide an appropriate

opportunity to follow up on issues raised by the previous Area Committee at its final meeting in March 2018.

Other areas considered to be appropriate for the Work Programme were suggested as follows:-

- ◆ Engagement and support for small businesses (four or under employees) and how they could be supported to grow and develop.
- ◆ A64 and the role of Highways England.
- ◆ Public Health and a link to the Selby District Council work on health improvement.
- ◆ Road safety (to be included in the Community Safety Update in March 2019).
- ◆ Schools and how to support good educational outcomes, particularly in smaller (primary) schools.
- ◆ Mental Health Service provision in the area, particularly for children and young people.
- ◆ How organisations work together to solve problems that no one agency owns, such as fly tipping (fly tipping being a major issue of concern in the area).
- ◆ Top ten concerns raised by the public with the MP - this could also be utilised to further enhance the Work Programme for the Committee, going forward.
- ◆ Adult Social Care and the Green Paper.

The Chairman stated that he would take account of the issues raised by Members in relation to the development of the Work Programme and would liaise with Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officers to develop an appropriate Work Programme for the Committee for 2018/19 which would be submitted for approval at the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved -

That the report, and issues raised, be noted and the Work Programme for 2018/19 be developed and submitted to the next meeting for consideration.

10. Future Meetings

Members were asked to consider the scheduled dates and times for future meetings of the ACC for the 2018/19 timetable, which were highlighted as follows:-

- ◆ 24 September 2018 at 6 pm
- ◆ 26 November 2018 at 6 pm
- ◆ 25 March 2019 at 6 pm

In relation to this it was noted that the local MP, Nigel Adams MP, would be invited to attend at least one meeting per year and that the timetable may need to be altered to accommodate his attendance.

A Member also noted that Selby and Ainsty ACC was the only Area Constituency Committee of the County Council that met in the evening and wondered whether it

would be more appropriate to have a daytime meeting, in line with the other Committees.

In terms of the attendance of the MP, his representative outlined that Nigel Adams MP would be available on Friday 28 September 2018 at 10 am to meet with the Committee.

In relation to the altering of the time from 6 pm to the daytime, for regular meetings, a number of Members raised concerns in respect of the inclusiveness of re-timing the meetings. Members stated that they would be unable to take part due to work and family commitments and suggested that further consideration be given to an appropriate start time for the meetings in view of this.

In terms of venues it was suggested that there may be issues that required the Committee to move from a single, central location and undertake meetings at locations throughout the constituency. It should be ensured that venues were fully accessible, had good transport links and provided appropriate facilities. It was emphasised that it was important, when engaging with the public, that they were able to access the meetings accordingly.

Resolved -

- (i) That the next meeting of the ACC take place on Friday 28 September 2018 at 10am at a venue to be determined; and
- (ii) That further consideration be given to the dates and times of the subsequent meetings of the 2018/19 timetable; and
- (iii) That further consideration be given to having meetings at alternative suitable venues throughout the constituency area, dependent upon the issues on the agenda, to provide a better opportunity for members of the public to attend.

The meeting concluded at 7.50 pm

SL/JR