

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee held on 30 May 2019, commencing at 10.00am, at Victoria Hall, Settle.

**Present:-**

County Councillors Margaret Atkinson, Philip Barrett, Mike Chambers MBE, David Ireton, Robert Heseltine, Stanley Lumley, Stuart Martin MBE, Patrick Mulligan, Andy Solloway, and Richard Welch.

County Council Officers: Daniel Harry (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager), Dale Owens (Assistant Director, Health and Adult Services).

Attending: County Councillor Carl Les.

Others present: Trudy Balderson (Airedale NHS Foundation Trust), Dan Burdett (NHS Property Services), Lynne Scrutton (Airedale Wharfedale and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group), and Mr George Greenbank (Clapham School Community Action Group).

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Michael Harrison, Gill Quinn and Robert Windass.

County Councillor David Chance who is not a member of the committee but regularly attends as Executive member for Area Constituency Committees gave his apologies.

#### **30. Election of Chairman**

Daniel Harry introduced the meeting and asked whether there were any nominations for Chair of the Committee. County Councillor Richard Welch nominated County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE to the Chairman. This was seconded by County Councillor Robert Heseltine. County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE was unanimously elected to be the Chair of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee for the next 12 months.

**Resolved –**

That County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE be appointed Chairman, to serve for the next 12 months.

---

**County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE in the Chair**

---

---

**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

---

#### **31. Election of Vice Chairman**

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE asked for nominations for the Vice Chairman of the Committee to serve for a period of 12 months. County Councillor Andy Solloway nominated County Councillor David Ireton and this was seconded by County Councillor

Patrick Mulligan. County Councillor David Ireton were unanimously voted to be the Vice Chairman of the Committee.

**Resolved –**

That County Councillor David Ireton be appointed Vice Chairman, to serve for the next 12 months.

**32. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Michael Harrison, Gill Quinn and Robert Windass.

**33. Minutes**

Daniel Harry noted some outstanding actions relating to identification of lines of enquiry, which could be picked up under agenda item 9 on the Committee Work Programme.

**Resolved -**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee held on 14 March 2019, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**34. Any Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**35. Public Questions or Statements**

There was a Public Statement made by Mr George Greenbank of the Clapham School Community Action Group. The full text is as below:

Clapham School Prepares for the Future

Good morning.

I'm George Greenbank, you will recall I made a statement to you at your meeting on the 14 March in Ripon about the proposal to close Clapham School. I live in Clapham and I'm part of the Community Action Group which has been supporting the school governors in developing a Recovery Plan for the school. Today I would like to bring you up to date on developments relating to Clapham School, set out some of the issues the school faces and inform you of how the school is preparing for the future.

Following the consultation period on the proposal to close the school, over two hundred responses were received by North Yorkshire including submissions from the Community Action Group and the Governing Board reversing their decision to request closure of the school. At their meeting on the 30 April the Council's Executive Committee decided to halt the closure process. I have come to thank councillors for the decision you made to support Clapham Primary School and allow it the time to recover; the community is extremely grateful.

The community do not underestimate the challenges ahead and recognise it will be a three to four year journey as the confidence in the school is rebuilt following, what has been, a very difficult and damaging consultation period. The issues which led to the proposal are being addressed and the community recognise that stopping the closure is only a first step and the real work is ahead of us.

Clapham School is preparing for the future. Earlier this month, the governors met with North Yorkshire County Council Officers and the Leeds Diocese representatives to begin a new future for Clapham Primary School to ensure the school is kept open for future generations of local children.

The Chair of Governors has put forward a framework for delivering a recovery plan and working in collaboration with the community; this process is already underway.

Governor led groups have been established to extend the services the school offers i.e. Nursery, Stay and Play and Wraparound provision, Market the school, Improve communications with the community and the Rev John Davies is reaching out to other local schools to re-establish working relationships and potential future partnerships.

The school is recruiting a full-time head teacher and identifying the need for any further staffing support.

And the Community has set up an Educational Fund to support the children at the school.

We are pleased that parents have already decided Clapham is the right environment for their children and there will be three new starters from September, which is also when the nursery and wrap around care provision is planned to be in place.

Thank you again for your support; with your permission we will keep you informed on our progress. At the Executive meeting in April it was said that a new approach needs to be taken for small rural schools, a way has to be found to make them work whilst keeping the quality of the children's education as the top priority. We are going to find that way forward and we ask you, your Executive and the Director of Education to be patient and to give the four-year recovery plan time to work.

The Chairman, County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE, thanked Mr Greenbank for his Statement and asked committee members for any comments. In response, the following points were raised:

- The hard work of the Community Action Group, the school and the community at large in developing the Recovery Plan was recognised
- The ability of the Council to listen to and respond to the concerns of local people was commended and highlighted as an example of democracy in action
- Concerns were raised that central Government policy was making it more difficult for smaller, rural schools to thrive
- General recognition that there was still a long way to go and that the successful and that implementation of the Recovery Plan would not be an easy task.

**Resolved -**

- a. That an update on progress with the delivery of the Recovery Plan for Clapham School be brought to a future meeting of the committee.

**36. Castleberg Community Hospital, Giggleswick**

Considered -

A report by Lynne Scrutton of the Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which provided an update on the work that has been done to refurbish and reopen the Castleberg Hospital, Giggleswick.

Lynne Scrutton introduced the report and made the following points:

- The CCG, the Hospital Trust and NHS Property Services were working closely with stakeholders to ensure that the site is up and running as soon as is possible
- Significant progress has been made with the works to date. There have been some delays resulting from the discovery of nesting birds and asbestos
- The delays have meant that the best case opening date is now September 2019 and the worst case is now November 2019
- There are monthly project team and mobilisation team meetings and strong links have been made with the Craven Communities Together Partnership
- Staff recruitment, engagement and training is all underway and some of the staff who previously worked at the Castleberg will be returning to work there
- Work is underway with NYCC and community groups to see what use can be made of the first floor. There remains the issue of taking on leases and the lack of lift access
- An open day will be held for partners and stakeholders prior to the hospital being reopened.

County Councillor Richard Welch asked what the impact of not having the lift would be upon the potential use of the first floor accommodation. Also, whether the £80,000 needed for a new lift could be raised through alternative funding routes.

In response, Lynne Scrutton said that the way in which the first floor could be used would be adversely affected by the lack of lift access as this would prevent use for drop-ins or outreach work. Additional funding was also needed to upgrade parking facilities.

Dan Burdett of NHS Property Services said that any organisation seeking to use the first floor would need to be a legal entity as they would need to hold a lease in their own right. The NHS locally would not be able to take on this responsibility. This was also proving to be a disincentive for some community groups.

Committee members praised the commissioners and providers for listening to local people and acting upon their wishes. This was cited as another example of local democracy in action.

County Councillor Andy Solloway asked whether the merger of two Bradford CCGs and Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven CCG would have an impact upon the long term financial sustainability of the Castleberg Hospital.

Lynne Scrutton replied that savings in CCG budgets needed to be made because there was a significant deficit at present. These savings, however, would be made through a 22% reduction in management costs and not through reductions in front line provision.

County Councillor Philip Barrett queried whether there were any difficulties recruiting staff for the new Castleberg Hospital.

Trudy Balderson of the Airedale NHS Foundation Trust said that the recruitment had gone well. The staff group consisted on some new staff and some returning staff.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE asked whether the delay to the reopening of the hospital had resulted in a negative impact upon patient outcomes or NHS finances.

Trudy Balderson said that there had been no negative impact.

## **Resolved -**

- a. That an overview of the first 3 months of operation of the new hospital site is brought to the committee meeting at 10am on 12 December 2019.

### **37. Unpaid Carers and Community Based Care - The Role of Unpaid Carers and the Support that is given to them**

Considered -

A presentation by Dale Owens, Assistant Director, Health and Adult Services, North Yorkshire County Council, concerning the role of unpaid carers and the support that is given them.

Daniel Harry provided some context for the presentation stating that the aim was for committee members to have an initial presentation that enabled them to better understand the issues facing unpaid carers and then identify some specific lines of enquiry to go onto the committee work programme.

Dale Owens introduced the presentation and made the following comments:

- The Council's Caring for Carers Strategy was launched in 2017
- There are 65,000 unpaid carers in the county
- Carers want to be able to provide care but to stay healthy themselves and be supported
- Respite care provision can be key and may only be for a couple of hours, enabling carers to have a break or do other things. A review of respite and short care services is currently underway
- It is recognised that statutory services need to be better at supporting carers
- Carers Resource in Craven is supported by the Council and Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven CCG
- The Council commissions a Carers Information and Advice Service for children in the Craven area
- The Council and CCGs also commission a Carers Sitting Service in Craven.

County Councillor Andy Solloway said that he was pleased to see that the work of unpaid carers was recognised. He referred to the work being done by the Carers' Resource in Skipton and how effective this had been in supporting people locally.

County Councillor Stanley Lumley asked what the responsibilities were for local authorities in the provision of social care and support for carers.

In response, Dale Owens said that the Care Act details the role of local authorities. He said that the proportion of spend dedicated to carers was relatively low and local services were provided through the Prevention Service. Dale Owens said that where people are either unwilling or unable to care for relatives, then the local authority would do an assessment of need and respond accordingly.

A number of committee members queried what progress was being made with the Green Paper on central government funding for adult social care. Members highlighted the increasing costs facing local authorities and the lack of a sustainable funding package for services. It was suggested and agreed that this would make a useful discussion point for the next meeting of the committee when the Rt Hon Julian Smith would be in attendance.

**Resolved -**

- a. That the presentation be noted
- b. Committee members to consider whether there are any specific lines of enquiry that need to be included in the committee work programme that relate to unpaid carers and the support that is provided by North Yorkshire County Council.
- c. That the concerns about the sustainability of adult social care funding and the Green Paper be on the agenda for the next meeting of the committee.

**38. Committee Work Programme**

Considered -

A report by Daniel Harry, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, outlining the committee work programme.

Daniel Harry introduced the report and asked that Members review the Committee's work programme, taking into account the outcome of discussions on previous agenda items and any other developments taking place across the area.

Daniel Harry noted that the Rt Hon Julian Smith MP would be attending the second half of the next meeting of the committee, which is scheduled from 11am to 1pm on 6 September 2019.

The agenda for the meeting was discussed and the following agreed as a draft:

11am to 12noon – committee business

- Development of the digital economy in rural areas, links to employment and long term sustainability of rural communities
- Contribute to any consultation on options arising out of the Harrogate Congestion Study – NYCC Highways
- Briefing on A59 at Kex Gill and the Coniston Aire Causeway – NYCC Highways - update on report to committee on 13 December 2018
- Briefing on A629 Kildwick Roundabout – traffic flow and possible improvement options – NYCC Highways.

12noon to 1pm - Rt Hon Julian Smith MP in attendance

- Factors affecting the short, medium and long term sustainability of (rural) schools in the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee area
- Adult social care funding and the progress with the Green Paper
- Local Government funding and the Fairer Funding Review.

**Resolved -**

- a. That the committee work programme be noted
- b. Committee members to consider whether there are any specific lines of enquiry that need to be included in the committee work programme that relate to unpaid carers and the support that is provided by North Yorkshire County Council.

**39. A59 Kex Gill Diversion - Progress Update**

Considered -

A report by Mark Hugill, Highways and Transportation, which provided an update on the progress of the A59 Kex Gill Diversion.

County Councillor Mike Chambers MBE said that the briefing had been provided to note only. Any questions or queries would need to be directed to Daniel Harry, who would then pass them onto the relevant Highways Officer.

County Councillor Stanley Lumley, a member of the Kex Gill steering group, gave a summary of progress with the work to date, as follows:

- The Environmental Impact Assessments are underway
- Construction work is expected to start in the spring of 2020, with completion in the summer of 2021
- The construction of the new route should not cause any significant disruption to road users on the existing road
- The new road will have three lanes in total consisting of two lanes and a crawler/overtaking lane
- The current route of the A59 remains at risk due to ongoing problems with the stability of the hill.

**Resolved -**

- a. Committee members noted the report and requested ongoing updates from the Council's Highways service.

**40. Other business which the Chairman agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances.**

Daniel Harry gave a verbal update on the 'M6 – A1 Trans-Pennine Roads Study', as below:

- In April 2019 DfT announced that Highways England is to work with partners in the north on a £300,000 study looking at major improvements to road links between East Lancashire and parts of Yorkshire.
- The study will look at the issues facing road users in the Central Trans-Pennine corridor, the extent to which the lack of strategic connection hinders business, and options for improving those journeys and boosting economic growth. It will also look at how improvements could be used to relieve other trans-Pennine routes such as the M60/M62.
- This initial strategic assessment builds on the Central Pennines Strategic Development Corridor work already undertaken by TfN and will be followed by analysis of potential options, including consideration of the difficult terrain, environmental impacts, economic growth, the role of other modes in the corridor and concerns and aspirations of key road user groups.
- Alongside TfN, Lancashire County Council and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, North Yorkshire County Council is working with Highways England on the study to ensure they have a full understanding of the key issues and concerns along the corridor.
- Highways England aims to conclude and publish its findings by the end of the autumn, delivering a Strategic Outline Business Case for ministers to consider if there is a case for future investment.

Committee members raised concerns that the development of such an important strategic route was not progressing and requested a further information on the role of the County Council, any barriers to progress and what action was being taken to progress this study.

**Resolved -**

- a. The Council's Highways Service to provide more detailed information on the progress being made with the study to committee members most affected.

The meeting concluded at 11:40am

DH

Draft