

North Yorkshire County Council

Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at The Friends Meeting House, 19 Castlegate, Pickering, YO18 7AX on Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 10 a.m.

Present:

County Councillors Caroline Goodrick (Chair), Val Arnold, Lindsay Burr MBE, Gareth Dadd, Keane Duncan, Peter Sowray, Roberta Swiers and Greg White.

Apologies: County Councillors Robert Baker, Caroline Patmore, Janet Sanderson & Helen Swiers

Also in Attendance: County Councillor Carl Les; Helen Cammish – Community & Primary Care General Manager, Humber Trust; Margaret Wallace - Ryedale District Council; Stuart Minting

Officers in Attendance: James McCluskey - NYCC Trading Standards Officer; Melanie Carr - Principal Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer, Steve Loach – Principal Democratic Services Officer; Luke Macintosh & Mike Cratchley - Business Support Officers. Andrew England & Andrew Santon – NYCC Highways and Transportation,

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

60. Welcome by the Chair – introductions and updates

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed there were no updates to provide.

61. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2020

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Committee held on 10 January 2020, having been printed and circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

62. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

63. Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

64. Highways England Update

Members noted that an update had been provided in writing but expressed their disappointment that again no Highways England representatives were in attendance at the meeting. The Principal Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer confirmed her continuous efforts to achieve their attendance had been unsuccessful and that other Area Constituency Committees had experienced similar.

Members agreed it was unacceptable and Highways officers present at the meeting offered to liaise with Highways England going forward in a renewed effort to get them to engage.

As it would not be possible to clarify any issues raised in the update without a Highways England Representative present, Members agreed to defer the item to their next meeting in June 2020

65. Trading Standards Presentation

James McCluskey - Trading Standards Officer, provided a detailed overview of the types of scams and eCrimes being perpetrated across the constituency area which included consumer and retail fraud, subscription traps, advanced fee fraud and phishing, the scale and impact of which had increased nationally as a result of the use of IT.

Members noted there had been 51 reported cases in the constituency area between April 2018 and December 2019, and expressed concern at the effect they had on the most vulnerable and elderly residents, giving examples of cases they were aware of. They also suggested the actual number of cases was likely to be higher as some residents were too embarrassed to report or unaware of how to report.

James McCluskey confirmed there was a national consumer helpline providing a clear mechanism for reporting. He also confirmed work was ongoing to gather intelligence, identify those involved and work with communities to educate residents.

He made members aware of a number of initiatives being undertaken which included a project working with the Post Office to identify vulnerable residents, and information sharing through Parish Councils. Members suggested bank staff needed training to identify instances where vulnerable residents were being taken advantage of.

Members were encouraged to help with protecting residents in their areas through education and support for those effected and Members suggested they would benefit from a regular newsletter keeping them informed of what was happening in their areas. Finally, Members proposed the issue would benefit from some more in depth scrutiny in order that some firm recommendations could be submitted to the Executive, and the Democracy Officer agreed to raise it with the appropriate Overview & Scrutiny Chair.

The Chair thanked James McCluskey for his attendance and it was

Resolved – That the update be noted

66. Cycle Strategy Update

Members considered a written update on North Yorkshire County Council's approach to cycle path network provision. As the report was for information only and there was no officer present to answer questions, it was

Resolved – that the update be noted

67. Rural Commission Update

Members received a written update on the work of the Rural Commission, noting Commission's purpose and aims, and the planned approach to gathering evidence in support of the it's work.

They considered the list of themes identified and the proposal that the Area Constituency Committees may want to form a sub-group to draft a report in response to the Commission's 'call for evidence'. They also noted that the findings from the Commission were scheduled to be presented at a future meeting in December 2020.

Recognising that the logistics of having sub group meetings may prove a barrier, it was agreed that if so minded, Members should submit an individual response.

Resolved – That the update be noted

68. Work Programme

Members considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) which contained the Committee's current work programme and a draft work programme for the coming municipal year (2020/21).

In light of the discussions at the meeting, it was agreed that the attendance of Highways England be added to the work programme for the next meeting of the Committee, in June 2020.

Members also expressed an interest in receiving an update on Devolution and agreed to add it to their work programme for their meeting in September 2020.

Resolved – That the draft work programme for 2020/21 be updated to include the additional items identified above.

The meeting concluded at 11:18am

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