

North Yorkshire County Council

Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 March 2017 at 10.30 am at the Falsgrave Community and Resource Centre, Seamer Road, Scarborough.

Present:-

County Councillors:

David Billing (Vice-Chairman) in the Chair, Derek Bastiman, John Blackburn, Eric Broadbent, David Jeffels, Janet Jefferson, Tony Randerson, John Ritchie and Helen Swiers

Non-voting Co-opted Members:

Parish Councillor Pam Reeves

Also in Attendance:-

Mark Gibson, Post Office

County Council Officers: Mike Webster (Health and Adult Services); Ray Busby (Policy and Partnerships), Richard Marr and James Smith (Business and Environmental Services); Kate Arscott (Legal and Democratic Services); Holly Austin and Stephanie Haworth (Business Support)

Apologies for absence: County Councillors David Chance, Sam Cross, Penny Marsden (Chairman) and Joe Plant

Scarborough Borough Councillors Guy Coulson, Simon Green and Steve Siddons

Parish Councillors Christine Lewis and Richard Thompson

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

156. Chairman's Announcements

County Councillor David Billings paid tribute to County Councillor members of the Area Committee who were standing down at the forthcoming elections, including John Blackburn and John Ritchie. He also thanked Parish Councillor Pam Reeves for her service and contribution to the Area Committee, as she had indicated that she would not be seeking re-appointment.

157. Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2016

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2016 are taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

158. Any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

159. Public Questions or Statements

There were no registrations from the public to ask a question or make a statement.

160. Rural Post Offices

Considered –

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) inviting members of the Area Committee to discuss the Post Office network with a Post Office representative.

Mark Gibson, Public Affairs Manager for the Post Office, attended the meeting at the Committee's request to outline the Post Office's strategy for service provision in the Scarborough Borough area. He summarised the national background to the current position, with the Post Office network worth several £bn to the UK economy, along with the social worth of the service it provided. Against a backdrop of competition for all of the products offered, with the exception of Postal Orders, and reducing government subsidies, the Post Office had had to come up with a radical response in order to survive.

Members were provided with details of the various categories of Post Office currently operating across the District. In most cases Post Office services were now provided as part of other retail businesses, resulting in longer opening hours to match customer demand. Where it had not been possible to find anyone willing to take on the Post Office business when an existing Postmaster left or local shops closed, part-time outreach and mobile provision was provided where possible. Mr Gibson confirmed that there was no programme of further planned closures.

Members discussed the vital social role of the Post Office network, and welcomed recognition of this. The challenges facing local providers in juggling the demands of the Post Office contract and making a sustainable living were discussed. The potential of a possible future role for the Council in supporting the network particularly in rural communities was raised, given its social value.

Resolved -

That the report be noted and Mr Gibson be thanked for attending the meeting.

161. Referral to Scrutiny re Botton Village

Considered –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader, reporting on the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee's response, reached at its meeting on 19 January 2017, to the Area Committee's request that the Scrutiny Committee review the situation at Botton Village.

Members heard the response of the Care and Independence Scrutiny Committee, setting out its position following the Area Committee's referral of concerns regarding Botton Village, and approved of the criteria used by that Committee in considering the referral and deciding to take no further action.

The Assistant Director, Health and Adult Services, gave a verbal update on the situation at Botton Village. He reminded members that it was not the role of the Directorate to seek to influence or become involved in questions regarding the unique ethos of the care provision at Botton. The Directorate's focus was in taking a view on: the safety of those people resident at Botton, including those funded by the County Council; whether the provision met the legal and regulatory requirements of the Care Quality Commission; and to ensure that the provision met the Council's contractual requirements for funded places including respecting individual's right to

independence. He confirmed that the ongoing dispute between some of the co-workers and the Camphill Village Trust was still subject to mediation. Members were informed that it was proposed to transfer about 10 houses to a shared lives care model through the Council's preferred provider, Avalon.

Resolved -

That the Area Committee heard the position of the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee and approved of the criteria used by that Committee in considering the referral to that Committee.

162. Update on Local Highways Matters

Members discussed local highways issues with the Area Highways Manager, Richard Marr, and James Smith, Team Leader, Traffic Engineering. The following issues were raised:

- Scarborough Precinct – work is progressing. Members sought reassurance regarding the sealing of joints to prevent water ingress and Richard Marr undertook to check all channel lengths.
- Tour de Yorkshire preparations – work has been taking place on Marine Drive and Queen's Parade in Scarborough. Most of the route was in good condition and race organisers, ASO, had only identified 11 defects.
- Main Street, Cayton – works funded from Section 106 money – Richard Marr agreed to review the proposed works to see whether they could be carried out within the terms of the written agreement
- Request for consideration of crossing at the junctions of Albemarle Crescent and York Place with Westborough – Richard Marr agreed that this matter warranted further investigation.
- Vehicle Activated Signs – Members discussed the pros and cons of the use of these signs and their relative deterrent value when used either permanently or periodically
- Members expressed frustration that the B&M traffic situation had still not been resolved for local residents, and the impact this had on residents' impression of the County Council in general and of County Councillors
- North Street, Scalby – Richard Marr agreed to report back as soon as a response was received to the road safety issue raised here

James Smith explained to the Committee that following his appointment and that of 2 new signals engineers, the council was carrying out a full review of traffic signal phasing, which may lead to changes. Members queried the phasing at Throxenby Lane on Scalby Road and at the A64 Park and Ride site.

Officers also circulated a written response to issues that had been raised by Committee members prior to the meeting:

Resolved -

That the update be noted.

163. Annual Report of the Older People's Champion

Considered –

The 17th annual report of the Older People's Champion, County Councillor Shelagh Marshall OBE

The Committee noted the annual report of the Older People's Champion, setting out the achievements of the past year and also reflecting on progress and achievements over County Councillor Shelagh Marshall OBE's period of office.

Resolved –

That the report be noted and that County Councillor Shelagh Marshall OBE be thanked for her diligent and hard work over the years in connection with her role as Older People's Champion, both within North Yorkshire and at a national level.

164. North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Update

Considered -

The report of Danny Westmoreland, Group Manager, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service advising Members of community safety activities involving North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service that have occurred between 1 April 2016 and 31 January 2017 and providing an update regarding other issues from within the Scarborough District.

The Committee noted the regular report from the Fire and Rescue Service, including an update on the fire cover review; working with vulnerable persons; road safety; District training exercise; and details of five incidents of note since the previous report to the Committee.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

165. Scarborough and Whitby District Police and Community Safety Report

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) presenting information on the current performance, future community safety and crime reduction partnership operations in the Scarborough district.

Members noted that the data provided was useful in providing a regular overview and local context for Committee members.

The Committee raised concerns about the performance of the 101 service and resolved to raise their concerns with Superintendent Dey and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Resolved -

That the report and the latest crime and incident data for the Scarborough district be noted, and that the Committee's concerns regarding the 101 service be raised with Superintendent Dey and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

166. Programme of Work for Future Meetings

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) advising Members of the dates of future meetings, together with business currently scheduled.

Members were informed that it was proposed to bring a report on the seasonal operation of the Whitby Controlled Parking Zone to the next Area Committee meeting in July.

Resolved -

- (a) That the business scheduled for future meetings be noted.
- (b) That Members contact Kate Arscott (Senior Democratic Services Officer) with any suggestions of business for future meetings which may subsequently arise.
- (c) That the next meeting of the Committee be held in Whitby

The meeting concluded at 12.00

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