

Monthly Update – February 2023

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

No apologies for absence have been received from Councillors.

Councillor Langthorne to declare an interest in Accounts regarding cheque payments.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH JANUARY 2023.

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th January 2023.

3. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

The Police report for January 2023 is set out below.

Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	3 Reports
Total	3 Reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	0 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	0 Reports
Criminal Damage	2 Reports
Theft (inc Theft from Shop)	0 Reports
Violence against the person	7 Reports
Other crimes inc Drugs	1 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Total	10 reports

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

- (i) New Sports Field Development.

The following response was received from HDC about the possibility of further allotments at the North Northallerton Development –

Further to your email to Steve on 24 January I can confirm that we had originally planned to locate the allotments to the north of the bridge however our ecological/planting advisors thought that the shade from the bridge would restrict the suitability of the land for this purpose. It is also best that all of the allotments are kept together to make it easier for access, parking, people taking produce to and from cars, etc, and we therefore increased the number of allotments on the southern side instead.

The area to the north, due to being part in shade, is being developed as a wetland area with parts given over for edible planting such as fruit bushes – this will provide a rich ecological area for wildlife as well as providing foraging opportunities for the community.

There are currently 100 residents on the NTC waiting list for the allotments.

- (ii) Dog Fouling, Cockpit Hill.

Continual dog fouling along the west side of Cockpit Hill has been logged with the District Council. All properties on both sides of Cockpit Hill have been leafleted to make residents aware of how they can

report dog fouling and asking if they had any CCTV images. A post on Facebook drew many responses but not all from Brompton but indicted that dog fouling is still widespread in the area.

- (iii) Gully Emptying, Northallerton Road.

Response received from NY Highways –

One of our Highway Officers inspected the gullies causing concern on the 18th January. He advises me that at the point of his inspection there was no evidence of flooding or any reason to believe the gullies are obstructed. All gullies across the County are cleaned annually as part of a cyclic programme and unfortunately we are unable to consider additional non-programmed gully cleans unless a blocked gully poses an immediate risk of internal flooding to property or significant hazard to the highway, neither of which applies in this instance. According to our system these gullies are next due to be cleaned in April.

A resident has however reported that the four gullies on the east side of Northallerton Road southwards from the Recreation Ground have recently been cleaned out.

- (iv) Former Electricity Sub-Station Site.

The garden licence for the site at Water End has been received..

- (v) Unsafe Headstones in the Churchyard.

Whilst inspecting the Church wall the stonemason inspected the three large headstones that have been cordoned off in the Churchyard for some time and declared them to be safe. The stakes and barrier tape around each of the headstones have therefore been removed.

- (vi) Demonstration at County Hall – Wednesday 22nd February.

Residents from Brompton and the surrounding area are asked to attend a public demonstration outside County Hall, Northallerton on Wednesday 22nd February to urge County Councillors to approve 20mph in towns and villages where this speed limit would be appropriate on road safety grounds.

A demonstration is to be held by the North Yorkshire Branch of 20's Plenty, the campaign group striving to achieve default 20mph, between 8.30am and the commencement of the County Council meeting at 10.30am.

This is a significant matter for Brompton as for very many years concerns have been expressed about the road safety hazards for parents and children walking to school which itself has no 20mph zone,

20mph through Brompton will encourage people to safely walk and cycle.

142 Parishes in North Yorkshire have supported the 20's Plenty initiative, many of these Parishes being closely grouped in areas across the County.

Recently many residents living in the Thirsk and Malton Constituency area have been disappointed that the Conservative County Councillors voted against recommending a trial of 20mph zones in their built up areas.

Representatives from that area and other areas have indicated that they will be joining the demonstration on the 22nd February.

Please come along and support this extremely worthwhile road safety initiative if you are able to.

County Councillor Steve Watson has arranged for Bromptons case to be put before the Richmond Area Constituency Committee at its March meeting.

- (vii) Cycle Path.

HDC is to carry out a sweep of leaves along the Cycle path at the Rugby Club.

5. CHAIRMAN'S/VICE-CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS.

To be reported to meeting.

6. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS.

(i) Finance Group.

The Finance Group met on Monday 20th February and considered -

Tree Works

A quotation by Hillside Tree Surgeons in the sum of £5,000 was agreed out of Council as it was received after the January Council meeting as the work has to be completed before the bird nesting season commences. It is RECOMMENDED that this decision be endorsed.

Church Wall Estimates

Two quotations have been received for repairs to the Church Wall and these will be forwarded to the York Diocese in due course with an application for a Faculty so that the works can be carried out.

Both Stonemasons have been approved in the past for works to the wall and it is hoped that the Church Diocese Building Committee will accept the lower of the quotations.

Grasscutting Tender 2023 Season

The Finance Group RECOMMENDS approval of the quotation received from CE + CM Walkers for grasscutting for the 2023 grasscutting season in the sum of £824.40 per cut (maximum of 14 cuts). This represents an increase of 6% on last years price.

Highways/Road Safety Group Budget 2023/24.

The Highways Group has submitted its budget request for the 2023/24 financial year.

The Finance Group has commenced a comprehensive review of the financial situation for the 2023/24 financial years and this will be presented to the March Council meeting.

To date the Councils budget out-turns at year end are expected to be as originally drafted.

Yorwaste Price Increase

The Council has received notification from Yorwaste of a 10% price increase in the blue bin emptying service which will increase the monthly charge by £2.49.

Tree Works estimates

Quotes for Ledon Springers from MacVenture Play for the replacement toddler springers have been received however the nursery aged children are being asked which items they would like to have before an order is placed.

Room Hire

The Methodist Church is to be reminded to submit an invoice before the end of March.

Reserves.

RECOMMENDED that for future years the Councils Reserve contingency sum be set at an amount equivalent to one years Precept.

Allotments.

RECOMMENDED that grasscutting at the allotments be carried out by Mr D Langthorne and be paid for by the Council.

Purchases

AGREED - That an account be set up at North Yorkshire timber for purchase of timber.

(ii) Middle Bridge.

The removal of the bridge is awaiting the manufacture of the safety rails by Wallaces as these need to be put in place on the day that the bridge is removed.

(iii) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

No meeting has been held this month.

(iv) Play Equipment/Adult Outdoor Gym Equipment Working Group.

Although no meeting has been held this month matters are progressing as follows –

A decision is awaited from Awards for All to confirm that the grant of £10,000 awarded in September 2022 for metal dynamic and static equipment can be used to wooden static adult outdoor gym equipment.

Councillor Hazelwood has undertaken to resurrect the proposed BMX track issue that was before Council in March 2020 but was removed from the Councils budget the following month at the onset of lockdown as it would not at that time be possible to make any progress on the matter.

Councillor Hazelwood is also following up estimates for the necessary work required to comply with the play equipment safety inspection.

A survey of Nursery Year 2 children is currently being carried out as to their preferences regarding the springers.

(v) Joint Pedestrian/ Cycling Working Group.

A meeting took place of the Joint Working Group in the Town Hall on Wednesday 8th February including a general discussion with County councils Officer regarding the NYCC draft proposals.

Four schemes are suggested as follows -

Scheme 1 - Brompton - Town Centre

Scheme 2 - South East Northallerton - Town centre

Scheme 3 - South Northallerton - Town Centre

Scheme 4 - Standard Way Industrial Estate

It was pointed out that walking or cycling from Romanby to town was very dangerous due to the narrowness of the roads and footpaths through the two bridges especially on Romanby Road where the path is very narrow and vehicles have difficulties passing each other long Bridge Terrace.

This had been an issue for very many years and was regretful when people were wanting to cycle town and to the Football Club and the Leisure Park.

The only feasible solution was seen to be traffic lights but this had been suggested over 50 years ago and had never materialised.

It was also pointed out that the North Northallerton Development Masterplan had shown cycle access going under the new bridge past the allotments.

NTC and BTC were currently urging NYCC to provide a pedestrian controlled crossing to the east side of the new bridge.

As regards Standard Way the situation had changed since the opening of the bridge as HGVs from the west of town travelling along Yafforth Road now turned along Standard Way in order to avoid the back up of traffic at the Darlington Road junction caused by the railway crossing at North End.

There is a need for positive results in terms of future funding and for there to be a focus on the funding aspect.

There is also the issue of whether cycle paths can be incorporated into existing footpaths but this would depend on the width of those paths as to what was accessible.

The issue was not just one of infrastructure but was a question of how to get people out of their cars. - this being the ultimate aim. At present the alternative options of walking or cycling were not attractive enough to achieve this.

The future planning application for 800 more houses east of the new Stokesley Road roundabout on Church Commissioners land would provide more opportunities.

This could in time open up access to the north east side of Northallerton and the Bullamoor Road area.

As regards Stakeholders it was intended to hold a public construction event and a survey of residents in the town in the Summer; such would also involve the Cycling Clubs and cycling groups. Mention was made of Cycle to School Week.

Schools themselves could work up travel plans for their pupils and they were able to do this independently.

The hope was expressed that if there were more cycleways then more people would cycle.

The next meeting will be held in two months time.

(vi) YLCA Hambleton Branch Meeting.

The YLCA Hambleton Branch meeting held on the 15th February mainly concerned a resume of the NYCC drop-in session held at the Civic Centre in the previous week regarding the Draft Parish Charter.

Although invited to attend the meeting no County Councillors were present. Representatives commented that non attendance by County Councillors did not bode well for the future.

Concerns were again expressed as to how planning applications would be dealt with by NYC as currently the 7 District Councils operate variations in dealing with the planning process.

Fears are that the majority of planning applications will be rubber stamped and there will be no opportunity for Town and Parish Councils to get their local Member to raise matters on their behalf.

There are concerns as to how planning application decisions will be made, especially if they are being made by Councillors who have little knowledge of the particular area. In this respect several large

applications are expected for Northallerton and NTC is concerned as to what input it will have into these, particularly in the detail of the applications.

Indeed with larger applications whether they will be full Council or Executive decisions rather than coming through the Area Constituency Committees as if it is to be the Executive many of those Councillors, if not all, will have no knowledge of the geographic Parish areas that the applications concern.

In addition will a local Councillor be entitled to take part in those discussions?

The call-in procedure has not yet been decided upon but is unlikely to be that currently operated by HDC.

Whilst the County Council has stated that nothing will be forced on Town and Parish Councils there is the issue that if NYC decided to no longer fund a particular service how will the local Council react as it may be forced to increase its Precept in order to take the particular service on itself by default?

With the current financial position of the new NYC Council it may very well start to withdraw funding in certain service areas.

Indeed in mentioning that Hambleton has four Leisure Centres and the Craven District only has one Leisure Centre at Skipton a local HDC County Councillor has commented "watch this space" - does that mean that NYC will be closing Leisure Centres in the Hambleton District?

It is hoped that the NYCC Parish Portal will be extended to cover other than highways matters in the future as it is generally acknowledged by local Councils that the Portal works well; although to date there have been no specific areas mentioned as regards the Portals possible extension.

It is also suggested that Parish/Town Councils should have one specific Officer contact point due to difficulties in gaining access to anyone with existing 780780 telephone number.

Concerns were expressed the draft Charter is a very high level strategic document and lacks specific detail.

There is disappointment that the draft Charter lacks any realistic plans for the devolution to Parishes and mentions only cost benefit when referred to devolving services to Parishes and does not have any regard to other such benefits for example environmental benefits.

There is a great reluctance on the part of NYCC to be specific on anything.

If overheads are to be taken into the equations then it could be likely that nothing will be devolved.

The Charter will be reviewed after 6 months and if any issues arise in its operation these can be considered by the YLCA Branch at its October meeting,

Councils are urged to respond to the draft Charter through their Clerks rather than individual Councillors responding.

Whilst the on line consultation states that it is anonymous the first question is "What is your Parish Council?"

There was also a discussion asking what if anything Parishes were intending to arrange for the Coronation. Bedale TC indicated that it would be encouraging local street parties rather than arranging anything itself. The application process for road closures for street parties is now open and the applications are free.

Beacons are not being lit across the Country.

It is hoped that at the June YLCA Branch meeting a County Council Officer will outline how Parish Councils can introduce its own resilience plans in the case of emergencies - basically Good Neighbour Schemes.

(vii) NYCC Parish Charter Drop-In Session – 9TH February 2023.

A very poorly organised event from which attendees are in agreement that nothing of any value was learnt.

A question was asked as to what exactly NYCC was offering to Parish and Town Councils in its Charter as there were no specific references to any services.

The Deputy Chief Executive gave some examples -

Toilets - currently some are D CI and others are P CI operated.

Markets

Grasscutting

Playgrounds - in some Districts the District Councils run the play areas not the Parishes.

Litter picking

Footpaths

Community Halls

If there is a sustainable business case for these then NYCC will transfer the money.

However at present NYCC is only looking for six pilot projects across the whole of the County.

These will not necessarily be local.

There is also an issue as to how NYCC will determine the cost to the County Council and whether this will include overheads.

It was pointed out that most Parish Clerks are very part time and could not have the time, resources or experience to get involved in such as risk assessments, tendering processes, insurance liability etc.

There seemed to be no conception as to how Parish Councils operate.

Two Parish Meetings were represented and asked how the Charter would relate to Parish Meetings. The Deputy Chief Executive said that NYCC didn't even know how many Parish Meetings there were in the County.

An assumption had been made that if for example a pilot business case for Northallerton Market put forward by NTC was approved that all other market towns would be able to apply to run their markets but that will not be the case - each town would have to put its own business case which would then require the approval of NYCC.

This process whole be replicated across the services.

If for instance all 730 parishes wished to take forward public rights of way issues it was pointed out that NYCC would obtain the materials, new stiles etc - if NYCC was to bear this cost it would be an enormous cost on the Highways budget. However many Parishes would be likely to take this on board using volunteers as the backlog of rights of way issues across the County is currently 26 years.

Libraries got a mention - Great Ayton P CI pay from its Precept the salary of a person in the local library - other P CIs may wish to do likewise.

Concerns were expressed about email responses “endeavouring to be made within 20 days” in the Charter. Parish Councillors present reported that they hardly ever got a response and usually if they did it took months.

The draft Charter lacks any definition of what services could be devolved and how they will be devolved.

The HDC Councillors present pointed out the inaccuracies on the NYCC Parish Portal with many issues being reported as resolved eg street lighting when that is not the case.

The discussions then moved onto planning matters.

It was confirmed that Parish + Town Councils would have no more rights in making comments on planning applications than other residents.

Call ins by Councillors will only be for major developments as this is the system currently operated in some of the District Councils.

98.5% of all planning applications will be dealt with by officers under delegated matters.

There will be a separation between local decisions and strategic decisions and strategic planning applications in Hambleton could for example include County Councillors say from Skipton, Selby or wherever. There is no guarantee of any local involvement in the decision making on planning applications.

At present no-one yet knows who will determine major planning applications – there are only 6 weeks from the new Unitary Council becoming.

It was pointed out that there are different Local Plans across the County and that it will be over 7 years before a new Local Plan to cover the County will be adopted.

Local Liaison meetings are to be held annually in each Area to which Parish/Town Councils will be invited to attend and the YLCA will have a representative on an annual Country Liaison Meeting,

7. PLANNING MATTERS – To consider the applications for planning permission received since the last Council meeting.

(i) Decisions.

22/02724/FUL - Retrospective application for the provision of roof mounted solar panels, the temporary cladding to the façade and the proposed replacement rendering to the frontage of the dwelling - 1 Cockpit Hill – Refused.

22/02845/FUL - Erection of a steel portal framed agricultural building for general purpose use - Poppy Cottage, Brompton Lane - Granted

(ii) Applications.

23/00149/TPO - Works to fell 2 trees with a Tree Preservation Order - 62 Northallerton Road

The views of the Council are required in respect of the above planning application

8. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

Mr and Mr Christie (Advance Plot Purchase)	525.00
Prof C + Prof M Bryce (Advance Plot Purchase)	315.00
<u>Payments –</u>	
P Atkin (Salary)	384.24
P Atkin (Expenses)	54.68
HMRC (PAYE)	96.00
Mrs C Huang (5.5 hours sweeping)	65.00
Smeeden Foreman Ltd (Tree survey)	1,983.94
J T Atkinsons (Materials for repair to Cemetery Shed)	99.17
Sam Turner and Sons (Gloss paint etc)	82.87
Hillside Tree Surgeons (Tree and hedge works)	2,380.00
YLCA (New Councillor course – Part 2)	33.40
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	24.91*
D Langthorne (Works at allotments + Recreation Ground)	675.00
YDS Ltd (Trailer hire)	560.00
W Braithwaite & Sons (Trees, stakes and guards)	217.85

*Paid by Direct Debit

Bank Balances

Current Ac't - £200.00

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £217.170.08

Business Premium Ac't (ii) - £13.21

The Bank Reconciliation appears on the last page.

RECOMMENDED - That the accounts listed above be approved for payment.

VAT

VAT has been claimed from HMRC in the sum of £3,429.10 for the period 1 April to 13 December 2022.

Periodic Bank Review.

The Barclays Bank periodic review has been satisfactorily completed.

Community Infrastructure Levy Spending Priority - Applications for Grant - Brompton Flood Alleviation Scheme + Northallerton Road Recreation Ground

Two schemes have been submitted to NYCC for Proposed Works Across the Brompton Beck and Ings Beck Catchment in the sum of £50,000 and Northallerton Road Recreation Ground Improvements in the sum of £40,000.

The County Council has indicated that it will not be making any decisions on these applications until after 1 April.

Northallerton Town Council has been successful in its three bids for public toilets, allotments and green corridors in a total sum of £128,000 and all of the 15 community bids submitted in December with exception of one have been approved.

9. NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL DRAFT PARISH CHARTER CONSULTATION.

Forwarded to all Councillors for comments – none received.

RECOMMENDED – That the Councils response be based on the report of the NYCC drop-in session as outlined above.

11. HIGHWAY MATTERS - Including Notification of Road Closures and 20's Plenty.

PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - SW-38327-Lead Lane,

Brompton

The Closure will be in place for a period of 7 days between 16th February 2023 and 22nd February 2023 urgent Yorkshire Water works to repair leaking fire hydrant

The Road Closure and any associated Diversion Routes can be viewed using this URL link <https://one.network/?tm=132975305>

20's Plenty

There were eight of attendees for this meeting on the 26th January including County Councillors Arnold Warneken (Green Party) from Ouseburn and Michelle Donahue Moncrief, (Independent) from Hunmanby and Sherburn.

A motion on 20mph had been included as an agenda item for the meeting of the Thirsk and Malton County Area Constituency Committee but was defeated..

The Branch Organiser reported that he had been in discussion with Keane Duncan the County Councils Transport Portfolio Holder however no further information had been forthcoming and Keane Duncan had said that the sticking point wasn't necessarily the money but the position within the Conservative Group of which a significant number of County Councillors were opposed to 20mph speed limits, especially those who were supporters of the Deputy Leader Gareth Dadd.

Keane Duncan was looking at possible changes to the current policy, but was not supporting what 20's Plenty was asking for and he was still carrying out his review.

The Deputy Leader of the County Council has been quoted as saying that promotion of 20mph speed limits would see less tarmac on the roads.

Councillor Warneken said that the discussion at the recent Scrutiny Committee meeting had become very clouded and it was not possible to categorically say which way individual Councillors had voted on the three motions as the vote was not recorded. It was thought that one Conservative Councillor had abstained and that an Independent member had voted against the motions.

One positive move forward was the fact that the matter had been discussed at the recent meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, whereas in the previous year, the Scrutiny Committee had rejected it.

The County Councils position was still that it needed to deal with a £30 million deficit.

Keane Duncan had also clarified that any expenditure would be capital and not revenue, this being an important point since there were no major road programmes planned this year and it was much easier to transfer capital money between budget heads.

It was pointed out that the main sticking point would be the opposition to Keane Duncan from within his own Conservative Group.

The view was expressed that if the majority of Councillors wished to go ahead with 20mph then it was not for the County Councils Executive to dictate to communities what they want.

There was a need for residents to contact their own local County Councillors about the issue, and not to contact other County Councillors who were not their local representatives.

It had also being stated that the 20s Plenty group was anti car and this was not the case.

There was strong support across the County, including support from Conservative Councillors about speeding issues, whereby cameras would only be deployed where they met the criteria, and in respect of which there would be no enforcement on many roads.

According to both the County Council and the Police most people drive within the speed limits.

The question was therefore raised as to why wouldn't signage of 20mph work if it was a fact that signage of 30mph speed limits did work?

There was also a need to stress that as the County Council was promoting its Locality Agenda this was a major issue of that initiative.

It was also agreed that Parish/Town Councils be circulated in order to encourage as many of them as possible to attend the County Council meeting on the 22nd February.

Residents could make statements at the meeting subject to them being submitted in advance of the County Council meeting, each statement being allowed a period of three minutes with a maximum of 30 minutes being permitted on the subject overall.

During the last week three representatives of the local 20's Plenty Branch had spoken on Radio York.

A further meeting of the Branch was held on the 16th February to discuss the forthcoming meeting of the County Council on Wednesday 22nd February.

12. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

A tree planting day took place on Saturday 18th February.

13. CORRESPONDENCE – Other than referred to elsewhere on the agenda

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Including (i) Date of Next Meeting of the Council – 21st March 2023.

15. BURIAL MATTERS.