

Monthly Update – July 2023

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Apologies for absence have been received from Councillors Carter and Hazelwood (both holiday commitments).

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

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH May 2023.

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 27th June 2023.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

(i) Closure of Rail Ticket Offices.

Councillors agreed that due to the deadline date for the rail ticket office consultation being so close to the BTC Council meeting an objection be submitted in respect of the intended closure of rail ticket offices.

Response made to the consultation –

“Brompton Town Council is extremely concerned that local rail users are now to be hit with serious problem with the intended closure of station ticket offices.

Brompton is a large community which adjoins the town of Northallerton in North Yorkshire.

Closing the ticket offices will seriously affect our local rail uses but particularly those in the older age bracket and those who suffer from disabilities. All at a time when local rail usage is increasing due to the considerable expansion of Northallerton, Brompton and the adjoining areas.

Tickets will be available from the platform machines however these are extremely unreliable. The platform notice boards have numerous notices that state that a penalty fine of £100 will be imposed for travelling without a ticket. This is extremely worrying.

If the machines are not working then you can't get a ticket. This seriously concerns rail travellers.

The platform machines are frequently out of use and until there is 100% reliability then the assistance of the ticket office staff should not be taken away.

These staff also carry out many other duties such as assisting travellers who have disabilities. The effect of the removal of this personal assistance will be catastrophic to these members of our community.

At a time when we are all being encouraged to use public transport this is certainly a backward step and will only encourage more people to travel by car.

We have automation in all of our Supermarkets with the self service checkout tills but in every Supermarket there is still a staff manned assistance till available.

This surely proves that there is a need for some degree of personal input whenever there is automation.

Many individuals such as the elderly, disabled and those with limited digital literacy depend on the station ticket offices for assistance, guidance and purchase of tickets. Removing this vital service would create barriers limiting their ability to travel independently and hindering their overall mobility.

The Council urges you to withdraw these draconian proposals”.

(ii) Scot Pit Lane.

The Definitive Map Modification Order was opposed and was referred by the North Yorkshire Council to the Planning Inspectorate for a final decision. The decision in this case made by the Planning Inspectorate whereby the Inspector has decided NOT to confirm the order – this means that a bridleway will not be recorded on the Definitive Map and the route will not be legally designated as a public right of way.

As per the Council's request the Planning Inspector did make a visit to the site prior to making her decision.

(iii) Drainage Channel and Repairs to the Leaky Dams.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk are arranging to meet with James Coxon regarding the drainage channel and the works to the leaky dams.

(iv) Emergency Plan.

The NYC Resilience & Emergencies Officer is working with colleagues in the EA to see how best we can increase the resilience of communities in North Yorks, and are hoping to reinforce the work done by those who have previously held a community emergency, or community flood plan. This would be an ideal opportunity to re-invigorate the County Emergency Plan and Councillor Carter has offered his assistance in this matter..

(v) Overgrown Hedges.

Mrs Isobel Sanderson responded to the concerns raised at the last Council meeting as follows –

“Government rules only allow us to trim hedges between September 1st and March 1st , which makes your request difficult .

I will speak to the contractor and see if we can have a derogation otherwise it will be September”

GAEC (Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition) 15 states - you must not cut or trim any hedgerow on your farm between 1 March and 31 July (inclusive) – the main breeding season for birds – each year unless such work is necessary because any of the following apply:

The hedgerow overhangs a highway, road or footpath over which there is a public or private right of way and the overhanging hedgerow obstructs the passage of, or is a danger to, vehicles, pedestrians or horse riders.

(vi) Decision of NYC Executive – 4th July Regarding 20mph Review

The NY Executive unanimously approved Councillor Keane Duncans review of the NY Councils 20mph Policy.

1. The core criteria for 20mph zones will remain as in the existing Policy and are unchanged.
2. An area-wide 20 is not supported.

Much of the discussion at the meeting of the Executive was with regard to the Harrogate Area where there have been two recent serious accidents involving school pupils and the Transport Portfolio Holder has agreed to meet with Councillors, Head Teachers etc towards introducing highway safety measures which may include crossing points, speed issues and signage etc. with the aim of reducing traffic at sensitive locations. It is anticipated that this will go to the September meeting of the Area Committee.

Councillor Keane Duncan mentioned however that speed had not been a concern in either accidents and that 20mph did not mean that motorists drove at 20, adding that ineffective signage only undermined rather than improved road safety.

Councillor Gareth Dadd the Deputy Leader spoke out strongly against 20mph saying that every pound spend on it would mean one less pound spent elsewhere. Adding that he very much disagreed with a default 20 across the County.

He urged Members to think about it as it would mean to drive across to the east coast would mean that virtually the whole journey would be at 20mph.

He did however say that priority areas such as schools would be given priority.

A Councillor said that the 20's Plenty Campaign was like going back to the days of the red flag and that the campaign was undemocratic as if it succeeded it would force 20mph on those communities who did not want it.

A Councillor in attendance mentioned that Councillor Duncan had undertaken to look at evidence but said that his report had obviously been written before any evidence had been received, adding that there was no doubt that the Council was listening but wasn't hearing what they were being told.

Another Councillor in attendance said that the views of the public were not recognised in the report.

In Harrogate when residents had been consulted about 16 social problems number one had been concerns about speeding traffic.

A comment was made that people would rather see enforcement of 30mph than having 20mph zones and hoped that by designing speed out of the County's roads it would make it impossible for drivers to speed.

Councillor Dadd also emphasised that if a proposed 20mph scheme did not meet the criteria then it was not for the local County Councillors to take the matter up. He expected most applications for 20mph to fall at the first hurdle by not meeting the criteria. There was a danger that if the Council gave way to one proposed default 20mph zone it would have to be given to every village.

Subsequently the NYC Scrutiny of Transport Committee has called in the North Yorks Executive decision to reject default 20mph and that Committee will challenge the findings of the report and its recommendations as failing to give sufficient weight to the evidence submitted in favour of default 20mph, and failing to heed the advice of the world leading expert on 20mph limits, the UN, WHO, and the Stockholm Declaration.

The call in will be heard at the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 26th July, 2023 at 2.00pm.

There only other matters of significance at the meeting of the Executive were -

The new NY Local Plan is programmed to be adopted in 2028 and needs to be done as the Council had inherited a variety of such Plans from the former District Councils in various stages of completion in a patchwork fashion and containing different timescales and strategies

With regard to the progressing of electric charging points across the County NY Council is to receive further funding of £4+m on top of the £3+m it has already received.

(vii) Caravan at Cockpit Hill Car Park.

The four wheel caravan at the car has been removed however it has been replaced by a two wheel caravan that is being advertised for sale/

(viii) Bridge Over Brompton Beck, Opposite The Orchards, Over/Under the Railway Lines.

The bridge was inspected in May 2023 by a volunteer ranger and it was reported as in need of serious attention.

North Yorkshire Council followed this up and on 5th July a team was sent out to 'repair' as much of the bridge as possible. It soon became apparent that the support beams were severely rotten and much of the ends were cut back exposing the decay.

The Public Rights of Way Officer was happy with the major repair but accepted that this was a temporary solution and that the bridge was condemned and placed on the replacement list.

The volunteer was asked to inspect eh bridge every couple of months to ensure that it could remain open. If it becomes dangerous it will be closed.

(ix) Painting of Bridge at Water Splash.

The approaches to the bridge at the Water Splash have now been painted.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – The meeting will be opened for a maximum of 10 minutes for Members of the public who wish to speak regarding items within the remit of the Council.

5. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR STEPHEN WATSON.

Councillor Watson has been asked to report particularly with regard to the Section 106 monies totalling £500,000 towards new bus services arising from the North Northallerton

development and with regard to the two applications made to North Yorkshire Council for CIL funding towards improvements at the Recreation Ground and the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

6. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

Statistics taken from	01/06/2023 to 30/06/2023
Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	2 Reports
Anti-Social Personal	3 Reports
Total	5 Reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	1 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	1 Reports
Criminal Damage	1 Reports
Theft (inc. Theft from Shop)	0 Reports
Violence against the person	6 Report
Other crimes inc. Drugs	1 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Auto Crime / SMV	0 Reports
Total	10 Reports

Community Messenger

A polite reminder to join our Community Messaging Service! Yorkshire Community Messaging is a free email messaging service from North Yorkshire Police and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, providing news and updates on policing matters that are relevant to you and your local community.

Sign up and receive email alerts about policing activity and initiatives in your local area as well as crime prevention advice and information. You will also have the opportunity to reply directly to your neighbourhood team and provide feedback via surveys.

If you'd like any further information or if you'd like to join please email PCSO Stokes carly.stokes@northyorkshire.police.uk

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

To be reported to meeting.

8. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Group.

The Finance Group met on the 17th July.

Beck Sides

RECOMMENDED - That future maintenance works to be carried out by Hillside Tree Surgeons and not by Walkers.

Works at the Allotments.

RECOMMENDED - That the Council pay Hillside Tree Surgeons to carry out fencing works at the allotments site and works that permit further water butts to be used (the Allotments Group to pay the costs of the butts)

Outdoor Gym Equipment.

The second half of the payment to PlayEquip be made at the July Council meeting but that the matter be placed on the agenda for that meeting to discuss who is to install the equipment and whether the gym equipment should be delivered by PlayEquip direct to the company undertaking that work.

NYC Matters

The Clerk to ask Councillor Watson to report to the next Council meeting with regard to the following -

Progress as to the funding of the new bus services

An update on the applications to NYC for CIL monies towards the Recreation Ground and Flood Alleviation.

Car park.

RECOMMENDED - (i) That -

Hillside Tree Surgeons be asked to carry out works to clear the former electricity sub-station site and fencing works along the beck side adjacent to the car park and to also submit a quote for the resurfacing the car park; and

(ii) That a notice board be incorporated in the car park works so that the car park rules can be clearly displayed.

Unbanked Cheques

The Clerk to contact the companies about the following cheques which have not yet been banked.

RGPS - £108.00 for signs for the allotments - the Clerk having hand-delivered the cheque at the time.

MacVenture - £2520.00 - replacement cheque - collected from the Clerk by the company representative and has still not been banked.

(ii) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

No meeting held this month.

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

No meeting held this month.

(iv) YLCA Hambleton Branch Meeting

The YLCA Hambleton Branch met at Welbury on the 28th June and was attended by representatives of 8 Parishes from as far away as Shipton-by-Beningbrough and Linton-on-Ouse.

Chair and Vice-Chair elected as existing.

The NY Parish Charter is to be reviewed by the NY Executive on the 18th July. In response to concerns that the Charter does not include any permanent commitments by NY to Parishes NY has responded that these were not included in the Charter in case NY Council was not able to meet them.

Also fears that NY Council will not devolve services to Parishes if they are found to be making a profit.

The YLCA will continue to lobby for Parishes to hold hybrid meetings and for Councillors to be able to attend Council meetings remotely with a facility for Councillors to be able to dial into Council meetings on the basis that during Covid a precedent was set which proved workable and in many cases increased public attendance.

This system has been adopted in both Scotland and Wales which both have Community Councils.

As part of the Levelling Up agenda the Government needs to give consideration to the geography of the County of Yorkshire and the advantages that hybrid meetings would bring especially to remote rural areas.

Disappointment was expressed at the recommendations of the NY Transport Portfolio Holder in his report on the review of 20mph criteria issued on Monday. Unfortunate at this stage with the matter going before NY Council very shortly there is nothing further that the YLCA can do on the matter other than encourage Councils to contact their local County Councillors to question them as to how they will be voting on the matter.

Concerns were raised that when a major development is within an adjoining Parish the adjacent Parish does not receive any notice of the planning application for consultation even though the effect of that development may also be significant on that adjacent Parish. The consensus view is that in such cases both Parishes should be consulted, however NY Planning has responded that this is a matter for discretion of the Planning Authority which would normally only consult one Parish as laid down by statute.

There are issues with small Parish Councils being unable to get Clerks due to the small number of hours that they would be paid and the fact that people with the necessary experience to undertake Clerking duties have no knowledge of what the role is about and the right skills.

There are issues with the brown Tourism signs in some areas as they do not necessarily direct motorists to the intended destination by the most appropriate route and in some cases send considerable volumes of traffic through small villages when there are other more appropriate routes available.

Many cases of concern have arisen in areas where there is a significant lack of parking that the NY Highways Officers standard response is that parking along roads is the best solution for slowing traffic speeds down.

Concerns were raised that the NY Parish Portal has not been working for months. Promises to get it back up on line have not materialised and it is constantly breaking down and giving error messages. Requests for the matter to be rectified have been ignored.

Many Parishes have not seen a County Councillor in attendance at their meetings since the Unitary Council came into being and concerns were also expressed that the Leader of NY Council has this week stated that attendance of County Councillors at Parish Council meetings is not necessary.

The County Resilience Officer had been asked to attend the meeting but had not responded and it was agreed to try to get him to attend the next meeting.

Next meeting - Wednesday 18th October via Zoom.

(v) YLCA Meeting with the Assistant Chief Constable.

A meeting was held with the Assistant Chief Constable on Wednesday 12th July. Significant points are in italics.

Reaction to 999 calls had not been where it needed to be as not all calls were being answered in the time that they needed to be.

Substantial investment in the Force Control Room and changing structures have resulted in an improvement from September 2022 when 55% of 999 calls were being answered in under 10 seconds to June 2023 when this figure was 85%.

The Force was a year ago bottom of the table of all Forces as regards call time responses at 44 but is now 23rd and is continuing to improve.

Reaction times to incidents in towns was set at 15 minutes or less and in rural areas 20 minutes but are currently far quicker.

The two basics of Police work are ensuring that there is visibility in the communities, with the emphasis being on Neighbourhood Policing in North Yorkshire, and the prevention of crime.

The guideline for measurement of the effectiveness of the Police should be on the absence of crime, with North Yorkshire being the safest place in England to live.

As regards persons with mental health issues the Police work closely with the NHS to ensure that the right professionals are sent to assist under the Right Care Right Person initiative.

Although there have been increased thefts from rural properties the Force has a very active Rural Task Force doing a large amount of work in rural communities working with other Northern partners. The main crimes currently include thefts of expensive GPS equipment from farming communities and in this respect significant arrests of persons with overseas links and who are the leaders of this crime syndicate have recently taken place.

There have also been a significant number of quad bike thefts and again good results have been achieved particularly using the ANPR recognition system to pick up travelling criminals and poachers from out of the area.

All Councils should be having regular meetings with their local Neighbourhood Teams - although it was accepted that this may not be happening in some areas and if this is the case it needs to be taken up with the Neighbourhood Inspectors.

ASB matters such as youths gathering in a particular area at night should be dealt with by the local Neighbourhood Teams.

In addition PCSOs are expected to attend Town and Parish Council meetings.

NY Police now has more PCSOs than any other Force in the Country.

The ACC undertook to follow up contacts with the Neighbourhood Teams.

Bedale TC had asked for details of conviction rates in respect of the monthly reported incidents and how many resulted in prosecutions or cautions. This however although figures would be available was likely to take up a significant amount of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams time; however the ACC undertook to look into the possibility.

Concerns were expressed about the lack of response to 101 calls which lead to the public no longer bothering to report incidents.

The urgent improvements to the call system had concentrated on 999 calls but there have also been massive improvements in the 101 system with reporting of incidents also being opened up to other channels such as email and on-line chat but it was recognised that many people still wanted to pick up the phone and speak to someone.

30% to 40% of all calls made to the Police are for other Agencies and also clogging up the call system were Police Officers wanting to get in touch with the switchboard and this has now been stopped.

Call waiting times are now down to under two minutes which is better than a lot of other organisations.

Time taken from an incident to the taking of statements have been an issue therefore as Diary Car is now being used with the sole purpose of keeping a diary so that it can visit people on a daily basis purely with the intention of taking their statements. Previously officers were allocated to incidents but there could be considerable delays if they got diverted onto something else. The use of the Diary Car has lead to a massive improvement.

The Police are not saying that they will never enforce 20mph speed limits but whilst the number of those seriously injured in road accidents has halved those numbers killed in road accidents haven't dropped at all with there being 9 persons killed this month on 60mph speed limit roads therefore this is where the Police's priority must be.

The police need to target areas where people are losing their lives and these must be the areas to which the safety cameras are deployed.

The Police are working with NY Highways to engineer out speed issues where speeding is an issue.

Whilst the Police need to try to target any enforcement of 20mph such zones these zones must be aligned with traffic calming such as speed bumps as without these the presence of the Police say outside a school will slow traffic whilst they are visible but traffic speeds will again increase when they are no longer there.

The Police actively encourage the submission of dash cam footage evidence with there being a specialist team that looks into these to see if they can identify an offence. These submissions have increased astronomically.

There is confusion as to who is responsible as regards weight limit contraventions and the ACC said he would look into it but I'm sure that he will find that it is not a Police matter but comes under the role of Trading Standards.

If there is very little crime in a particular area then there will be very little visibility of the Police and the PCSOs.

The covert Police motorcycle is still being deployed to areas that may be experiencing speeding traffic.

Whilst it seems relatively simple to move speed signs further out of villages so that buffer zones are created to slow traffic down NY Highways are unwilling to do this and have informed several Parishes that they will not consider doing so until there has been a death or several serious injuries on that stretch of road. Moving of 40mph signs are seen by Parishes as a cost effective way of reducing accidents caused by speed. The Police are unable to control what NY Highways and local Authorities want to do but accept that they can't see any issues in moving speed signs. Both the Police and NY Highways serve on the Strategic Road Safety Partnership and the ACC undertook to raise this issue at the next meeting of the Partnership.

(vi) Joint Pedestrian/Cycling Working Party.

The joint Northallerton, Brompton and Romanby Working Party is to meet shortly to look at the response to be made to the NYC Local Transport Plan consultation.

8. PLANNING.

(i) Decisions.

ZB23/00796/MRC - Modification of condition 2 (Plans) from previously approved application 22/01443/FUL- Construction of agricultural building for the rearing of livestock - Lowfields Farm Fullicar Lane – Granted.

ZB23/00919/MRC - Retrospective modification of condition 2 (approved drawings) of previously approved application 20/02582/FUL - increase in height of building from approved drawing - Lowfields Farm Fullicar Lane - Granted

(ii) Applications.

ZB23/01366/FUL – Alterations and Extension to existing dwelling , High Dunnas, 45 Northallerton Road.

Councillors views are requested on this planning application.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

Brompton Allotments Group (Annual Rent)	1,200.00
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Payments –

Sam Turner & Sons (Various including paint)	112.60
Hillside Tree Surgeons (Works at beck + trees)	580.00
CE+CM Walker (May/June grasscutting)	2,473.20
Restarting Hearts (Defib Maintenance – June 22 to June 23)	150.00
PlayEquip (Outdoor Gym Equipment – 2 nd 50% payment)	6,255.00
YDC Ltd (Trailer Hire)	60.00
Mr D Langthorne (wroks at allotments, Cemetery etc)	463.21
TP Jones & Co LLP (Quarterly Payroll)	59.40
Mrs C Huang (Sweeping)	30.00
P Atkin (Expenses)	34.05
P Atkin (Salary)	384.28
HMRC (PAYE)	96.00
*NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	27.41 *

*Paid by Direct Debit

Bank Balances

Current Ac't - £200.00

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £75,739.58

Business Premium Ac't (ii) - £141,318.85

As at 3 July 2023

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

The Bank Reconciliation appears on the last page of the Monthly Update.

11. INSTALLATION OF OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT AT THE RECREATION GROUND.

Councillor Hazelwood is busy working on arranging an installer for the equipment.

The climbing frame will be removed and temporarily stored at the far end of the Recreation Ground and will be cordoned off with metal security fencing.

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

Nothing further to add.

13. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

To be reported to the meeting.

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

(i) Bus Stopping Point – Danes Crest Junction.

Correspondence has been received from a resident of Danes Crest regarding the fact that the Coathams the new bus company operating the service refuses to stop at the bottom of Danes Crest Estate.

Whilst this is not an officially registered bus stop it is known that buses have stopped there for passengers for at least the past 43 years.

(ii) Speeding Traffic.

Received from a resident -

A Mercedes SUV has travelled through the village towards Northallerton at circa 50 mph, overtaken a car just before the Hilton Green junction with children walking to school moments before 8.30.

One day it will be worse.

I drove into the village last night at 8.30 and there was no one around, no cars parked along Northallerton Road so it is wide and inviting and it does require concentration to avoid creeping over 30 mph so, I do understand the challenges. Whilst I would wish the speed limit to be lower it would be difficult on this section and just hope that the legal limit is observed especially, when people are about. I think it would need a change in road design to materially affect behaviour on Northallerton Road or of course, by using intervention. A lower speed limit in the centre of the village seems sensible and practical.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Including (i) Date of Next Meeting of the Council – Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 7.15pm.

+ Allotments Water Butt - 660 Bin

£12.72

Weight allowance 45kg

Excess weight – 0.14p over

16. BURIAL MATTERS.

No burials have taken place this month.