

## Monthly Update – December 2024

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

An apology for absence has been received from Councillor Smith (work commitments).

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

### 2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024.

**RECOMMENDED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 having been having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

### 3. REPORT OF COUNCILLOR STEPHEN WATSON

To report to the meeting.

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. LOCAL CRIME REPORT + INSTANCES OF VANDALISM

Statistics taken from	01/11/2024 to 30/11/2024
Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	0 Reports
Anti-Social Personal	2 Reports
Total	2 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	4 Reports
Other crimes inc. Drugs	2 - intel report
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Auto Crime / SMV	0 Reports
Total	8 Reports

### Community Safety Hub.

The Community Safety Hub met on the 10<sup>th</sup> December

Much of the meeting concerned **fire safety** and specialist early intervention with under 18's who have already been involved in fire setting or show an unhealthy interest in fire.

NY Fire and Rescue have on line referral forms for anyone, eg parents, carers and others who have concerns about anyone who may start fires and the Fire Safety Officer will visit the person about whom the concerns have been raised to assess the risk and likely consequences.

On line fire safety checks can also be carried out by anyone who has any concerns about a persons fire safety (or of course by any resident themselves to check their own home fire safety) - perhaps if a relative suffers from dementia or lives in very cluttered house, or has mobility issues and were unable to escape a fire.

Many referrals are made by the NHS especially when someone with health mobility issues leaves hospital after having had an operation.

Referrals can also be made if there are domestic issues and high risk cases are responded to within 7 days.

This also gives the opportunity to link smoke alarms to Telecare.

The online information is comprehensive and provides NY Fire and Rescue with a good basis from which to assess an individuals needs and the likelihood of fire.

The current main prevention message is not to charge batteries up over night - eg on motobility scooters, which a common practice - these being a major cause of serious night time household fires.

There is an emphasis on the need for carbon monoxide alarms as these should be in every property unless they only have electric power as they are not just related to gas but to wood burning stoves etc; in fact anything that burns will give rise to carbon monoxide.

Water Safety continues to take place at Richmond Falls and Cob Beck making sure that people are safe around water and reducing the number of people going into the water in unsafe ways.

NY Fire and Rescue of course also work jointly with the Police, particularly with regard to persons who are at risk from arson, although the threat of committing arson is very much higher than the act of arson being carried out.

### **16 Days of Action**

This took place between the 25th November and today, ie between the International Day for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Human Rights Day.

Community events have been held across the area in markets places and supermarkets and it is hoped to roll this out across the County next year.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Engagement continues with such as Youth Clubs with an ASB Week having been held in November.

Improvements have been noted across the area. Locally -

Northallerton High Street - Targeted around businesses after a spate of graffiti and there have also been public engagement events. Remains on the Police Patrol Plan.

Bankhead Road, Northallerton - continues to be monitored with home visits having been carried out but there have been some improvements. Remains on the Police Patrol Plan.

Open cases -

New Bridge - graffiti concerns are ongoing and an update is needed

Underpass near the Library - painted with anti-graffiti paint. However it was decided not to install dummy CCTV cameras due to the compromise that this would put on the structure.

A road safety poster competition is to be held in schools in the New Year and the winning poster will be made into banners to go outside schools.

A Protect and Prepare event is to be held in Northallerton Town Hall on the 27th January.

The Dark Nights initiatives have been well received informing residents how to protect properties on dark nights with specific Dark Nights operations having been held in Thornton-le-Moor and Newby Wiske.

### **Counter Terrorism**

There will be a specific bill board in Northallerton about this in the New Year.

20% of all reported suspicions of terrorism turn out to be relevant and actionable.

### **6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY.**

- (i) Street Light – Corner of Hilton Close.

This has now been turned on by NYC and is making a great improvement.

- (ii) Rocking Rokette.

The safety parts have been received for the rocking roquette in the Recreation Ground.

- (iii) Parish Liaison Meeting for the Richmond (Yorks.) area held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

### **Questions and Answers**

Those Town/Parish Councillors and Clerks present were given an opportunity to ask questions of the key speakers, raise issues of concern and suggest how improvements in communication between the parish sector and North Yorkshire Council can be made.

The following issues were discussed in detail and NYC Officers agreed to follow up on those issues that could not be resolved at the meeting.

- The need for clarity regarding the materials that can be used in the replacement of a footbridge in Stokesley and compliance with national standards and NYC's own policies, procedures and specifications. It was agreed that this issue be followed up with the NYC Bridges team and feedback be given to Stokesley Town Council.
- The phased 're-branding' of North Yorkshire Council which it was reported was the preferred option following a detailed costings appraisal.

- The enforcement or transfer of s106 and/or planning conditions and clarity as to which has priority. This issue relates to the lack of bus service provision from the North Northallerton Housing Development into the town itself, despite it being a condition of the planning application.
- The need for, and availability of, additional resources to enforce planning conditions and the process by which the 'public interest' is tested when determining planning applications in consultation with the NYC Legal Team. It was noted that an 'Explanatory Document' is being produced to help clarify the enforcement process which it was suggested is currently difficult to navigate. It was suggested that further clarity is required as to the role of Town and Parish Councils as a Statutory Consultee and the weight given to material considerations when determining the outcome of planning applications and that successful prosecutions should be publicised. It was noted that there needs to be a 'consistency of practice and quality' across the county, which is currently hampered by the 'legacy' Local Plans adopted by the District and Borough Councils.
- Concerns were expressed that planning conditions on a retail property in Stokesley have been breached and that enforcement action may be required. It was noted that Stokesley is in a Conservation Area. It was agreed that additional information be provided before further action be taken.
- The phased transition of the NYC Planning Services structure, the first phase of which is anticipated to be complete by April 2025 followed by the full integration of the planning system being in place by the end of 2025. It was agreed that Town and Parish Councils be kept up to date with progress as the transition phase continues and the 8 'legacy' planning areas converge into one.
- 'Double Devolution' opportunities and the expression of interest submitted by Stokesley Town Council to take on management responsibility for car parking in the town, which the Town Council is still keen to pursue. It was agreed that further discussion take place to establish why the original expression of interest was unsuccessful and whether the opportunity for Stokesley Town Council to take on management responsibility for car parking in the town remains.
- The 'weight' given to climate change and its impact on the environment in the new North Yorkshire Local Plan. It is expected that climate change will be a key consideration in the emerging Local Plan.
- The interest in, and appetite for, establishing a Stokesley & Villages Community Partnership, which it was suggested could include smaller villages such as Bilsdale Midcable. It was suggested that this be discussed with the relevant NYC Ward member and that support can be provided by Lisa Wilson, Locality Lead for the Richmond area.
- The prohibitive costs associated with traffic management requirements following the change in Police policy not to close roads for community events such as Remembrance Day services. It was noted that NYC does not have an in-house 'traffic management team' and also has to pay contractors to close roads to allow works in the highway top take place. NYC does signpost event organisers to a national not-for-profit 'community traffic management' organisation.

- The rationale behind the proposed scheme to introduce a 4th recycling bin following the 'Let's Talk Rubbish' consultation. It was noted that this scheme is proving popular in the Selby area.
- The need for a 'joined-up' approach when considering multiple planning applications submitted in smaller settlements. It was noted that there is an element of interpretation when determining the outcome of such applications, but that NYC Highways do advise the Planning Service on the need for additional infrastructure.
- The opportunity for the Parish Liaison team to offer training and advice for Town & Parish Councils with regards to issues such as HR support and access to legal advice. It was agreed that although the YLCA does offer some training to its members this is something the Parish Liaison team will explore further.

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

To be reported to meeting.

## 8. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

### (i) Finance Working Group.

The Finance Group met on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

### **RECOMMENDED -**

That work jobs be logged into a forward plan with job numbers aligning to budgets so that a track can be made of outstanding works and priorities.

That the wind damaged fence at the allotments be repaired.

That the larger signs for the car park in the sum of £141.60 be ordered.

That a quote for a "Welcome to Brompton" sign for the new wildlife area be obtained.

That the Environmental Management report for the wildlife area be forwarded to all Councillors after Christmas in order that they can raise any issues at the January Council meeting.

That the works to the Cemetery path be completed in the current financial year

That the Clerk draw up a list of projects for completion in the 2025/16 financial year to be considered by the Finance Group in January prior to determining the 2025/26 budget in February.

That as regards any expenditure on the metal barrier at the end of the cycle path on Northallerton Road a site meeting be held with NY Councillor Steve Watson, NY Highways, Councillors Carter and Kelly and the Clerk.

As regards burial fees the following be adopted as the charges fore the twelve months from 1 January 2025 -

£420 per burial plot

£200 per interment in a burial plot

£60 for memorials (half size headstones - half fee)  
£150 for the purchase of an ashes plot  
£80 for interment of ashes  
No fee for deceased persons under 16 years of age.

That a fee of £20 an hour be made for searches in the Burial Registers.

Next meeting - Wednesday 15th January at 4.00pm

(ii) Road Safety and Highways Group.

No meeting held.

(iii) Pedestrian/Cycling Strategy Joint Working Group.

No meeting held. Decision awaited from the Mayors office about funding of a report into local transport.

(iv) Wildlife Area Working Group.

No meeting held.

(v) New Estates Working Group.

No meeting held.

8. PLANNING MATTERS – To consider Planning Applications received since the last meeting.

None received since the last meeting.

#### 10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

##### Income

Nil

##### Payments –

PKF Littlejohn LLP (External Audit)	552.00
Brompton Methodist Church (Room Hire)	120.00
Sam Turner & Sons (Christmas tree + shelf bracket)	159.83
Wicksteed (Parts for Rocking Rockette)	488.38
HMRC (PAYE)	111.00
Hillside Tree Surgeons (Tree works)	1,900.00
Mr D Langthorne (Caretaking)	****
YDS Limited (Trailer Hire)	****

P Atkin (Expenses) \*\*\*\*  
\*NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges) Direct Debit\* 29.33

Bank Balances

Barclays Bank –

Business Premium Ac't (i) – £131,428.42

Business Premium Ac't (ii) – £629.52

Unity Trust Bank at 30th November 2024 –

Current Account - £28,563.70

Deposit Account - £60,235.25

Barclays Bank at 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024

Business Premium Account (1) - £131,919.74

Business Premium Account (2) - £631.88

**RECOMMENDED – That the accounts listed above be approved for payment.**

11. HIGHWAY MATTERS - Including Notification of Road Closures

Cycle Barrier – Northallerton Road

Received from NYC Highways -

*As previously mentioned, this is a designated cycleway, and we should not encourage its use by pedestrians. Widening the pedestrian guardrail and surfacing the grassed area would direct pedestrians to its use. I understand your perspective and imagine that pedestrians often use it more than cyclists. However, removing the cycleway rights would likely face criticism, and I currently do not have the budget to make any improvements or alterations here.*

*The paved area in front of the Rugby Club is designated as a cycle route, with a barrier installed to protect pedestrians. Beyond the end of the cycleway near the bus stop, the barrier discourages cyclists from continuing onto the footpath into the village. You will notice a cyclist give-way line marking on the path, corduroy paving, and a sign indicating the end of the cycleway, along with dropped kerbs directing cyclists to use the carriageway beyond this point, as such the Highway Authority will not be removing the pedestrian guardrail.*

*Now that you've brought it to my attention, I ask that the Parish Council please remove the banner from the guardrail. This guardrail is designed to allow visibility of children behind it, and your banners potentially obstructing the view of a child waiting at the bus stop.*

Councillors have submitted several comments outlining the reasons why the barrier needs to be altered.

**RECOMMENDED - That a site meeting be held with NY Councillor Steve Watson, NY Highways, Councillors Carter and Kelly and the Clerk.**

12. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

Received from a resident –

*I've just seen the wildlife round up in Brompton's annual newsletter and noticed the report of an otter sighting at Water End.*

*In 2023/24 I undertook a certificate in ecological consultancy and as part of the coursework I did a phase 1 ecological survey of Brompton's recreation field, with the beck forming part of the boundary.*

*I just thought you might be interested to know I found evidence of 2 otter sprainting sites along that stretch, during sept of 2023, which could suggest that our star otter has been here for some time!*

*Anyway, I'd be very interested to hear about any volunteering opportunities with group and would be grateful for any more info on this.*

13. CORRESPONDENCE - Not appearing elsewhere on the agenda

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Including Date of the next Meeting – Tuesday 21st January 2025

15. BURIAL MATTERS – Including setting of Burial Fees from 1 January 2025.

Burial Fees from 1 January 2024

**RECOMMENDED – That -**

**The burial fees for the forthcoming calendar year be as follow -**

- £420.00 per burial plot
- £200.00 per interment in a burial plot
- £60.00 for Memorials (half size headstones – half fee)
- £150.00 for the purchase of ashes plot
- £80.00 for interment of ashes
- No fee for deceased persons under 16 years of age.

Fees are doubled in respect of interments and plot purchases where the deceased person did not reside within the Parish boundary but in such cases proof is required that the person still had immediate relatives in the Parish, unless they had moved out of the Parish within a period of less than 12 months.

One burial has taken place this month.



