

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of  
Yarm Town Council to be held at

**The Fellowship Hall (side entrance)  
West Street, Yarm TS15 9BT.**

**Date: Tuesday 8th February 2022**

**Time: 7pm**

Members of the public are invited to  
attend the meeting - social distancing and use of PPE  
applies

**Juliet Johnson, Proper Officer to YTC**



Yarm Town Council  
Town Hall  
High Street  
Yarm  
TS15 9AH

In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is permitted; the Chair will notify those present of this at the start of the meeting and ask whether they agree to be filmed, recorded or photographed

**YARM TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. John Coulson (Vice Chair)

Cllr. Peter Monck

Cllr. Philip Addison

Cllr. Pam Smailes

Cllr. Alan Moffitt

Cllr. Barbara Wegg

Juliet Johnson - Proper Officer/RFO.

7 members of the public were present.

**1.0 To appoint a Chairman in the absence of the Chair and/or Vice Chair**

1.1 In the absence of Cllr Alan Gallafant (Chair), the Vice Chair, Cllr John Coulson will Chair the meeting.

**2.0 Apologies for Absence**

2.1 Apologies have been received from: Cllr Alan Gallafant; Cllr Patrick Morton; Cllr Chris Neil; Cllr Marjorie Simpson

2.2 Ward Cllrs Andrew Sherris and Dan Fagan have also submitted their apologies.

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 – section 100A(4), members of the public (other than those prohibited from doing so) are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda



**ACTION:** Cllr Wegg would look at repairing and replacing the ribbon for the current chain, Cllr Monck would compile a list of the dates of the various Mayors that should feature on the missing pins and that the Clerk would cost the replacement of the pins and renovation of the existing chain.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Coulson

**SECONDED:** Cllr Moffitt

**AGREED.**

#### **5.4 Completion of relocation to temporary office; Update on artefacts - packing and storage**

5.4.1 **The Clerk** reported that most of the Council Chamber is now packed up, quotes from removers are being sought, IT back-up is being checked (including Rialtas) is being checked and professional removers for artefacts have been identified. Jo Faulkner continues to help with cleaning and packing artefacts. Relocation should be complete by the end of February.

5.4.2 **The Clerk** recapped the position as regards the Council agreeing to take on the temporary office from November 2021. Originally, Stockton Council (SBC) had advised that the timeline for the redevelopment of the Town Hall and establishment of a Heritage Centre would need YTC to vacate by November. The agreement to lease a temporary office was left as late as possible (YTC meeting 14.09.21. signed off October), balanced against risk of ending up with no appropriate office premise. Just after agreeing the temporary office, SBC advised that start on site had to be later due to a range of issues. Whilst items have already been moved across to the temporary office, not having to move out of the Town Hall has meant that it could still be used as an events base for all of the 4 events that had taken place (21.10.21 - 24.12.21) - given that it offers great views up and down the High Street, office and IT equipment also left in place being useful. The move would now take place as soon as possible.

5.4.3 **Cllr Monck** reported on the research that had been done regarding the location of Tom Brown's sword (artefact previously believed to be at Preston Park Museum). **Jo Faulkner** had found BBC film footage featuring it and **Cllr Monck** had found a publication that referenced the location as the Royal Fusiliers Museum Warwick. **The Clerk** has messaged the museum asking them to confirm this or otherwise. **Cllr Moffitt** asked whether it could be returned to Yarm. It is currently thought that a relative of Tom Brown may have donated it to the Royal Fusiliers Museum. **Cllr Monck** referenced that YTC could consider having a replica made for the heritage centre. **Cllr Moffitt** referenced that a recent project that involved commissioning creation of a ceremonial sword had cost £1,700. A replica might cost less.

#### **5.5 YTC adopting a 'Charity of the Year': Brief to Advertise**

5.5.1 **The Clerk** advised that she will circulate this for Councillors to comment once a draft is compiled. Additional criteria could be discussed further (timeline being electoral / Annual Meeting Year - from May 2022).

#### **5.6 Youth Provision, Countering ASB & CCTV - liaison with SBC**

5.6.1 **The Clerk** is arranging an online meeting with key personnel regarding the above issue and is awaiting proposed dates. Project / lead workers from 'Cornerhouse' were present at the meeting and due to speak about their youth work and the associated issues during the public section below (8.0 on the agenda).

#### **5.7 Worsall Rd. Roundabout: Alternative Approach Proposal**

5.7.1 **Cllr. Smailes**, had advocated a 'community action' approach which would save money and be an enjoyable learning project involving schools and the college (rather than going out for quotes from local contractors).

5.7.2 **Cllr Smailes** confirmed that she'd now asked Cliff Johnson to lead this (the litter picking group) and that he was scoping a plan for the project. **Cllr Moffit** asked if schools and the college were still to be involved and **Cllr Smailes** suggested that this was part of Mr Johnson's scoping work, including potential help from the prison.

5.7.3 **Cllr Wegg** advocated that Yarm Boys Schools could be asked to be involved.

## 5.8 **Defibrillator Pads: proposal for support - £325**

5.8.1 **The Clerk** clarified the context of this issue (i.e. providing payment support for 5 sets of replacement pads for the 4 x Yarm defibrillators that now exist following the fundraising project led by a local resident). The issue now being that there are not funds for replacement pads for each occasion when a defibrillator is used. As the project is fairly new, there is not a quantified pattern of average usage. YTC had now paid for 5 sets of replacement pads to support the project in its first year.

## 5.9 **Welcome to Durham & Tees Valley Visitor Guide: sample**

5.9.1 **The Clerk** passed around the sample of this guide she'd agreed bring to the meeting - Councillors had previously agreed not to progress with this currently.

## 5.10 **River Pathways & Rights of Way**

5.10.1 **The Clerk** confirmed that a meeting was being set up with the lead officer from SBC and **Cllr Moffitt** (leading on this issue) to look at the above and how the river pathways could be consistently maintained and improved, given the key asset for Yarm that the river is. Part of the issue is to clarify responsibility for maintaining rights of way and privately owned sections surrounding these.

This item also links to **9.3** on the agenda - **Cllr Coulson** making YTC aware of the volunteer group that has formed to maintain and improve the river walks (members of the group due to speak about their work in the public section of the meeting - 8.0). In short, a Yarm group had formed (co-ordinated by Ian Carter) and now has support from the one of the volunteering officers at SBC (e.g. providing hi-vis jackets etc). A site visit had occurred on Sunday 6th February (**Cllr Moffitt** had been unable to attend given the very short notice). **SEE 8.0 BELOW** for continuation of the topic.

## 5.11 **River Festival Proposal: Presentation from SUP & Request for YTC Contribution of £2000**

5.11.1 **Cllr. Morton** had proposed that Simon Palmer from SUPS attend the February YTC meeting with a presentation regarding a proposal for a River Festival (PAPER REFERS).

5.11.2 Mr Palmer briefed the meeting, in summary, as follows:

- a) the event would include paddle board classes, yoga and races (beginners welcome);
- b) it was estimated that the event may attract at least 200 spectators (viewing points being established and managed);
- c) the aim is to make the festival self-funding (e.g. sponsorship etc.) eventually;
- d) sponsorship in-kind is already being achieved e.g. prizes;
- e) Mr. Palmer has 11 years experience of organising similar activities including a similar paddle boarding event at another location;
- f) an initial positive response has been received from SBC Events as regards the proposed event framework;



8.1 A member of the public wished to state that Yarm Gala should be reframed more as a regatta - focusing on the river - and suggested that this would be a better use of resources and building upon the proposal approved at 5.11 above following Mr Palmer's presentation. **Cllr Coulson (the Chair)** acknowledged the suggestion, confirmed that the proposal for Yarm Gala and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations were agreed for 2022 and that the River Festival proposed by Mr Palmer was a welcome addition, building on the Yarm asset that is the river.

8.2.1 Lucy Bentley from the Cornerhouse Youth Project spoke about their work. Cornerhouse Youth Projects is an established Stockton project delivering youth work, with charitable status. The project is funded by (e.g.) SBC, The Police and Crime Commission, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Brooke.

8.2.2 Cornerhouse's brief covers work with 8-25 year olds. They focus largely on teenagers and operate an 'Open Access' policy. The project targets services at specifically identified priority needs and therefore tailors provision to the specific young people they work with. The work includes outreach / street-based youth work which, professionally, they judge to be one of the most effective approaches, particularly in respect of helping deter anti-social behaviour. Project work partners include (e.g. Cultivate Tees Valley and Little Sprouts).

8.2.3 Ms Bentley and her colleague, Gilly Connor, briefed the meeting that one of the most deprived wards borders Yarm so there is high and specific youth provision need. Willey Flatts (referencing also Cattle Arch and the new estate) has specific needs for youth work but there is no provision.

8.2.4 **The Chair** thanked Ms Bentley and Ms Connor for their kind attendance and comprehensive presentation.

**ACTION:** The meeting agreed that **the Clerk** should:

- a) arrange a meeting with the relevant members of SBC (re. outstanding item regarding ASB and CCTV) and that Cornerhouse should be invited to attend this also (along with, hopefully, a member from SBC as regards youth provision);
- b) arrange a meeting with the staff at Cornerhouse for YTC members to attend and view the project.

8.3 **The Clerk** gave feedback from **Ward Councillor Sherris** regarding Morley Carr Bowling facility, detailing a package of further support from the developer for opening and operating the facility (**the Clerk requested this addition at YTC on 080322, as this note had been left out of the original minute**).

## 9.0 Policy and Resources:

### 9.1 Cemetery Report

- Cllr Moffitt

(inc. Repairs and Maintenance to Headstones & Monuments)

9.1.1 As regards Yarm Cemetery, sessions of grounds maintenance continue as required. Most recently, there have been repairs to two leaning grave stones.

9.1.2 A tomb has become dangerous within St. Mary Magdalene churchyard. A stonemason has made this safe (fencing off) until quotations can be obtained for survey of the cause of the issue, followed by quotes for repair.

**ACTION:** **Clerk** to arrange for quotations from stonemasons.

### 9.2 Allotments Report

- Cllr Gallafant (Clerk)

9.2.1 **The Clerk** (in Cllr. Gallafant's absence) reported that a new 'smart' electric metre had been fitted at the allotment hut (31st January 2022) and a long awaited accurate metre reading was awaited. Fencing down and storm debris is due to be addressed; a few outstanding rents, transfers and ends of tenancies are currently being reconciled. Support from and liaison with Yarm Community Allotments Association continues.

**9.3 (& 5.10) River Pathways, Rights of Way & Clear-Up Volunteers Group - Cllr Moffitt & Cllr Coulson**

**9.3.1 Ian Carter** was invited to update YTC regarding his work in bringing together a group of volunteers to improve the maintenance and accessibility of the river walks around Yarm, in particular the problematic west side. The group is named 'Friends of True Lovers Walk'. It meets on Sunday mornings to clean-up and clear vegetation and rubbish - debris and cleared vegetation is taken away by barges from the River and Canals Trust. The volunteering Officer from SBC (Vicky Fawcett) has been supportive to the group. A funding application has been made to Tesco's Community Grants and a fundraiser has launched on Facebook. Tees Barrage staff are also attending to clear blocking of bridge and viaduct arches with floating debris.

**9.3.2 Cllr Moffitt** commented that he was unable to join the meeting convened with the volunteers (short notice), noted the great work the volunteers are achieving but reminded the meeting that SBC remained responsible for the maintenance of paths that are rights of way; the work of the volunteers should not begin to be regarded as a substitute for this. SBC should still be urged to maintain, develop and invest in the paths (given levels of disrepair, high usage and need).

**9.3.4 Cllr Monck** briefed the meeting regarding a Leveling-Up Fund meeting that he had attended (convened by the local MP) re. the Town Hall Heritage Centre. The issue of the riverside pathways in Yarm had been raised as an investment priority and this had been received positively.

**9.3.5 Cllr Moffitt** proposed that YTC should:

- a) support the work of the volunteers,
- b) continue liaising with SBC to clarify issues surrounding rights of way and improvement / maintenance work that could be done (including seats, rubbish bins and lifebelts);
- c) establish joined-up effort between all interested parties;
- d) share intelligence and liaise to build-up information regarding ownership of riverwalk areas and maintenance/development prioritisation (e.g. to plot on a map)

**AGREED**

**ACTION:** Clerk to liaise with SBC re. all of the above

**9.3.6** A member of the public added that the riverpaths could include waymarkers/historical markers.

**10.0 Planning & Environment:**

**10.1 Matters Arising: Planning Applications & Lists**

10.1.1 **Cllr. Monck** reported that all planning applications appearing on the lists from SBC were currently delegated (officer) decisions for some reason, including the planning application for development of Yarm Town Hall & Heritage Centre.

10.1.2 Members of the public continue to express objections to the proposed development that is 215 residential dwellings at Mount Leven Farm (minute of 110122 YTC refers) - **Application No: 21/2925/FUL**. **The Clerk** has emailed YTC's objection to SBC Planning and will be writing a fuller objection for the portal.

**10.2 Latest Play Area Reports & Issues: Update & Review of Processes with SBC**

10.2.1 **The Clerk** briefed the meeting as to issues regarding the play area inspection reports and repairs actioned with SBC that then reappeared on the next inspection report. This was then confusing as to whether this was new similar damage or the previous damage that had been logged but not yet repaired. The Clerk is liaising with the lead at SBC to resolve this (noting that SBC has a significant backlog of work in this area following COVID). The suggestions are that:

- a) necessary repairs identified at point of inspection should not only be listed as per risk level (as they are now) but also be ticketed/logged as one of 4 different time frame categories as SBC have for their own play areas (i.e. immediate - within 24 hrs, through to 2 weeks or longer, for things that are not a risk);
- b) inspection reports identify what is reported as a 'new defect' or 'previously reported' and awaiting repair.

**ACTION:** Clerk to update YTC at the next meeting.

**11.0 To agree any content for the YTC website and requests for Facebook features**

11.1 Feedback on items to date & proposed new items

**The Clerk** proposed that, when time allowed, features on Councillor profiles should continue. The Clerk also suggested that work on packing up the Town Hall and preparing for the Heritage Centre should be included as part of social media features.

**12.0 To receive items for information and consideration for the next agenda**

12.1 None received at this time.

**13.0 To confirm the date and time of the next YTC meeting:** 7pm 8th March 2022

13.1 Carole Jones thanked YTC for their 'Civic Thank You' gift in recognition of her contribution of support to performers on Christmas Eve.

**SIGNED (CHAIR):**

.....DATE:.....

**SIGNED (CLERK):.....DATE:.....**