

Minutes of the March 2025 meeting of  
Yarm Town Council to be held at

**Challoner House,  
Challoner Rd.,  
Yarm, TS15 9DS.**

**Date: Tuesday, 11th March 2025**

**Time: 7pm**

Members of the public were invited to  
attend the meeting

**Juliet Johnson, Proper Officer to YTC**



Yarm Town Council  
Town Hall  
High Street  
Yarm  
TS15 9AH

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## YARM TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES

(incorporating Weigh & Tolls)

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Brian Newcombe (Chair); Cllr. Steve Atkinson (Vice Chair); Cllr. Philip Addison; Cllr. Marje Blair; Cllr. John Coulson; Cllr. Joyce Hardy; Cllr. Peter Monck; Cllr. Yvonne Pybus; Cllr. Pam Smailes; Cllr. Barbara Wegg; Cllr. Robert Wegg; Town Clerk & Proper Officer; Rate Payers' Representative - Karen Shields. 6 members of the public were present.

**1.0 Notice of Meeting** - it was confirmed that public notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with schedule 12, paragraph 10 (2) of the LGA 1972.

**2.0 To appoint a Chairman in the absence of the Chair and/or Vice Chair - N/A**

**3.0 To Receive and Approve Apologies for Absence** - apologies were received from Ward Councillor Andrew Sherris.

**4.0 Code of Conduct | Declaration of Interest | Dispensation**

- a) To record declarations of interest from members of any item to be discussed
- b) To consider, vote upon and record any requests for dispensation

A non-pecuniary interest was declared by **Cllrs R & B Wegg** in respect of item 10.3. **Cllr Monck** declared a non-prejudicial interest in all matters relating to item 10.2 (as a grave deed owner at the cemetery and a member of the parish Church St Mary Magdalene). No dispensations were requested.

**A minute's silence was held in respect of the passing of ex-councillor Phil Suddes.**

**5.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

**To approve the minutes of the previous meetings:**

**5.1 Yarm Town Council (incorporating Weigh & Tolls)** held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 and approve their signature by the Chair of the meeting.

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

Cllr Coulson gave feedback from Stockton Borough Council - SBC - (regarding item 10.6) the flooding problem at the Cattle Arch; the issue is being looked into but is not a simple matter to solve (involving water from Skittering Beck potentially and from the railway bridge); it would necessarily involve Network Rail who own the bridge and would therefore not come out of the SBC Ward Transport Budget. In relation to 11.3, the proposal of removing a bench from Willey Flatts Field, SBC supports the motion but would not directly action this themselves as it was originally a YTC project (a suggestion might be to remove it from the concrete anchorings - not a simple process - and re-site it in Willey Flatts Lane).

The February minutes were noted and approved:

**PROPOSED: Cllr Newcombe                      SECONDED: Cllr Blair                      AGREED.**

**5.2 To note the minutes of the Cemeteries Committee held on Wednesday 19th February 2025.**

**6.0 Clerk's Report: Matters Arising** (DOCUMENT REFERS) - No matters raised.

**7.0 Council Finances** (includes Weigh & Tolls)

**7.1 To authorise payment of the accounts: Accounts Payable** (DOCUMENT REFERS)

**Cllr Addison** requested the addition of a further payment re clearing tree strom damage in the Churchyard - £180. This and the payments list were agreed.

**7.2 Bank Reconciliations** (DOCUMENTS REFER)

**Cllr Addison** asked that the meeting noted the Bank Reconciliations. These were noted.

**7.3 Income and Expenditure Report** (DOCUMENT REFERS)

**Cllr Addison** asked that the Income and Expenditure report be noted. This was noted.

**7.4 To Receive and Approve the Risk Register** (DOCUMENT REFERS)

**The Clerk** briefed the meeting as to the importance and scope of the Risk Register, how this had been developed over the past few years (previously having referred to a different council where it had been copied from ) and is now comprehensively focused on Yarm's needs. The Clerk briefed the meeting on the sections included and the type of information it covered and asked that Councillors give this some scrutiny, give feedback to the Clerk (prior to the next meeting) so that the Risk Register can be updated further if needs be and presented for approval to the April meeting.

**8.0 To Review and Consider the Correspondence List** (DOCUMENT REFERS)

**Cllr Bob Wegg** read out a letter from the Clock Winder who has retired. The letter thanked YTC for the gift which has been used to source a rare book (also benefitting a charity). **The Clerk** asked the councillors who'd been present for the special EGM (having been off ill) for the minutes of the meeting; the point of holding a special EGM was so that these minutes would record the Clock Winder's contribution formally in the archives for posterity. **Cllr B Wegg** said she had some notes.

**9.0 Adjournment and Questions From the Public**

**The Chair** adjourned the meeting for questions and comments from the public. Member of the Public 1 (**MP1**) asked if **Cllr Newcombe** had actioned the tree guards for Snaith's Field that he'd promised (to prevent the orchard trees being destroyed

by rabbits). **Cllr Newcombe** has decided the original proposal was not required and instead has put some wire mesh around two of the trees as a temporary demonstration of the alternative. **Cllr Newcombe** suggested asking Trees for Tees for new trees instead but would try and get some further chicken wire from the Community Allotments Association (the Clerk suggested a supplier of the wire needed).

**ACTION:** Trees for Tees to be asked for more fruit trees (8 in total). **Cllr Newcombe** will source wire to protect existing trees (MP1 confirmed that 15 of the trees are still viable).

## **10.0 Policy and Resources:**

### **10.1 Weigh and Tolls Matters: Events and Heritage Centre**

#### **10.1.1 Events Update**

##### **a) 80th Anniversary of VE Day (inc. draft budget)**

- **Cllr Smailes** stated she was disappointed flags/decorations could not be put up on the Town Hall. **The Clerk** did not understand where this information had come from; there was an issue that the reconfigured stair well in the Town Hall meant the south windows are a high stretch (for attaching strings from inside) requiring special ladders but that flags could simply (and more safely) be hung by being entirely attached on the outside of the Town Hall. The Clerk confirmed what she understood Cllr Smailes had proposed re. decorations: strings of bunting from the Town Hall to the War Memorial (a V shape) and a flag in the centre of the South side of the Town Hall, with another VE Day 80th Anniversary flag flown on the flagpole; the Clerk advised against attaching bunting to the cross-of the war memorial. Cllr Smailes confirmed that Yarm Knitters would be creating tasteful bunting for around the War Memorial. Cllr Smailes stated that a singer couldn't be found; The Clerk advised that as Cllr Smailes now wished to change the date (from Saturday 10th May to 8th May), the vintage singer had confirmed that she couldn't be available for the new date. The Clerk had made enquiries about an alternative singer and now understands that Lin Simpson (RBL) is also helping organise the event and is looking for a singer. **Cllr Newcombe** stated he would contact a 1950s singer that was referenced (it was suggested a 1940s style singer was required); **the Clerk** asked that she be copied into all communications on this to avoid confusion, as there now appeared to be lots of people overlapping tasks and arrangements; she also requested that Cllr Smailes reply to emails regarding the event to aid efficiency. The Clerk reported on a caterer with a vintage trailer that had asked if they could cater the event (previously the outdoor area near the church had been considered for use). It was confirmed that the church will be delivering the catering and that the outside area is no longer being used on 8th May.

##### **b) YTC Events Committee Railway Bi-Centenary Proposals Including Proposals for High Street Banners**

**Cllr Smailes** confirmed that discussion had taken place regarding lamppost banners for the Railway Bi-Centenary. It was discussed that these could be added to the current banners (but some would need to be taken down as all the lampposts with banner fittings were in use) and it was agreed that the Rail Bi-Centenary banners would be left up for the foreseeable future rather than taken down at the end of the year and the others put back up. It was proposed that 4 banners would be added. **The Clerk** clarified that, based on previous costs (SBC), adding 4 banners to the current mix would cost in total circa £1200 (£150-200 for artwork for 2 designs; circa £500 to install the banners including costs of the necessary cherry picker, if x4, not x8, and if the Rail Bi-Centenary banners would stay up; estimated cost of £122 per banner to produce - £488; this price is yet to be confirmed and the estimate is based on the previous set, plus inflation). Comparative quotes will be obtained locally as far as possible. Council agreed to: expenditure on the banners as described subject to the Clerk achieving a cheaper quotation if possible (to be shared by email) and the project should progress accordingly within the costs agreed.

The colours and basic design was agreed as a dark silhouette on a red / orange background (reflecting Railway 200 logo colours).

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Atkinson

**SECONDED:** Cllr Newcombe

**AGREED**

**The Clerk** suggested that whilst High St banners were being discussed (and the Union Flag and VE day Flags hadn't been raised under Matters Arising, she could give feedback on both matters. Firstly, there was no specific paperwork re the Union Flag (currently flying) as when it had been ordered (by phone) she had probably confused and slightly delayed its arrival by also asking for information and quotations regarding versions of VE day flags the company had (hopefully saving on postage if all purchased together). Secondly, the Clerk had purchased a range of cheap VE day decorative flags as per suggestion - 3 or 4 versions of these were presented to the meeting. The points were made that: whilst circa £7.99 each these were only one sided, only 3' x 5' (the flagpole Union flag being 2.5m/8' long) and made for decorative purposes only, not really for a civic or military flagpole. **The Clerk** referenced another 'union style' flag she had brought from the Town Hall and apologised that this had possibly been the source of crossed wires for **Cllr Newcombe** (who'd suggested a flag was already held so that the new Union flag didn't need to be purchased). The Clerk had previously mentioned she had this *decorative* flag when VE day options were being discussed (i.e. it is not suitable for the flagpole); the Clerk displayed to the meeting the 'flag' in question - a stylised decorative tablecloth (£3) that had been used for the Platinum jubilee Gala in the High St.

There was discussion regarding the decorative flags: whilst these are suitable for decorating the hall for the Tea Dance and the outside of the Town Hall, they're not suitable for the flagpole; the offer from the local supplier (£45 each if several are purchased) would be of interest to YTC, if of the size and quality for the flagpole as expected from this specialist supplier.

**ACTION:** Clerk to clarify with local supplier re Flagpole VE day flag; further consultation with Cllrs by email if necessary.

c) Events Health & Safety & Infrastructure Management Contract Tender - the Clerk briefed Cllrs on the tender process; this needs to be prepared within the next few months ready for autumn winter events **ACTION:** Clerk to gather information for tender document

### 10.1.2 Yarm Town Hall Heritage Centre: General Update

a) **Cllr Monck** gave an update on the work of the Heritage Centre. Volunteering and the Friends group continue to develop. Cllr Monck reported that 3 of the remaining exhibitions upstairs are now just about ready to go up (including Yarm at War, Heritage of Faith and the permanent section on the railways). Council had previously approved the expenditure on 2 of these so Council is now being asked to approve the 3rd circa £250 which is within the allocated Heritage Centre budget.

b) A specification exists for the YTHHC website which can hopefully be achieved for £500 and still look professional (most companies charge a lot more; especially given the need for lots of different sections, film content and interactive sections). Potential funders will need to see this in place and progress on this might be achieved prior to the next meeting if council are in agreement (Cllr Smales was asked if she still wished to recommend another person who might be able to help; she did not). Appropriate comparative quotations will be placed on file.

c) The Development Manager can cease in May but will continue to offer support to the Friends group (through the Clerk role). It is asked that the role of the Friends group in programming and developing content for the heritage centre is agreed and acknowledged by YTC. The Friends of YTHHC is now formally constituted; this reflects suitably experienced and qualified people (examples given); Juliet (the Development Manager) has spent time developing skills and setting the standards / approaches required with the Friends. Critical funders like NLHF (National Lottery Heritage Fund) will expect to see this (funding will be important going forwards in maintaining our objects, vital equipment, development, community work and

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future events). Membership of the Friends group is being further encouraged across the community. Details and numbers of volunteers were given - there are currently gaps given work shift patterns etc. Despite this (and seasonal illnesses !) YTHHC has only had to close a couple of times. It was recognised that there aren't skills or knowledge amongst councillors on YTC as regards running museums / heritage centres so a report on progress from the specialists in the Friends group (supported by the Development Manager) to YTC full council would be useful. It was noted that YTC is blessed with having skilled professionals willing to give their time to the project. There was further discussion as regards shortage of volunteers and it was accepted that occasional closure was inevitable given illness, changing work patterns etc. It was recognised that Friends of YTHHC leadership on YTHHC is critical and that the professional standards set (and regularly complemented in feedback) as regards vision, structure and format of exhibitions needs to be maintained. Following substantial LUF (Levelling Up Fund) Investment, YTHHC must continue to be run at a professional standard and for the purpose applied for, also protecting against clawback of significant investment from LUF (clawback being YTC having to pay back £ investment if the project is scrapped). 10.1.2 a) - c) elements were proposed & approved.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Monck      **SECONDED:** Cllr Coulson      **AGREED**      (there were 3 abstentions)

d) Discussion: Role of YTHHC Development Manager - **Cllr Newcombe** no longer wished to discuss this item.

## **10.2 Cemetery Report** - General Update

**Cllr Wegg** stated that the Chapel had been open again on the 1st of the month; the few that visit are very appreciative and the Facebook posts are definitely working as people comment on having seen the open session there.

**10.2.1** Cllr B Wegg made the following proposals (which relate to 5.6 of the draft Cemetery Committee minutes of 19th February 2025), which were all agreed:

- a) Proposal that Cemetery Rules be changed to state that no trees or shrubs can be planted on graves
- b) Proposal for Kerbstones to Require Permission (and stones on graves not permitted without kerbstones)
- c) Proposal Cemetery Rules be changed to state that graves should be covered by turf (as the norm)
- d) Proposal that grave owners will be re-charged the fee to repair headstones where possible (or given the option to seek their own suitably qualified stonemason to make the repairs)
- e) Proposal for a Memorial Garden and Memorial Plaques to be created

**PROPOSED:** Cllr B Wegg      **SECONDED:** Cllr Coulson      **AGREED**

**10.2.2** Proposal for a Dispensing Water Butt to be installed near Yarm Chapel for the Cemetery - **Cllr Pybus** proposed the above and this was agreed. **ACTION - Clerk** to purchase.

**10.3 Allotments Report** - General Update - **Cllr Pybus** - **Cllr R Wegg** raised a question as to why the water was still off at both allotment sites. It was confirmed that, due to forecast minus temperatures in between better weather, the Yarm Community Allotments Association (YCAA) had not wanted to risk burst pipes. **Cllr R.Wegg** and **Cllr Newcombe** stated they would just attend and put the water on. **The Clerk** advised that respectful etiquette should be that **Cllr Pybus**, as Chair of Allotments, (or the Clerk) would liaise with YCAA regarding when and how the water is put back on. Discussion ensued about further insulation of the water pipes and the need to open taps prior to switching the water back on. There was further discussion as to whether the water supply at the allotments (Brickyard and Upper Worsall) was drinking water or not - it was concluded that it was normal supply drinking water.

**Cllr Pybus** reported on recent repairs and maintenance completed: the kissing gate, installation of a new noticeboard, new allotment gate and a toilet door (upper allotments) - this has been set up so that code entry is possible for all tenants at the upper allotments. An option for maintaining the tea hut roof at Brickyard is being looked at by a contractor and progress made, following conversation with the Information Commissioner's Office, re. installation of CCTV/lights at the path through the upper allotments (e.g. not using electricity) - this is a major task. A working group of Cllrs Pybus, Blair, Hardy, Ingird Graham (YCAA) and the Clerk demolished and burnt a shed, saving on removal costs. One vacant poor condition allotment at each of Brickyard and Upper Worsall is currently being used as a space for burning rubbish. There are now only two people left on the waiting list (one each for Brickyard and Upper Worsall allotments); a Facebook Ad has been placed in order to top up the waiting list. **Cllr Pybus** reported on the community allotment now established at Brickyard (resulting from a request at a previous meeting during the public session). **Cllr R Wegg** suggested that there are trees from the allotments overhanging the Spital which belong to the allotments which need attention (including one which is dead). **The Clerk** stated that the recent tree surgeon had not identified anything else as problematic but she would check with them; this could possibly be a job for the grounds maintenance contractor if YTC wished for these to be cut back. **Cllr R Wegg** stated that those delivering manure to the allotments were not using banksmen to reverse as the rules advise and that this needed to stop. **Cllr Newcombe** stated there is a tree on the Spital roundabout to be cut back (this roundabout is subject to Stockton Borough Council maintenance).

**ACTION:** **Clerk** to a) review trees overhanging from allotments onto the Spital (and suggestion that one is dead); b) request to be made to SBC re any trees that need cutting back on the Spital / Worsall Rd roundabout; c) to request that YCAA remind deliverers reversing to use a banksmen (i.e. request assistance) when others are around, following allotment rules.

**10.4** (Deferred from 11.02.25) **Scope and Authority of the Staffing Committee** - **Cllr Atkinson** reported to the meeting, on behalf of the Staffing Committee, that he had researched how other local council staffing committees conducted business and guidance on related terms of reference; the majority have delegated authority of the council to take forward all / any staffing matters i.e. they take the matter forwards rather than bring it back to full council as they have delegated authority; **Cllr Atkinson** felt this was a good way to do business. **Cllr R Wegg** suggested that **Cllr Atkinson** had to declare an interest as he was asking for a vote to give himself more power and that the same applied to other members of the Staffing Committee. **Cllr Atkinson** acknowledged that Cllrs may have a different view of the matter but could express this by voting and this was about any future staffing committee, not just the current one. **The Clerk** was asked to give guidance by **Cllr Atkinson** which was as follows: it is not understood that a committee member seeking to improve how the committee they are part of (or the council as a whole) does business should declare any interest unless they had a personal interest in a specific matter and that this was about delegated authority not individuals having more power (ref. also NALC Good Employers' Guide for Councillors); *Clerk's note post meeting - Cllrs can, after all, nominate themselves to be Chair / Vice Chair and there is no requirement for them to 'declare an interest' in terms of 'personal power'*. **Cllr Atkinson** confirmed having referenced NALC material and also stated that there needed to remain councillors who were 'uninvolved' with all/any staffing matters so that an appeal panel could effectively be convened. **The Clerk** confirmed that this is correct and gave an example of how this worked (e.g. in the instance of the Clerk having a grievance with a decision of the Staffing Committee). **Cllr R Wegg** stated that all councillors were equal and could be involved in anything. It was confirmed that delegated authority did not mean that Council would not be kept informed of matters. **Cllr Newcombe** stated that anyone had a right to appeal against any committee. **Cllr Atkinson** gave a further 'non council' example of a grievance and how this would be handled and how the person making the complaint would not necessarily know the outcome and would not have the right to appeal the employer's decision. It was stated that the proposal and example given reflects how the principal

authority deals with such staffing matters. It was proposed that the Council grant the Staffing Committee delegated authority to deal with all staffing matters:

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Atkinson                      **SECONDED:** Cllr Coulson                      **AGREED**                      **(4 abstentions)**

**10.5 Draft Equal Opportunities Policy**                      - **The Clerk** presented the draft Equal Opportunities, Diversity and Inclusion (E.D.I.) policy and referenced that an Accessibility Statement (previously refuted) should be added. Regular updates would be needed to keep abreast of changing requirements. The E.D.I. policy was agreed.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Monck                      **SECONDED:** Cllr Coulson                      **AGREED**

**10.6 Use of the Town Hall and Costs Incurred**                      - **Cllr Newcombe** stated that he'd noticed that the Town Hall is in use until midnight on some occasions, or 10pm or 11pm and that the heating and the lighting bill would consequently be increased. **Cllr Coulson** confirmed that the Staffing Committee had agreed with the Clerk that core hours at the Town Hall would not go beyond 7pm (unless there is a meeting). **Cllr Newcombe** stated that the Town Hall had been regularly in use over the past year until 11pm / midnight and that the heating was on. The Clerk queried as to why / how Cllr Newcombe assumed the heating was being used on all these occasions. **Cllr Pybus** stated that the new heating system at the Town Hall had had problems and that there would always be 'swings and roundabouts' re. costs i.e. associated with the season and getting used to using it. **Cllr Newcombe** stated that he'd had numerous complaints about the Town Hall being in use at midnight by people - the Clerk queried the use of the word people and suggested that only on the odd occasion she had been working late. **Cllr Newcombe** stated that anybody could be there with the Clerk at night for all he knew. Members of the public and the RPR challenged Cllr Newcombe's inference/remark, use of language and attitude. **The Clerk** requested she clarify the situation, including as regards the heating: she confirmed that on a couple of occasions (over the past year) she had been there until midnight in order to get important matters finished (e.g. if a holiday is pending) or a particular circumstance has arisen - not something she regards as good practice on a regular basis; from memory, the heating was started to be used carefully in November '24 but from receiving the January '25 bill the heating has been rarely used since mid February; the Clerk uses the 'one hour boost' on the heating if it is very cold and if people are coming in for a meeting / the Heritage Centre, but tries to leave it off otherwise; heating and electricity bills are public money as is the Clerk's hours (a lot of these being given for free); the Clerk objected to the inference by the Chair that she was entertaining company inappropriately in the Town Hall late at night as offensive.

**The Clerk** explained the issues with the heating system at the Town Hall (still comparatively newly in use): for the first year (since January 2024) there has been no working heating for the groundfloor; from October / November 2024, a fan heater was acquired for the volunteers (whilst the heating issue was being investigated by the original contractors) - although not frequently in use, this would have been expensive (Cllr Blair attested to this lack of ground floor heating having volunteered - all volunteers were wearing their coats); the contractors kept finding there was no fault and the upstairs being extremely efficient; the contractors eventually found the fault (a wrongly wired thermostat that switched off at the point it should come on for the downstairs section); the contractor advice was that the whole system would be more efficient if left to be used on a timer with minimal hours set (rather than the short 1 hr boosts); having the heating set on the timer then seemed to result in the £900 electricity bill in January so the use of the '1 hour' boost has been reverted to when absolutely necessary.

**Cllr R Wegg** referenced that a Staffing Committee Meeting had been held ( in order to sort the core hours issue) and that other Cllrs had not been invited. **Cllr Coulson** confirmed that this was an informal discussion. The Clerk had not been present

and this had simply been a working group. **Cllr Newcombe** stated that he and others should be invited. The Clerk clarified practice as regards Staffing Committees and terms of reference (also referencing practice at the principal authority SBC): all councillors do not attend, it is different to other committees (as detailed re Good Councillors Guide to Employment), dealing with and managing staff is 'not a spectator sport' and is governed by what is fair and reasonable, also within the context of Employment Law. **Cllr R Wegg** re-stated he should be allowed to attend, that there aren't as many Cllrs as at SBC so this would be OK and that he didn't know what was going on and that every councillor is entitled to attend everything. Cllr Atkinson and the Clerk referenced NALC Guidance. **The Clerk** asked **Cllr R Wegg** if the two way relationship between an employee and employer is best served by the employee only being able to face a panel of 11 people for each and every issue and asked what was his source of information in recommending this as suitable practice. It was stated that Full Council is briefed at each meeting by the Staffing Committee so people are informed and the Clerk suggested this as a regular agenda item; **Cllr Atkinson** agreed to continue to ensure people are fully updated. **The Clerk** gave the example of how the Allotments Committee had met as a working group to fully analyse the Allotment Rules and Regulations in order to update them - this is more efficiently and effectively done by a small editorial group which then brings a draft of the results to Full Council for comment. **Cllr Newcombe and Cllr R Wegg** wanted to know when the Allotment Inspection would be held and how many had already been held as they wanted to join and stated that all Councillors could attend. **Cllr Pybus & The Clerk** explained why this was not the case and not necessary.

#### **10.7 Responsibility for YTC Social Media Posts (posting and deletion)**

- **Cllr Newcombe** stated that a post went out on a Yarm site regarding the Clockwinder and that it was deleted accidentally and he wanted to know why. Cllr Couslon suggested that 'accidentally deleted' explained the matter and other Cllrs agreed with this. In summary, the Clerk explained that, whilst off sick, she'd taken the initiative to extract the Clockwinder film that she'd initiated for the Heritage Centre and format it to go onto Facebook (on the day of a special EGM she'd suggested to ensure the Clockwinders service was formally recorded for archives/historic record); she'd accidentally deleted one of the 4 posts she'd made (whilst trying to amend something), each of which had 'gone viral' receiving circa 500 comments, all reviewed and replied to by the Clockwinder. The posts had included compliments to the Council, the Heritage Centre and several thanks / compliments to Cllr Newcombe; it was questioned as to whether the latter might be the reason Cllr Newcombe was upset about this particular post's deletion. Further discussion was halted and the item dismissed.

#### **10.8 Discussion: Leven Road Speed Limit & Hazardous Crossing By Children - (proposal to request a crossing with traffic lights)**

- **Cllr Pybus** suggested the speed limit needed changing at this particular section of road: as you drive up Leven Bank the limit is 30 miles per hour, you get past the roundabout at the top, it's 60 miles per hour prior to going back to 30 ; Cllr Pybus has been asked if the whole stretch can be changed to 30. In addition, on the Tall Trees road, where children are crossing, there's an island and a bridge where there is similar danger - children are accidentally likely to step out and wouldn't stand a chance.. There's a similar discussion regarding traffic speeds at Kirklevington Parish Council. **Cllr Atkinson** referenced a recent accident at the Crossways roundabout (with approach of 50 mph) and there will be work at this roundabout shortly potentially causing further issue i.e. there is a need to cut the speed limit on Green Lane now in preparation. Speaking as Ward Cllr, Cllr Coulson stated that SBC are discussing the Crossways issue. **Cllr Pybus** stated that the work on the dual carriageway had incurred a sign stating reduction of speed limit and asked why this couldn't also be done at Leven Bank. A member of the public referenced signs on Green Lane - Cllr Pybus suggested even a speed camera would make a difference. There was further discussion regarding speed limits and aims at reductions. From Kirklevington to the A19 is currently 60mph but it is understood there is work to reduce this to 40 mph.

**ACTION:** The Clerk suggested she could ask SBC Highways to clarify the position on the sections of road discussed so that YTC could obtain an understanding of reasoning & intentions (also, to request a map illustration of the speed limits to accompany the explanation if one exists).

## 11.0 Planning & Environment:

**11.1 Matters Arising: Planning Applications & Lists** - Cllr Monck stated that there was nothing currently that he wished to draw to the attention of YTC. Cllr Monck and several residents have been successful in getting a planning request stopped that was thought to be detrimental. Cllr Coulson had been initially involved and thanked Cllr Monck for his work on this (and also welcomed Cllr Monck back to council following a period of recuperation).

The Clerk raised the matter of Hanging Baskets (as not referenced under Matters Arising): Cllr Newcombe has made a direct approach to last year's supplier who has forwarded a quotation that is £15 per basket (£5 per basket more than last year; significantly less than quotes in previous years); this equates to £900 for 60 (if the plastic topiary balls are also to be hung again this year) or £1020 for 68 (if plastic topiary balls are not required). It was proposed and agreed to use the same supplier and order hanging baskets as for 2024.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Coulson                      **SECONDED:** Cllr Blair                      **AGREED**

**11.2 Update: Latest Play Area Reports & Issues** - The Clerk reported on play area repairs and issues that need to be actioned - SBC have returned to offering repair services which the Clerk is awaiting costs for. Cllr Pybus reported a water leak that needed attention between the bungalows and the beck at Willey Flatts.

Cllr Monck reported that work on the viaduct is coming to an end in the next few weeks and the work compound sheds will be dismantled (West St Car Park). However, these are likely to be replaced by works sheds from SBC contractors in relation to works on the High Street (Levelling Up Fund - LUF) - so the car park on West St will still not be fully available for some time. Cllr Monck understands that the work on the flood gates and relaying some of the riverside paths may be finished as early as May.

**12.0 Adjournment and Final Questions from the Public** - The Chair adjourned the meeting for final questions/comments from the public. The RPR asked whether or not the site at the end of Bentley Wynd might be used for the High St works compound. Cllr Monck stated he felt the timing of this and availability would not work. It is understood that SBC will be conversing with the businesses regarding the High St work. MP1 stated that volunteers for the Heritage Centre could be sought from Dof E schemes and the schools. Cllr Monck said that there was contact with the schools but it was clarified that additional adult volunteering needs sorting first - so that there is proper support for any young people who it would be great to have helping out as well. MP1 was thanked for her contribution.

Additional item re. Matters Arising: Cllr Atkinson - Lease for the Bowling Club has been returned from Merritts, to be checked and now signed off.

**13.0 To agree any content for the YTC website and requests for Facebook features** - YTHHC posts continue (from The Friends as well as on the YTHHC Facebook page, as long as Councillors are happy with that). The Clerk will post any good news or information posts as they arise throughout the month - please notify her accordingly. The roadworks information from SBC can be difficult (re the Crossways/ Crossroads name issue); the Clerk checks to see if SBC are putting this out on the Yarm social media sites as this is preferable i.e. doesn't lead to confusion about powers and duties we don't have and questions we can't answer.

**14.0 To receive items for information and consideration for the next agenda** - Transfer of Funds Report; Cllr Atkinson gave his apologies for the next meeting.

**15.0 To confirm the date, time and location of the next YTC meeting (Challoner House): 7pm, 8th April 2025**

**The meeting closed at 20.58pm.**