

North Yorkshire County Council**Craven Area Committee**

Minutes of the meeting of the Craven Area Committee held on 31 May 2017, commencing at 10.00 am at Carleton in Craven Village Hall.

Present:-

County Councillors Philip Barrett, Robert Heseltine, David Ireton, Patrick Mulligan, Gillian Quinn, Andy Solloway and Richard Welch.

NYCC Officers: Ian Fielding (Assistant Director - Waste Management, Waste and Countryside Services), Marie-Ann Jackson (Head of Stronger Communities), Ian Kelly (Countryside Access Manager), Marion Tweed-Rycroft (Local Delivery Manager, Stronger Communities), James Malcolm (Area Highways Manager – Boroughbridge/Skipton), Josie O'Dowd (Legal and Democratic Services), Stef Howarth (Business Support).

Others in attendance: Inspector Geoff Crocker (North Yorkshire Police) and Station Manager Tony Peel (North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority).

Apologies: Phil Whild.

6 members of the public.

1. Appointment of Chairman**Resolved –**

That County Councillor Richard Welch be appointed Chairman of the Area Committee for the full term of the County Council, until the County Council elections scheduled for May 2021.

County Councillor Richard Welch in the Chair

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

2. Minutes**Resolved -**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2017, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved –

That County Councillor Robert Heseltine be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Area Committee for the full term of the County Council, until the County Council elections scheduled for May 2021.

4. Any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

5. Public Questions or Statements

The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) reported that no notice of any public questions or statements to be made to the Committee had been received.

6. Introductory Information for Members

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) providing advice on how the Committee has previously decided to operate and to identify various issues on which the Committee's decisions are requested.

Resolved -

That the report is noted.

7. North Yorkshire Police - Update regarding Policing in Craven

Considered -

The report of Inspector Geoffrey Crocker updating Members on current performance, community safety and crime reduction partnership operations in the Craven district.

Inspector Geoff Crocker took Members through the report regarding performance within the Craven area covering all categories of activity, of which:

- ASB represents 6%
- Road 24.5%
- PSW 42.5%
- Crime 19.4%

He highlighted the revised definitions for Burglary categories; parking issues; the on-going work regarding sexual offences; the arrival of the second speed camera van and arrangements for deployment; the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021; staffing; and the Multi Agency Screening Team (MAST).

Members raised the following issues:-

- What is the reaction to fast-tracking of detective constables - Inspector Geoff Crocker commented that the lack of appeal of these posts to officers had been unexpected and he noted that personnel in other organisations can have the relevant skill set.
- Regarding the new speed camera van, what income is generated from these vehicles – where does it go? Inspector Geoff Crocker advised that income is recycled back into the service.

- It was noted that there seem to be more burglaries and break-ins in North Craven. The Waterfall Café and Village Inn were highlighted - Inspector Geoff Crocker advised that he would report back on these cases.
- A recent incident at Airville Park involving travellers was noted – young girls being harassed. Skipton Girls High School had requested pupils not to walk through the Park – should the Police be involved? Inspector Geoff Crocker confirmed that the Police were not made aware of the issue by the school at the time, and he urged that the Police be alerted immediately to such issues, so that they can be followed up. He confirmed that extras resources are being deployed when necessary.
- A member commented that he understood some travellers had been advised to move from Sillsey to Aireville. He commented about the challenge presented to Craven District Council when travellers are in the area and the additional burden placed upon the public purse, whilst members of the public are expected to pay to park at Aireville. Inspector Geoff Crocker stated that there are no issues regarding Appleby Fair at present, adding that Craven District Council choose not to designate a traveller site unlike many other local authorities. He suggested that the Council consider the provision made Eden. He confirmed that the Rural Task Force will be involved as necessary.
- Further data regarding the work of the camera vans would be welcomed. Inspector Geoff Crocker advised that they will also cross into Harrogate in terms of enforcement, and motorcyclists can be deployed to assist if needed. Failure to use seatbelts as well speeding will be the subject of enforcement. He confirmed that dashboard camera footage is also now being used in prosecutions – it can illustrate dangerous driving.

Resolved -

That the report is noted.

8. North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service - Community Safety Update

Considered -

The report of Group Manager Phil Whild informing of the community safety initiatives undertaken by North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service in the Craven District.

In Phil Whild's absence, Tony Peel Station Manager, advised of community safety activities and technical fire safety activities undertaken, and incidents of note from October 2016 to March 2017. He stated that road safety remains a key focus – particularly for young people, whether drivers or passengers. He also flagged Home Safety Week and spoke of the success of cadet schemes in Bentham, Grassington and Skipton. It was noted that tactical response vehicles are now active in Harrogate, Scarborough, Northallerton and Tadcaster, with deployment in Ripon and Malton to follow in September. Regarding staffing it was noted that shortfalls are being met via the use of reservists but these are proving hard to recruit for Bentham and Grassington.

A Member enquired about recent fatalities and whether speed played a part – the detail to be provided outside the meeting by Tony Peel.

The benefit to young people of the hard hitting 'Live and Learn' presentation was acknowledged, similarly the value of speed awareness initiatives.

Resolved -

That the report is noted.

9. Stronger Communities Progress Report

Considered -

The report of Marie-Ann Jackson and Marion Tweed-Rycroft, Stronger Communities, updating on progress made within the Stronger Communities Programme in Craven.

Marie-Ann Jackson (Manager Stronger Communities Programme) provided an overview of the programme, noting the key priorities:

- Libraries
- Children and young people
- Community transport
- Older people.

She described Stronger Communities as an enabling service – helping departments deliver services in new ways. She confirmed that where libraries are established as community run support will continue, to assist their on-going development as thriving community hubs to serve the needs of the locality. The funding from Public Health was explained and the grant scheme which is operated. She also advised of the development of the new investment strategy outlining the Stronger Communities Investment Prospectus to be launched in July 2017.

Marion Tweed-Rycroft (Delivery Manager – Craven) updated on grants awarded for local projects including: Learning for All in Skipton; Village Hall Support working with Craven District Council and Community First Yorkshire; a community training video; and activities for older adults.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Locality Budgets – these are expected to continue although they are being reviewed in light of possible future changes to Area Committees. The forthcoming Innovation Fund was also highlighted.
- The successful launch of Bentham Community Library on 17 May was noted and the positive transition of Settle Library previously. The very independent approach adopted at Ingleton Library was acknowledged, led by an excellent manager – the Parish Council having precepted to pay her. South Craven Library is also proceeding well, just a few teething problems. Marion Tweed-Rycroft advised of the proposal to re-engage existing community libraries to facilitate mutual peer support, and the availability of training regarding governance and funding.
- The rationale for allocating funding across the County was queried and it was explained that this is demand led. Craven's allocation reflects the fact that there are more regional charities in the area, as a result of procurement/tendering only 10-15 can be funded. Marion Tweed-Rycroft acknowledged that a new organisation could find it harder to survive in Craven than elsewhere. Marie-Ann Jackson advised how the global county budget is derived and how this relates to Craven. She stated that the budget for capital works for libraries is decreasing, noting that additional funds may be drawn down from Public Health reserves if needed. The Member said he would be interested to see a breakdown. Marie-Ann Jackson stated that quotas had not been employed at the outset of Stronger Communities but under the new Prospectus approximately £200K will be allocated per District – she felt that this will help areas such as Craven and Richmondshire try new things.
- The rationale and operation of County Councillor Locality Budgets was reiterated.

Resolved -

That the report is noted.

10. Craven District Council Off-street Parking Places Amendment Order

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services appraising of the proposed amendments to off-street parking restrictions and charges by Craven District Council at various locations.

James Malcolm (Area Highways Manager – Boroughbridge/Skipton), advised Members of the amendments proposed by Craven District Council to off-street parking restrictions and charges at various locations. The County Council is a statutory consultee for these changes, which include:

- overnight HGV parking at £10 per night - with certain car parks excluded;
- overnight motorhome parking in designated spaces at two car parks;
- the amendment of parking charges and the introduction of pay and display machines at Craven Swimming Pool car park;
- the introduction of “Pop and Shop” parking at one location in Skipton and one in Ingleton;
- the removal of a portion of land near Skipton Bus Station from the Order, to allow for other potential uses of the land not associated with parking.

Members gave the following feedback:-

- The exclusion of Greenfoot car park in Settle was suggested in respect of overnight HGV parking – it was felt that this was an unsuitable location given the proximity to the Extra Care facility;
- Provision for Motorhomes was welcomed;
- It was suggested that the impetus for the changes is revenue maximisation rather than traffic management;
- The proposals regarding “Pop and Shop” were welcomed;
- A reservation was expressed regarding the proposed levy of £10 per night for HGV vehicles, this was felt to be a considerable burden for local hauliers;
- Concerns were raised regarding the proposal to charge at weekends at Craven Swimming Pool - given the number of runners who park there for nearby park runs.
- The issue of vehicle displacement as a consequence of the changes was also raised.

Resolved -

- (a) That the proposed Craven District Off-Street Parking Places Amendment Order is supported subject to the exclusion of Greenfoot car park in Settle in respect of overnight HGV parking.
- (b) It is noted that the decision to provide consent to the proposed order will be taken by the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services, in consultation with the BES Executive Members, taking into account the views of the Craven Area Committee set out above.

11. Highways General Update

Considered -

The oral update provided by James Malcolm, (Area Highways Manager – Boroughbridge/Skipton).

Consiton Bridge: the feasibility study is on-going with many core samples being taken and a consultant is looking at the design. Option appraisal will then be undertaken and a costed report is expected to be available for the end of July. Proposals will then be subject to public consultation.

Members expressed concern about the impact on the A65 as traffic flow is very heavy. The temporary traffic lights have caused traffic chaos and this is not a permanent option as far as residents are concerned. James Malcolm acknowledged that all the options have to be considered but accepted that this may well be ruled out.

Access to Long Preston Alms Houses: the County Council is in discussion with the landowner seeking to address the access problem perhaps by reducing the wall. A Section 79 notice may be required and possible compulsory purchase. Traffic engineers are looking at additional signage and road markings regarding 30 mph speed limit.

Petition follow-up regarding the request to reduce the speed limit on Gargrave Road: The location has been put forward for consideration under the Speed Management Protocol. Skipton Girls High School have been offered a meeting with the local highways office to discuss the issue. There is no movement as yet regarding Government consideration of 20 mph limits in the vicinity of schools.

Kex Gill realignment: movement of the slope continues to be monitored, little is evident at the present time. The drainage and the geology of the location are being studied with a view to building an alternative road in the longer term. Dialogue has been commenced with the land owner and Highways England, and proposals are to be drafted and costed for submission to Government.

A Member expressed concern about a controversial planning application for Carleton, noting that Highways had met with the developer which resulted in amendments to the scheme – he felt that this was not handled with transparency particularly when the objections voiced did not appear to be taken on board. James Malcolm stated that communication should not be an issue – the local Highways Officers are happy to meet with spokespersons. He explained that Highways are a consultee when a developer submits such schemes, but the County Council can only oppose proposals if they compromise the highway network. He cautioned that a public enquiry can challenge if due process has not been followed.

A Member queried the timetable for the Government determination regarding the use of 20 mph limits near schools. James Malcolm confirmed that there is presently no timescale for this. Regarding the amount of spending on resurfacing for Skipton, James Malcolm advised that tenders are due back on 5 June regarding the NPIF allocation.

Regarding the A6068 junction, a Member noted that this remains an accident cluster site, and James Malcolm advised that what's not possible has been identified but a solution is still to be found.

Resolved -

That the update is noted.

12. Public Rights of Way - A New Approach to Categorising the Public Rights of Way Network

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services presenting a set of draft proposals relating to the categorisation of the Public Rights of Way Network; reporting the results of a public consultation carried out on the draft proposals and inviting Members to discuss key issues raised by the consultation respondents and asking the Area Committee to note the consultation responses and to comment on the Service's suggested responses to the consultation.

Ian Fielding, Assistant Director - Waste Management, Waste and Countryside Services, presented the draft proposals relating to the categorisation of the Public Rights of Way network, the consultation responses received to the draft proposals, and the suggested response of the Public Rights of Way Service to the consultation.

Comments from Area Committee Members were as follows:-

- It was recognised that minimum standards are important.
- The crucial role of volunteers and Parish Councils was acknowledged.
- Given the economic constraints it was accepted that adopting a better means of prioritisation will be key to ensuring the most efficient use of resources;
- It was acknowledged that the community value exercise is likely to impact upon the prioritisation;
- The importance of preserving Public Rights of Way across new developments was highlighted and the challenge of categorisation in certain locations eg along canals and rivers, also safer school routes.
- The benefits of more children walking to school reducing traffic and congestion was also noted.

There was broad support for the proposals, as it was felt they represent the only realistic way forward.

Resolved -

- (a) That the views and comments of those who responded to the consultation are considered.
- (b) That the service's response to the themes from supplementary comments as set out in tables 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 of the report are noted.
- (c) That the comments on the service's suggested response to the consultation as set out in paragraphs 6.4 to 6.6, 8.4 and 8.6, 9.5 and 9.6, 10.5, 11.4 to 11.6, 12.4 and 12.5 and in section 15 of the report are noted.

13. Appointment to Outside Bodies

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) inviting the Area Committee to make appointments, on behalf of the County Council, to various outside bodies.

The Area Committee made appointments to 10 outside bodies, nominees to serve until the County Council Election in 2021. These included:

- Craven and Harrogate Districts Citizens Advice Bureau -
County Councillor Robert Heseltine

- Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee – County Councillor Richard Welch
- Safer Craven Local Delivery Team - County Councillor Andy Solloway
- Carleton Endowed School Trust (Skipton) - Mrs E K Brown, Mrs M Mason
- Clarke’s Old School Foundation Wigglesworth - Mr P Raper
- Coulthurst Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee – County Councillor Andy Solloway
- Langcliffe Educational Foundation – Mrs M Lodge
- Longstaffes Educational Foundation – County Councillor David Ireton
- Sir John Horsfall Exhibition Foundation – County Councillor Philip Barrett
- Sylvester Petyt’s Foundation – Roger Ingham

Appointments to four other outside bodies were deferred until queries raised are resolved.

Resolved -

(a) That the following County Councillors are appointed to represent the County Council on the following Category 2 Outside Bodies to serve until the County Council elections in 2021:

- Craven and Harrogate Districts Citizens Advice Bureau - County Councillor Robert Heseltine;
- Forest of Bowland AONB Joint Advisory Committee – County Councillor Richard Welch;
- Safer Craven Local Delivery Team - County Councillor Andy Solloway;

(b) That the following County Councillors are appointed to represent the County Council on the following Category 3 Outside Bodies to serve until the County Council elections in 2021:

- Carleton Endowed School Trust (Skipton) - Mrs E K Brown, Mrs M Mason
- Clarke’s Old School Foundation Wigglesworth - Mr P Raper
- Coulthurst Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee – County Councillor Andy Solloway
- Langcliffe Educational Foundation – Mrs M Lodge
- Longstaffes Educational Foundation – County Councillor David Ireton
- Sir John Horsfall Exhibition Foundation – County Councillor Philip Barrett
- Sylvester Petyt’s Foundation – Roger Ingham

14. Membership of the Area Committee

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) inviting the Committee to identify any organisations from whom it wishes to seek nominations for appointment as Co-opted Members of this Committee.

Resolved –

That it be recommendation to County Council, at its meeting on 19 July 2017, for formal approval, that nominations be sought from the following organisations, for appointment as Co-opted Members to the Area Committee:-

- (a) One representative nominated by Craven District Council
Four representatives nominated by Parish/Town Councils

Three representatives nominated by the Voluntary Sector

- (c) The Co-opted Members term of office shall cease on the date of the County Council elections in 2021, subject to each Co-opted Member continuing to be eligible to represent his/her nominating body.

15. Work Programme

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) presenting the future work programme and inviting Members to comment, amend and/or suggest additional items to be included.

It was suggested that an item on Castleberg Hospital (palliative care) be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

For the November meeting, an item on the experience of the Voluntary Sector in Craven was requested.

Resolved -

- (a) That an update regarding Castleberg Hospital is scheduled for the next meeting 21 September 2017.
- (b) That an item regarding the experience of the Voluntary Sector in Craven is scheduled for the 9 November 2017 meeting.
- (c) That Victoria Hall Settle is sought for the meeting 21 September 2017 and a Skipton venue for the 9 November 2017 meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12.35 pm.

JO'D/JR