

North Yorkshire County Council

County Committee for Hambleton

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2017 at 2.00 pm at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

County Councillor Heather Moorhouse in the Chair.

County Councillors: Robert Baker, David Blades, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Dickinson, Bryn Griffiths, David Hugill, Caroline Patmore, John Weighell OBE and Annabel Wilkinson.

Co-Opted Members: Caroline O'Neill as substitute for Leah Swain (Community First Yorkshire)

Officers: Michael Dale (Station Manager – North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service), Inspector Jon Grainge (North Yorkshire Police), Sally Mitchell (Democratic Services) and Nigel Smith (Area Highways Manager)

Also in attendance:-

County Councillor Carl Les (Leader of the Council)

Janet Probert (Chief Officer – Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group)

2 members of the public

Apologies for absence were received from Caroline Artingstoll and Kevin Hardisty

31. Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2017, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

32. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in relation to items on the agenda at this stage at the meeting.

33. Public Questions or Statements

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

34. North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Update for Hambleton

County Councillor David Blades stated that although not a disclosable pecuniary interest he wished it to be known that he was a Member of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

Considered -

The report of Group Manager David Pitt advising Members of the Area Committee of community safety activities involving North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS) that had occurred between 1 April 2017 and 30 September 2017 and providing an update regarding other issues from within the Hambleton District during that period.

The Chairman welcomed Station Manager Michael Dale to the meeting, who was attending in place of Group Manager David Pitt, who had taken-up a new role within the Service.

Station Manager Michael Dale highlighted the following issues from the report:-

- ◆ Details of community safety initiatives conducted from 1 April to 30 September 2017.
- ◆ Prevention activity - road safety, fire safety, school's education, supporting vulnerable people with dementia, arson reduction, multi-agency problem solving and vulnerable persons intervention activities.
- ◆ Six Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE) Scheme \$ during the remaining part of the financial year. These had been made possible due to a successful grant application to the Police and Crime Commissioner "Community Fund".
- ◆ Response activity - a chemical exercise that took place at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton with crews from Richmond, Northallerton, Bedale and Colburn attended the incident. The exercise was aimed at testing the NYFRS capability in dealing with a chemical-type incident and the scenario was surrounding an unknown chemical gas leak inside a building. The exercise involved the use of the Hazardous Material and Environmental Protection Officer (HMEPO) and chemical identification equipment.
- ◆ Group Manager David Pitt had passed on this personal thanks to Members of the Area Committee for their support during the four years in which he had \$

County Councillor Bryn Griffiths asked Michael Dale for an update on the current staffing position at Stokesley Fire Station and was informed that 2 potential new recruits had been identified and would be in place following training in March 2018. An assurance was also given that the Station always had sufficient staff in place in any event.

Resolved -

That the NYFRS activities that had taken place within the area between 1 April 2017 and 30 September 2017 be noted.

35. North Yorkshire Police Update

Considered -

The report of Inspector Dave Murray (Hambleton Neighbourhood Inspector) updating Members on Crime and Anti-social Behaviour, and other issues currently affecting the Hambleton Area.

County Councillor David Blades advised that he was receiving messages and photographs on a daily basis regarding cars parked 'on street' but stated that he agreed they were not illegally parked. He further advised Members that it was intended to hold another public meeting for local residents in 3 months' time and the situation would continue to be closely monitored. Hambleton District Council was considering changing the current parking charges at the Crosby Road Car Park to assist.

County Councillor Bryn Griffiths expressed disappointment that Inspector Dave Murray was not present at the meeting, as he had received complaints about the manning of Stokesley Police Station. He informed Members that there was no telephone on the outside of the Station anymore and an assurance had been given to the community by the Police that, if there were Police cars parked outside, to ring the bell and an Officer would come to answer the door. County Councillor Bryn Griffiths was concerned and reported that he had received complaints from several residents that this agreed arrangement appeared not to be working. It was agreed that County Councillor Griffiths' concerns be passed onto Inspector Dave Murray to investigate.

Resolved -

That the content of the report and issues raised be noted.

36. Highways Update

Considered -

The oral report of the Area Highways Manager providing an update on highways issues within Hambleton District.

Nigel Smith introduced Sarah Bailey to Members, who had now been in post as Highways Customer Communications Officer for 6 months. Jayne Charlton was also present at the meeting.

Nigel Smith highlighted the current position on following issues:-

- ◆ Capital Programme
- ◆ Routine Maintenance Work
- ◆ Winter Maintenance
- ◆ Thirsk Area Highways Office – staffing

County Councillor Annabel Wilkinson asked that her appreciation be recorded for the assistance provided to her, as a newly elected County Council Member, by both Sarah Bailey and Jayne Charlton, which she had found very helpful in carrying out her new role.

Resolved -

That the oral update by the Area Manager on highways matters within the Hambleton District be noted.

37. Rural Policing Taskforce – Annual Update

Considered -

Presentation on the activities undertaken in the last year by the Rural Policing Taskforce.

Inspector Jon Grainge highlighting the following issues –

- ◆ Between 31 July 2016 and 31 July 2017 1,500 incidents of poaching had been identified and it was a significant issue, however, the Task Force was now just starting to see a downturn in incidents which were actively prosecuted and vehicles and dogs seized.
- ◆ Rural Watch continued to be very successful. Previously a number of Watch Schemes had worked in different ways, but Hambleton always had a consistent approach and was led by PCSOs and volunteers. Those volunteers were now called Police Support Volunteers and were now covered by Police insurance, which had not been the case previously.
- ◆ Proactivity – numerous activities undertaken by the Rural Task Force including public engagement, proactive prevention advice given, Horse Watch and Heritage Watch schemes, together with various targeted Operations being undertaken and Wildlife crime tackled.

Resolved -

That the update on the activities of the Rural Policing Taskforce be noted.

38. Refocusing of Area Committees

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) appraising the Area Committee of the proposals presented to the Area Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen at the meeting held on 27 October 2017 and inviting Members to consider and comment upon those.

County Councillor Gareth Dadd introduced the item to Members and highlighted the intention of the proposals was to review the structure and function of Area Committees to ensure that all Members were involved in meaningful and constructive debate to influence and shape their locality.

Each Hambleton Area Committee Member was asked individually for their views as individual Members at the meeting and were all broadly supportive of the proposals for reviewing the structure and function of Area Committees.

The following points were made:-

- ◆ Six equal size Committees would be a huge advantage and would give opportunity to give a wider view.
- ◆ The proposals appeared to focus on ‘geography’ rather than ‘powers’.

- ◆ Not so keen for alignment with the MPs Constituencies, but did see a deal of synergy with our District Councils going forward.
- ◆ Equality of representation welcomed and looking forward to implementing the process next year.
- ◆ Common sense way forward.
- ◆ Welcome the proposals and the Committee getting more powers.
- ◆ “Underwhelmed” by the re-naming as “Constituency Committees” - would prefer to remain known as a North Yorkshire County Council Area Committee.
- ◆ Concerns about asking Hambleton District Councillors to stand down as Members of the Area Committee and also concern that several individual County Council Members who were currently part of Hambleton Area Committee would potentially have to go to be Members of other Area Committees ie. Richmond and Thirsk & Malton - extremely concerned about the effect of that.
- ◆ Side benefit to having MPs - statutory services, especially mandated from Central Government - MPs becoming more acutely aware of the effect on their and Government’s decisions made down in Westminster, on areas of local interest/concern here in North Yorkshire.
- ◆ Parish Councillors should still be on Area Committees as they bring a different perspective to the meetings.
- ◆ Don’t want to be more ‘strategic’ - as County Councillors we look at the County as a whole and the Area Committee is currently the only place we can all look at our own patches and our own Districts - we should be going more ‘Parochial’, instead of becoming more ‘strategic’.

Resolved -

That the above comments be noted and submitted for the attention of the Executive Committee for consideration.

39. Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Considered -

The oral report of the CCG providing an update on current issues relating to services in Hambleton and Richmondshire.

Janet Probert updated the Area Committee on the following issues –

- ◆ Mental Health Services Consultation – the recommendations arising from the Consultation had been considered by the Governing Body and the outcome was to recommend the provision of an Enhanced Community Service, therefore, the Mental Health Wards 14 and 15 at the Friarage Hospital would be closed. The key aim of the proposal was to keep as many people as possible supported in their own homes. This recommendation was due to be

debated at the 14th December, 2017 meeting of the Scrutiny of Health Committee.

- ◆ The Friarage Hospital, Northallerton : Public Engagement Exercise – a wide ranging consultation exercise was currently been undertaken, but a firm assurance was given that the Hospital was not going to be closed, however, the provision of ‘safe’ services must be ensured. It was a CCG responsibility to get the right sustainable model for the Hospital. There were currently significant workforce challenges, particularly in Anaesthetics recruitment. Once the Consultation had been completed, Scrutiny of Health Committee would be considering the outcomes.

- ◆ Closure of the Lambert Hospital, Thirsk – closure due to workforce issues, but replacement ‘step-up, step-down’ beds process was working successfully. A feasibility study had been undertaken, but the conclusion of that was negative. A ‘For Sale’ sign had been erected on the Hospital and this had caused a huge outcry locally. Discussions had taken place with Hambleton District Council recently, as to what could be done, if anything, to retain the building, but it needed to be affordable and benefit the residents of Thirsk. An assurance was given that the CCG was actively trying to find a solution and positive conversations were currently on-going.

Resolved -

That the oral report of the CCG be noted.

40. Work Programme

Considered -

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

Resolved -

That the business currently scheduled in the report for consideration at future meetings be approved, together with the addition of the following items:- Update on the progress of Phase 3 Broadband; and an update on the progress of the building project on the old Prison site on East Road, Northallerton.

41. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Resolved -

That the next meeting take place on Monday 5 March 2018 at 2 pm at County Hall, Northallerton.

42. Other Business

There were no items of other business to be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances.

The meeting concluded at 4.10 pm

SAM