

North Yorkshire County Council

Richmondshire Area Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2018 commencing at 10.00 am at The Scorton War Memorial Institute, The Green, Scorton, Richmond.

Present:-

Members:-

County Councillors Helen Grant (Chairman), Stuart Parsons, Karin Sedgwick and Angus Thompson.

Co-opted Members

Ian Hainsworth, David Sharp and Clive World.

Officers:-

Patrick Duffy (Democratic Services), Alice Gill (Business Support), Inspector Mark Gee (North Yorkshire Police), Group Manager Simon Gallagher (North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service), Richard Marr (Area Highways Manager) and, Gillian Wall (Stronger Communities Delivery Manager – Richmondshire).

There were 6 members of the public present.

Apologies were received from County Councillors John Blackie and Carl Les and Councillors Michael Barker and Alan Simpson

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

47. Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2017, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

48. Membership of the Area Committee - Appointment of Co-opted Member

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) seeking approval to a nomination for the appointment of a Co-opted Member of the Committee.

Resolved -

That Councillor David Sharp, of Brompton-on-Swale Parish Council, be appointed as a Parish/Town Council representative for the Catterick Bridge Electoral Division, until the first meeting following the Annual County Council meeting in 2018.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Sharp.

49. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared an interest in respect of the report of the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager, in that she had a financial interest as a Working Director of Colburn Hub and Café.

50. Public Questions or Statements

It was noted that no requests had been provided by members of the public to ask questions or make statements at the meeting, prior to the closing date for registration, however, the Chairman stated that she would allow members of the public to raise matters at the appropriate agenda item, should they indicate at that time.

51. Committee Update

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) updating on the response from the Executive to the recommendation made by the Area Committees concerning the re-focussing of Area Committees.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

52. Item(s) raised by Members of the Committee

County Councillor Angus Thompson - Update on Vehicle Activated Signs

County Councillor Angus Thompson updated the Committee about Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).

He stated that this was a major issue for Parish Councils, who felt that, if the rules were relaxed regarding their purchase and siting, this would lead to improved speed enforcement. The Transport Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee were looking at this issue and would receive a report back at their meeting on 23rd May. Councillor Thompson hoped that they would make a recommendation that the rules be applied differently.

53. Variation of the Agenda

The Chairman agreed that the order of the Agenda be varied by taking the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Service Update and the Stronger Communities Update prior to the North Yorkshire Police Update, as Inspector Gee had been delayed.

54. North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Update

Considered -

The report of Group Manager Simon Gallagher advising on community safety activities within North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service that have occurred between October and December 2017 and providing an update regarding other issues within the Richmondshire District.

The Chairman welcomed Simon Gallagher to this, his first meeting of the Committee. Simon had taken over from David Pitt.

The Chairman asked whether the report might benefit from having some comparative information. In response, the Group Manager said that a lot of the Service's work was need-driven and, accordingly, efforts were particularly concentrated during certain times of the year, in line with national campaigns. Therefore, a number of elements would not lend themselves to comparative reporting but, for those that would, he would provide this, going forward.

The Group Manager highlighted the following aspects of his report, in particular:-

- the Tactical Response Vehicle at Northallerton would be crewed with effect from tomorrow – 29th March.
- Crews had used inflatable walk way and Swift Water Equipment to help free a horse that had become stuck in a slurry pit
- the Service has been heavily involved in the introduction of an Animal Rescue Team at Malton initially and now extended to Ripon and Tadcaster, where its specialist equipment was a key component of the Team

A Member asked whether the Service could do anything about animals getting out of their fields and onto roads. The Group Manager responded that the Service provides advice to landowners on this issue.

The Chairman asked for assurance that Fire and Rescue Stations in Richmondshire were fully staffed. The Group Manager advised that overall the situation was positive:-

- numbers at Richmond were very good;
- at Leyburn a recruitment initiative had led to the numbers of Retained Firefighters increasing;
- Colburn was in a transitional period, with retiring Firefighters being replaced. Numbers were going back up but the new staff would require some support.

The Chairman congratulated the Service on the Life Course for Young People. The Group Manager said he would convey this to the Community Safety Team.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

55. Stronger Communities Progress Report

Considered -

The report of the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager (Richmondshire) updating on the work of the Stronger Communities Programme in Richmondshire.

The Chairman reiterated the declaration of the interest that she had made at the start of the meeting, in respect of the report of the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager, in that she had a financial interest as a Working Director of Colburn Hub and Café.

The Stronger Communities Delivery highlighted the following:-

- A number of Inspire Grants were coming through the system. She asked Members to point smaller groups towards the "Inspire Programme".
- A number of Achieve Projects were being developed with a range of voluntary and community sector groups including Parents4Parents, who she had been working with to expand parental peer support services and activities for families and

services with low-level mental health issues. The organisation have been successful in a “Big Lottery” bid for £136,000 for 3 years which will help stabilise this now established peer support organisation.

The Chairman thanked the Stronger Communities Delivery Manager for all the good work she is undertaking.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

56. North Yorkshire Police Update

Considered -

The report of Inspector Mark Gee, Richmondshire Neighbourhood Policing, updating on initiatives currently being undertaken within the Richmondshire District by North Yorkshire Police.

Inspector Gee advised that:-

- There were no worrying crime trends or areas where Richmondshire was out of kilter.
- Vehicle crime remained an issue and the Police were concentrating on crime prevention advice to drivers.
- Operation Owl was an appeal to the public to report any illegal traps/persecution of birds. This is not widespread but there are pockets of bad practice. The Police were working with gamekeepers and others to combat this.
- There had been an increase in ATM crime linked to organised crime.
- A Public Spaces Protection Order had been introduced in the Colburn and Brough with St Giles area to address issues of Anti-Social Behaviour. It also included the area around the Broadway Shops. The Police were working with the District Council to support the local businesses through this Order. Whilst the issues were being caused by a small group of individuals who were not representative of the wider community, it was important to tackle this.
- The Police Cadets Volunteer Scheme had been a great success. Spaces had been limited to 20 but twice, or even three times that number, could have been taken on, given the interest generated. Therefore, the Police would look to continue the Scheme.

A Member referred to a message posted by the Police on Facebook which showed officers sat around the table. He felt that this did not give a good impression. Inspector Gee responded that he felt it had been clear that this was a briefing meeting with Special Constables but he would take note of the Member's comment.

A Member asked whether licensed shooting of birds had to take place a certain distance from schools and houses. Inspector Gee said there were restrictions in place and he would contact the Member separately with the detail.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

57. Annual Road Casualty Report

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services inviting the Area Committee to discuss, comment on and question the content of the Annual Road Casualty Report.

The main highlights from the report as far as Richmondshire is concerned were:-

- ◆ Three adults were killed on Richmondshire's roads during 2016 - the same number as 2015. The 3 fatalities in 2016 were a pedestrian, a van driver and a cyclist.
- ◆ The number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) decreased from 53 in 2015 to 42 in 2016. In terms of road user groups, the number of KSI has increased amongst powered two-wheeler (PTW) (+3) and reduced amongst car occupants (-12), pedestrians (-1) and other vehicle types (-1).
- ◆ The total number of casualties of all severities in road collisions reported to the police in 2016 was 200, down 15% from 2015 (235). The decrease is reflected in the car road user group which saw a 12% (-18) decrease in casualties in 2016, other vehicle types reduced by 87% (-13), PTW by 15% (-4) and pedestrians by 21% (-3). However, an overall increase was seen in the pedal cyclist group by 10% (+2) and goods vehicles by 8% (+1).
- ◆ The small numbers involved in District level analysis can make percentage changes appear alarmingly large. These fluctuations are all within the normal range of change compared to the five year baseline average and reflect a similar pattern to most other districts across the county.
- ◆ The reported number of child KSI casualties (aged 0-15) is reduced from 1 in 2015 to 0 in 2016.
- ◆ The number of cyclist casualties of all severities has increased by 10% from 20 in 2015 to 22 in 2016.
- ◆ Pedestrian casualties reduced by 21% to 11 in 2016 from 14 in 2015. The number of pedestrians killed or seriously injured from 0 in 2015 to 1 in 2016.
- ◆ The number of PTW casualties have decreased by 15% from 27 in 2015 to 23 in 2016. Amongst PTW's the numbers have risen for KSI's (17) which is 21% more than the total (14) recorded the previous year.
- ◆ A total of 143 road collisions that resulted in someone being injured were reported to the police in 2016, 10% less than in 2015 (159). This total works out at an average of 12 collisions per month or 3 per week.

With regard to the increase in the number of injuries involving two wheel modes of transport, the Area Highways Manager said that he would see whether anything could be done, from a highways perspective, to improve the situation.

The Chairman referred to children crossing the road in shopping areas, some of whom seemed to have no comprehension of the dangers. The Area Highways Manager said he would report back to the Road Safety Team the view that there was a need to reinforce Road Safety Modules.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

58. Richmond Highways Office - Update

Considered -

The oral report of the Area Highways Manager.

The Highways Manager advised that:

- with regard to the Tour de France closures, long term parking permits for residents would be issued. A letter about this would be going out today (28th March);
- resurfacing work funded from the Capital Programme would commence on 2nd April. Bids had been submitted for monies to fill in potholes and the share of this for Richmondshire could be £150,000.

Members made the following points:-

- A questionnaire that had been sent to Parish/Town Councils concerning Vehicle Activated Signs. A number of Parish/Town Councils had not received the letter. The Area Highways Manager said that he would look into this and respond to the Member.
- Some parts of the green areas in the Dales were being destroyed by heavy vehicles using side roads and not observing the requirement to keep off kerbs. Could anything be done about this? The Area Highways Manager advised that if a culprit was seen doing this and there was a witness, then they could be pursued for damage to the verge. However, the difficulty is that an individual spotted doing this could well be the latest in a long line of drivers who had driven in this manner. Therefore, it was almost impossible to say that the damage was attributable to that individual. Generally, the verges are left to dry up and repair on their own over time.
- The Member who raised the point above said he accepted what the Area Highways Manager said, but he recalled that posts used to be installed as a deterrent. The Area Highways Manager responded that there were occasions when this was done to protect areas or where Parish/Town Councils were permitted to install posts but, essentially, there was no resource for preventative work such as this. The County Council kept areas as safe as they needed to be. Some Parish/Town Councils pay for kerbing and the County Council tarmac these. If people come to the table, the County Council is happy to discuss potential solutions.
- Whilst it was pleasing to see that resurfacing had taken place in areas of Patrick Brompton, what was happening in Bedale? The Area Highways Manager advised that Bedale was not considered to be sufficiently in need of repair.
- Was there a process for the handing back of roads to the County Council's satisfaction? A Member was aware of a farmer who had a lot of mess caused to his land as a result of work in connection with the Bedale Bypass. The Area Highways Manager advised that a "snagging" list had been produced and this would be discussed with A12LB. If Members were aware of any particular issues, he would be happy to raise these at the discussions if they make him aware of them.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

59. Work Programme

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) advising the Committee of forthcoming business and seeking its views on the priority order of items that are not currently scheduled to be considered on any particular date.

Members noted that this would be the final meeting of the Committee in its current form prior to Area Committees being reconstituted (subject to County Council approval).

It was also noted that further consideration would be given to the Work Programme by the reconstituted Area Committees.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

60. Date, time and venue of next meeting

Resolved -

- (a) That the next meeting be held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 13 June 2018 at Middleham Key Centre in the Middle Dales Electoral Division.
- (b) Members are asked to notify Patrick Duffy (Democratic Services) by 23 May 2018 of issues on which they wish to report orally at the next meeting.

The Chairman commented that the time and venue might be changed as a result of the proposed refocusing of Area Committees.

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