

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at Hovingham Village Hall on Wednesday 4 July 2018 at 10.00 am.

**Present:-**

County Councillors Robert Baker, Lindsay Burr MBE, Keane Duncan, Caroline Goodrick, Peter Sowray, Helen Swiers, Roberta Swiers and Greg White.

Officers in attendance: Mary Davies, (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Daniel Harry (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager) and Alice Gill (Business Support Administrators).

8 members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies: County Councillors Val Arnold, Gareth Dadd, Caroline Patmore and Janet Sanderson.

**1. Appointment of Chairman**

**Resolved -**

That County Councillor Caroline Goodrick be appointed Chairman of the Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Committee until the first meeting of the Committee following the Annual Meeting of the County Council in May 2019.

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**County Councillor Caroline Goodrick in the Chair**

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**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

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**2. Minutes of the meetings of the former Hambleton and Ryedale Area Committees**

**Resolved –**

That the Minutes of the former Hambleton Area Committee held on 5 March 2018 and the former Ryedale Area Committee held on 14 February 2018, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**3. Appointment of Vice Chairman**

**Resolved -**

That County Councillor Keane Duncan be appointed Vice chairman of the Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Committee until the first meeting of the Committee following the Annual Meeting of the County Council in May 2019.

#### **4. Declarations of Interest**

County Councillor Lindsay Burr MBE advised that she was an OFSTED outstanding provider in the Ryedale area.

#### **5. Public Questions or Statements**

Mr Ian Conlan addressed the Committee with the following public question:

Having noted the swift deployment of a new 20mph speed limit area and other pedestrian safety measures outside the new site for part of Norton Community Primary School on Langton Road, who is going to take responsibility for ensuring a similarly swift deployment of a 20mph speed limit area and other pedestrian safety measures are brought in on Horsemarket Road, outside Kirkham Henry Performing Arts Centre, outside Kirkbymoorside Primary School, and Middlecave Road outside Malton Secondary School, BEFORE rather than after a serious accidents or series of serious accidents take place?

Additional information:

I will remind members that we are in the middle of an unprecedented expansion of Malton that over 10 year is putting an extra 1500 journeys a day onto Horsemarket Road WITH NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, making it more difficult than ever to feel it is safe to allow children and elderly people to cross the road safely. An accident on the Horsemarket Road last year involved a lorry taking the corner too fast, going into the middle of the road, and causing a car driver to swerve onto the pavement, where she collided with a parked vehicle parked wholly on the pavement. If that had been a child on the pavement, would we have measures in place by now?

I have also observed, and passed on my observations to Malton Secondary School Head, about parents AND school bus drivers driving too fast, and the Head has written to both parents and school bus drivers about it. Speed Kills. Today you have a chance to decide to do something to prevent speed killing or seriously injuring a child or adult on these roads.

The Chairman advised that the Highway's Officer was unable to attend the hearing and asked the Clerk to read out his statement to the public question:

The Local Highway Authority implements a rolling programme of Local Safety Schemes designed to reduce the number of casualties on the County's roads often through the introduction of measures designed to reduce vehicle speeds.

Collision cluster sites (four personal injury collisions in the last three years within a set search radius) and routes of concern are highlighted for investigation and where necessary engineering remedial measures are implemented to address the collision pattern. Sites with a higher number of collisions are prioritised but if the appropriate solution at a problematic site is beyond the budget available the scheme will be added to the County Councils reserve list for potential funding in the future. Sites without a personal injury collision history are not a high priority and are unlikely to receive funding for improvements.

In terms Kirkbymoorside Primary School and Malton Secondary School there have been no reported personal injury accidents along the adjacent stretch of road in the last 3 years. In terms of the Kirkham Henry Performing Arts Centre on Horsemarket Road it should be noted that a similar question was raised by Mr Ian Conlan at the Ryedale Area Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and addressed by Mr James Malcolm, Area Manager Highways. The situation here has not changed in that there has only been one reported personal injury accident along Horsemarket Road (2015) which was not speed related. None of the 3 locations mentioned meet the criteria whereby an intervention is required.

With regard to the new Primary School on Langton Road, due to limited visibility from the site access and to ensure that the available sight line was appropriate to the speed of traffic on Langton Road, measures were required to bring vehicle speeds down to 20mph.

The Chairman noted that an email of support for the public question had been received from Mr Simon Thackray and also a question regarding speeding on Horsemarket Road in Malton and a letter from the 95 Alive Community partnership Officer dated 23 June 2014.

The Clerk read out a reply statement from the Highways Officer:

Horsemarket Road was considered again by the 95 Alive Partnership through the Road Safety Task Group in 2016 and their decision was “no further action required.”

The Chairman stated that the Constitution was clear regarding public questions and that there should be no debate by the Committee, however, she allowed the local members to comment on the public question and raise their concerns. It was agreed that these concerns could be raised during the work programme item.

## **6. Area Constituency Committees - A Suggested Way Forward**

Considered -

The report of Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) updating on the role of the Area Constituency Committee and outlining suggestions for: a standard agenda; co-option of Members; management of regular updates and links with NYCC Overview and Scrutiny.

Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, Daniel Harry, introduced the report highlighting a Guide to Area Constituency Committees (ACCs) attached as an Appendix to the report.

He explained that the ACCs provided a fresh start and a new way of working, different to the former Area Committees. The report provided details as to how their operation would vary and provided an opportunity for Members to ask questions in relation to that.

He noted that, with four scheduled meetings per year, ACCs did not have a substantial period of time to consider the minutiae of issues within the local area and it was expected that a scrutiny review approach would be adopted, giving consideration to in-depth issues at each meeting (one or two), enabling a more strategic approach to significant matters, within the constituency area, to be undertaken.

### Co-option

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team Manager noted that the previous Area Committees had co-opted a wide range of representatives, which had proved useful in terms of the consideration of specific local issues, but may not be compatible with the development of specialist, technical matters in terms of how the ACCs would be operating in future. It was stated that the ACC was free to co-opt whomever it wished, however, it may be more appropriate to undertake co-options to provide specialist knowledge, on a short term basis, to have an impact on the issues being considered.

Members raised the following issues and points in relation to the possibility of co-opting to the Committee:-

- There was broad support for the Committee to be predominantly County Council Member representatives and for consideration to be given to identifying specialist co-opted members to assist on specific issues. It was noted that many County Council Members are dual hatted.

- Members noted that there was a difference between co-opting people onto the Committee and people who are invited to speak on particular issues.

### Regular updates

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team Manager asked Members to consider whether they felt it necessary to have these updates at each meeting – particularly when they were often routine in nature. He considered that these updates took up a lot of time and the thrust of the Committee's work should, ideally, be in taking action to progress issues, rather than noting information. Furthermore, he was mindful that with four, three hour meetings each year, there was quite limited time and the Committee needed to make the most of that time. He suggested that these updates could be managed in alternative ways such as through an annual session such as community safety.

During discussion of this matter Members raised the following issues and points:-

- It was suggested that should any significant issues, of strategic importance, arise during the year, involving the organisations outlined, they could be invited to a specific meeting to discuss those matters.
- There had been a good liaison between the former Area Committees and the Police and Fire Service and it was emphasised that these connections should not be lost through the new arrangements.
- The Committee agreed that updates from the Police, Fire and Rescue Service and Stronger Communities should be published in the agenda papers on a quarterly basis as 'to note' only. The only exception to this is where a Committee Member or Member of the Public has highlighted an issue to the Democratic Services Officer or to the Chairman ahead of the meeting that needs to be addressed. A decision is then made about how best to respond, either outside of the meeting or at the meeting itself.
- The Committee agreed that the Highway's England representative should be invited to every meeting.

### Highways

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team Manager referred to highways issues often being localised. Whilst not underestimating their importance to local Members, there were other routes that could be utilised. The new ACCs would undertake a more strategic consideration of highways matters, with more local issues dealt with directly through the local highways office through the Parish portal, County Council website, County Council Contact Centre and through County Councillors.

During discussion of this matter Members raised the following issues and points:-

- Members emphasised that there was an appropriate reporting system available, both for themselves and for local Parishes, which could be utilised to address specific highways issues.
- Members noted that the Thirsk and Malton Constituency covered three previous area committee areas and moving forward any attendance by Highways would need to benefit the whole constituency area.

### Standard and Timed Agenda

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team Manager asked Members to consider adopting a standard and timed Agenda on the basis that this would ensure a consistent approach to dealing with local issues and concerns whilst also enabling time to be reserved for a focussed review or scrutiny of an issue identified in the Work Programme.

## Links with Overview and Scrutiny

It was noted that the County Council's Overview and Scrutiny were to develop a closer working relationship with the ACCs, enabling the in-depth topics considered by the Committees to feed into scrutiny reviews, providing a local input into those. It was also expected that ACCs could identify local issues that may be worthy of consideration at overarching scrutiny level.

Scrutiny issues that were predominantly within a specific area could also be considered more in-depth by the ACC than the overarching Scrutiny Committee, which would be then able to develop overall scrutiny more strategically on county-wide matters.

Support would again be provided via Scrutiny Officers and Democratic Support Officers to ensure that appropriate dialogue was taking place to prevent duplication of scrutiny issues.

### **Resolved -**

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That, co-option be limited to obtaining expert advice on specific topics, should that be considered to be appropriate, by the Committee;
- (iii) That Highways England be invited to attend each meeting of the Committee;
- (iv) That updates from organisations such as the Police; the Fire and Rescue Service and the Stronger Communities Team be made quarterly – for information only, however, where a Committee Member or Member of the Public has highlighted an issue to the Democratic Services Officer or to the Chairman ahead of the meeting that needs to be addressed, the Chairman will decide how best to respond either outside of the meeting or at the meeting itself.
- (v) That representatives of Highways do not routinely attend the ACC, unless required to do so in relation to a strategic topic being discussed by the Committee or any local concerns about highways prior to the meeting.
- (vi) That consideration as to how the co-ordination of county level scrutiny and local in-depth reviews may benefit one another and also provide the Committee with an escalation route, be discussed on a case by case basis by the Chairmen and Vice Chairman of this Committee; Overview and Scrutiny Committee and appropriate officers.
- (vii) That a standardised and timed agenda, as detailed within the report, to include indicative timings, be adopted along the following lines:-

<b>Item</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Minutes of the last meeting	5 minutes
Declarations of interest	
Apologies	
Chairman's announcements	10 minutes
Public questions or statements	30 minutes
Topic for scrutiny or focussed review	90 minutes
Members questions or statements	15 minutes
Work programme review	15 minutes
Other business which the Chairman agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances	

## **7. Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Committee - Area Profile**

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) providing an overview of some of the key issues in the area covered by the Area Constituency Committee.

The report was introduced by the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team Manager who advised that the area profile has been produced to enable Members to better understand the area covered by the new Committee. It also enabled Members to identify issues that may be worth further consideration by the Committee. He highlighted:

- Top line statistics and key topics.
- Map of area highlighting areas of interest.
- Local insight report containing key social and economic indicators.
- Education data for the past three years.

Headlines within the report included:-

- An ageing population with a greater proportion over 65 years of age and a smaller proportion under 15 years of age
- Lower levels of benefits being claimed
- Low levels of deprivation except for the measures for access to housing and the living environment
- Query about the quality local environment and the impact upon health and wellbeing for children
- Higher levels of people providing unpaid care
- Higher numbers of second homes ownership
- Lower house prices
- Higher numbers of vacant dwellings
- Lower levels of crime
- Higher levels of stroke
- Higher levels of binge drinking
- Higher levels of self-employment
- Higher levels of people in skilled trades
- The primary occupation is agriculture
- Low Broadband speeds, particularly download
- Strong sense of community and community engagement
- Lower levels of Big Lottery funding secured locally
- Lower levels of attainment at schools at all levels and lower numbers of Ofsted rated 'good or outstanding schools' (education).

The data was presented for Members' information and to allow them to consider issues for the Committee's Work Programme based on the details indicated.

**Resolved -**

That the report, information provided and issues highlighted be noted.

## **8. Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Committee Draft Work Programme**

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) providing a draft Work Programme for the Area Constituency Committee to consider, develop and adopt. Members were invited to consider the issues raised within the Area Profile and the

remit of the Committee, as set out in the report, with a view to developing and adopting a Work Programme for the scheduled meetings for 2018/19, going forward.

Members undertook a discussion of potential items for the Work Programme and the following issues were suggested for its next meeting:

- Fairer funding formula for local government.
- A64.
- Rail and East/West Connectivity.

Members agreed with these suggestions and made the following points:-

- The discussion with the MP should not be adversarial. Equally, it would be hoped that he would not seek to make party political points. It might be helpful to ask him for his “top 10 issues” currently.
- Consideration should be given as to how the discussion with the local MP is publicised.

Members agreed that the funding of Adult Social Care/The Green Paper on Adult Social Care should be included in the Work Programme for the November meeting.

The Committee highlighted their concerns with regard to public questions and the need for debate on these questions by members of the public and the Committee.

The Chairman stated that she would take account of the issues raised by Members in relation to the development of the Work Programme and would liaise with Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officers to develop an appropriate Work Programme for the Committee for 2018/19 which would be submitted for approval at the next meeting of the Committee.

#### **Resolved -**

- That the main topics for the next meeting of the Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> September comprise:-
  - Fairer funding formula for local government.
  - A64.
  - Rail and East/West Connectivity.
- That the funding of Adult Social Care/The Green Paper on Adult Social Care be added to the Work Programme for the Committee’s 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 meeting.
- That it be noted the Work Programme will develop and evolve and be considered at each meeting of this Committee.

#### **9. Next Meeting**

Kevin Hollinrake MP would be invited to attend the September meeting.

In terms of venues it was suggested that the Committee meet at a central location in the constituency. It should be ensured that venues were fully accessible, had good transport links and provided appropriate facilities. It was emphasised that it was important, when engaging with the public, that they were able to access the meetings accordingly.

Members agreed that the Committees’ meetings for the first year should be held centrally in the Malton or Norton area.

**Resolved -**

That the next meeting of the Thirsk and Malton Area Constituency Committee will be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 10 a.m. at a venue to be agreed by the Chairman in the Malton or Norton area.

The meeting concluded at 11.49 a.m.

MD