



MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIPON HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2020

Present

Cllr E Parkin - The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Cllr S Craggs
Cllr M Chambers
Cllr C Davis
Cllr C Hardisty
Cllr S Hawke
Cllr P M Horton
Cllr P McHardy
Cllr S Martin
Cllr C Powell
Cllr A Williams

In Attendance

Andrew Towleron, Locum Clerk
Rebecca Perrin, Administrator
Several members of the public

129/20	<p>To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence. Apologies were received and reasons for absence approved from Cllr Bate.</p>
130/20	<p>Members of the public are invited to question, seek clarification or make representation to members of the Council on any Agenda item as listed below. No questions were received.</p>
131/20	<p>To request any disclosure of an interest in relation to any matter under consideration at this meeting (financial or otherwise) & to consider any written requests for dispensation. None declared.</p>
132/20	<p>To consider the planning application in respect of the Re-development of Ripon Barracks – 20/02973/EIAMAJ and to receive the reports from the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Transport Consultant;2. Planning Consultant;3. To receive the response to the application from Ripon Civic Society; <p>and to formulate a response to the planning application for return to Harrogate Borough Council.</p> <p>A wide-ranging and detailed discussion took place on this item. The Council reemphasised that it was not opposed to the principle of the redevelopment of the site, but the proposal in its current form was not acceptable. If approved it would cause serious harm to the local community for a variety of reasons including increased vehicular traffic, highway safety and pressure on already stretched services such as schools and sporting and community facilities. It was reported that the concerns of the Council have been supported and underlined by the two studies it had commissioned, one from a planning consultant and the other a transport consultant, as well as a detailed and robust response from Ripon Civic Society and the number of objections received to the planning application.</p> <p>The general view was that the HBC should defer making a decision on the planning application until the issues raised by Ripon City Council, Ripon Civic Society and others have been fully addressed. Failing this, the application should be refused in its current form.</p> <p>The following was agreed:</p>

1. Ripon City Council notes, endorses and approves the Transport Report drafted by David Walpole
2. Ripon City Council notes, endorses and approves the objection statement drafted by Arrowsmith Associates.
3. Ripon City Council notes and broadly supports the objections raised by Ripon Civic Society.
4. Ripon City Council resolves to object to the granting of any outline planning consent on the Ripon Barracks site until the issues highlighted by the Transport Report are fully addressed and resolved.
5. Ripon City Council writes to HBC and the applicant requesting that formal consideration of the application is deferred until such times as these issues have been fully addressed including a copy of the Transport Report with such request.
6. Ripon City Council has never objected and does not object to the basic principle of redevelopment of the Barracks site but such development must not be to the detriment of existing residents amenity.
7. The Transport Report is forwarded to North Yorkshire Highways requesting that they intervene and address the issues which are raised by the report and that a copy is forwarded to Cllr Carl Les, Leader of NYCC, asking that he ensures that the matter receives urgent attention.
8. A copy of the report be forwarded to Julian Smith MP, and asking him to press for the application to be deferred until the highway issues are properly addressed.
9. The applicant is invited to hold further discussions with RCC on the findings of the report and how the applicant intends to address and resolve them.
10. A copy of the report be forwarded to the Spa Residents Action Group
11. The report, statement of objection and the objections of Ripon Civic Society all be placed on our website so that members of the public may lodge further objections based on these documents.
12. David Walpole be retained as a consultant to advise Ripon City Council further in respect of this application and Counsel opinion be sought on the issues raised by his report and those in the objections of Ripon Civic Society. To enable such opinion to be obtained as soon as possible delegated authority to appoint is granted to the Clerk in consultation with Cllr Williams as Leader and Cllr Chambers as HBC and NYCC member for the ward.
13. Once that opinion is received, a special full Council to be called to discuss such advice received; given that this will be to receive legal advice this item of business to be held in private session.

Proposed – Cllr A Williams	Seconded – Cllr Hawke
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Resolved by a unanimous show of hands.

133/20

Events

To receive an update on Remembrance Sunday.

An update was provided by the Chairman on arrangements for Remembrance Sunday this November. It was explained that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions, there was doubt if this could take place this year safely, and if so, in a much more limited form.

134/20

Christmas Lights

1. **To receive an update, if appropriate, in respect of the Christmas Lights display for 2020 and to agree appropriate action;**
2. **To agree to fund the cost of removal of the Ripon Community Poppy Project's display from the front of the Town Hall to allow the Christmas Lights to be installed.**

The Chairman provided an update on arrangements for the Christmas Lights display 2020. He explained that these were progressing well and was confident that they would be in place in advance of the Christmas Season.

The Chairman went on to explain that in order to facilitate this, it would be necessary to remove the Ripon Community Poppy Project's display from the front of the Town Hall to enable the Christmas Lights to be installed. Based on the costs of previous year for providing this service, he estimated that the fee would be about £110 including VAT.

The following was agreed:

That Ripon City Council agrees to fund the cost of the removal of the Ripon Community Poppy Project's display from the front of the Town Hall to allow the Christmas Lights to be installed.

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135/20	<p>Devolution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update from NYCC on their plans for Devolution and to receive and consider a response to the email dated 7th October 2020. Community Governance Review. <p>Wide-ranging discussion took place on these related issues. It was noted that both the plans for a local government organisation in North Yorkshire and NYCC's proposals for the devolution of services and assets to town and parish councils in the county were likely to have significant implications for the Council, which would require careful and detailed consideration.</p> <p>It was suggested that it may be better to defer this item to a future meeting to enable sufficient time to consider it, and indeed it may be necessary to hold a special Full Council meeting to discuss that as it was unlikely that sufficient time could not be provided as part of a normal Full Council meeting.</p> <p>The following was agreed: The NYCC plans for devolution of services and assets and the Community Governance Review be the subject of a special meeting of the Full Council where these will be the main items for discussion.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Proposed – Cllr A Williams</td> <td>Seconded – Cllr McHardy</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Resolved by a unanimous show of hands.</td> </tr> </table>	Proposed – Cllr A Williams	Seconded – Cllr McHardy	Resolved by a unanimous show of hands.	
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136/20	<p>Governance</p> <p>To receive the Internal Audit report dated 22 September 2020 and to agree appropriate action including the consideration of the invoice due for payment.</p> <p>It was reported that the Council had received the Internal Auditor's report for the last financial year. This looked at the effectiveness of the Councils financial management processes and procedures. The report's findings were generally positive though did identify a few areas of improvement.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that the report had been received after the agreed deadline, and even taking into account Covid 19, this was unacceptable.</p> <p>The following was agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> That the Internal Audit report dated 22 September be noted and agreed. That the Clerk is asked to prepare an action plan based on the identified areas of improvement in the report and that this be brought to a future meeting of the Council for consideration. That the payment of the invoice to Yorkshire Internal Audit Services be approved subject to a 50% reduction in the stated fee to reflect that they had not met the deadline for its receipt and the inconvenience this caused. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Proposed – Cllr A Williams</td> <td>Seconded – Cllr Hawke</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Resolved by a unanimous show of hands.</td> </tr> </table>	Proposed – Cllr A Williams	Seconded – Cllr Hawke	Resolved by a unanimous show of hands.	
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137/20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To receive a verbal report from Cllr Williams on the following items and agree appropriate action: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bedern Court land subsidence <p>It was agreed that in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. Also, that the item should be moved to the end of the agenda.</p> 				

	<p>ii. Bondgate Bridge - pavement and road surface It was reported that the condition of the pavement and road surface in and around Bondgate Bridge was the subject of several complaints. It was agreed that these should be raised with NYCC.</p> <p>iii. Market Place - road surface The Chairman explained that these were not in good condition and for some time. In particular, the 'sets' were uneven and 'rising up', and some were now in a dangerous condition.</p> <p>It was noted that the original road surface works undertaken by HBC had been supported by English Heritage funding and this may have implications for the extent to which they can be repaired and replaced. The general view was that this funding was provided some time ago and should not act as a barrier to their repair.</p> <p>iv. Site of 15 to 22 Low Mill Estate – potential planning enforcement issue It was reported that this development had been the subject of several complaints from members of the public including that the works not been undertaken in accordance with the planning approval and there were unreasonable hours of operation during construction, including early mornings and weekends. Councillor Hawke reported that he understood that HBC was aware of the issues. It was agreed that the Council should raise these complaints with HBC.</p>
138/20	<p>1. To consider Planning Matters as detailed in the attached appendix;</p> <p>2. Email from a member of public regarding 1 Skellgarths and 18 Water Skellgate Reference was made to correspondence the Council had received concerning the poor condition of this site. Several members stated that they were also concerned about its condition and had also received complaints from members of the public about its condition. It was an 'eye-sore' made worse by its prominent location in the Town.</p> <p>It was reported that Harrogate BC was progressing enforcement action, but understood this was complicated due to the owner of the site going bankrupt.</p>
139/20	<p>To receive the following reports:</p> <p>Reports from Harrogate Borough Councillors if appropriate – for information only; Reports and updates were provided from the various Harrogate Borough Councillors.</p> <p>Reports from North Yorkshire County Councillors if appropriate – for information only; Councillors Chambers and Martin provided an update including reports on the devolution proposals.</p> <p>Reports from members and/or the Clerk on external organisations. There were none.</p>
140/20	<p>Mayoral Announcements – for information. It was agreed that the Council should formally record its thanks to Rebecca Perrin, Ripon City Council's Administrator for organising, and her conduct through, the meeting.</p>
141/20	<p>Bedern Court land subsidence</p> <p>A general discussion took place on this matter and it was agreed that the council would write a letter.</p> <p>.</p>

138/20	<p>Planning matters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To receive the Planning Appendix. Planning applications as listed below to be considered and responses agreed to the consultations being carried out by the Planning Authority: <p><i>Details of all planning applications listed below can be viewed online prior to the meeting at:</i></p> <p>http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/plan/Pages/New%20Plan/Find-an-application.aspx</p>					
	<p>20/03148/FUL</p>	<p>Spa Hotel, Park Street, Ripon, HG4 2BU.</p> <p>Demolition of existing annex and garage workshop and construction of 8 no. unit apartment block.</p> <p>It was agreed that Ripon City Council would object to this planning application especially on the grounds it would result in the loss of an important employment site and was contrary to the Ripon Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="272 808 1342 907"> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 808 810 857">Proposed by Cllr Chambers</td> <td data-bbox="815 808 1342 857">Seconded by Cllr McHardy</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="272 864 1342 907">Resolved by a unanimous show of hands.</td> </tr> </table>	Proposed by Cllr Chambers	Seconded by Cllr McHardy	Resolved by a unanimous show of hands.	
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These minutes were recorded and prepared by Andrew Towleron, Locum Clerk.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR