



## **COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIPON OFFICIAL NOTICE OF A MEETING OF THE ALDERMAN SPENCE COMMITTEE**

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Location:** Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ripon.

Council Members: Cllrs Martin-Long, Duncan, Horton, Hardisty, Flatley, and McHardy.

You are summoned to attend an Alderman Spence Committee meeting for the purposes of determining the agenda items listed below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P M Benson'.

P M Benson  
Chief Officer  
4<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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### **AGENDA**

<b>39/25</b>	<b>1. To receive apologies for absence. 2. To approve reasons for absence.</b>
<b>40/25</b>	<b>To request any disclosure of an interest in relation to any matter under consideration at this meeting (financial or otherwise) &amp; to consider any written requests for dispensation.</b>
<b>41/25</b>	<b>Members of the public are invited to question, seek clarification or make representation to members of the Committee on any agenda item as listed below.</b>
<b>42/25</b>	<b>To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</b>
<b>43/25</b>	<b>To receive the following reports and agree appropriate action: 1. Clerk's report. 2. Warden's report.</b>
<b>44/25</b>	<b>To receive an update on the award of the contract/partnership agreement following the meeting of Full Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 and to agree appropriate action.</b>
<b>45/25</b>	<b>To receive an update on the Natural England and SSSI matters: 1. To receive an update on the Natural England Management Plan and Higher-Level Stewardship agreement renewal. 2. To receive an update on Himalayan Balsam Control and agree appropriate action. 3. To receive correspondence from Natural England dated 29.05.2025 and agree appropriate action. 4. To receive correspondence from Environment Agency dated 29.05.2025 and to note that the appeal has been withdrawn (Alderman T F Spence Committee resolution 23/25 3 refers).</b>

<b>46/25</b>	<p><b>To note the position on the various matters on the site and agree appropriate action:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Hut.</b></li> <li>2. <b>Trees.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <b>To consider an undertaking of a tree survey.</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <b>Fencing.</b></li> <li>4. <b>Car Park.</b></li> <li>5. <b>Litter bin.</b></li> <li>6. <b>Dog fouling.</b></li> </ol>
<b>47/25</b>	<b>To note the time and date of the next meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at 6:00pm.</b>

**Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 1DD  
01765 604097**



## COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIPON MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ALDERMAN SPENCE COMMITTEE

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
**Time:** 6:00pm  
**Location:** Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ripon.

**Present:**

Cllr Julie Ann Martin-Long  
Cllr Tony Duncan  
Cllr Peter Horton  
Cllr Chris Hardisty  
Cllr Stuart Flatley  
Cllr Pauline McHardy

**In Attendance**

Chief Officer  
Senior Administration Officer  
Four members of the public

28/25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>To elect a Chairman of the Committee.</b> That Councillor Martin-Long be elected as a Chairman of the Committee. <b>RESOLVED.</b></li><li><b>To elect a Deputy Chairman of the Committee.</b> That Councillor Duncan be elected as a Deputy Chairman of the Committee. <b>RESOLVED.</b></li><li><b>To receive apologies for absence.</b> None.</li><li><b>To approve reasons for absence.</b> None.</li></ol>
29/25	<b>To request any disclosure of an interest in relation to any matter under consideration at this meeting (financial or otherwise) &amp; to consider any written requests for dispensation.</b> None.
30/25	<b>Members of the public are invited to question, seek clarification or make representation to members of the Committee on any agenda item as listed below.</b> None.
31/25	<b>To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025.</b> That these be approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. <b>RESOLVED.</b>
32/25	<b>To receive the following reports and agree appropriate action:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Clerk's report.</b> The Chief Officer provided an update on resolution 26/25 5i; West Lane development; ongoing negotiations with the Army regarding the hut; negotiations with McDonalds; an update from North Yorkshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service and an update on the registration process with Land Registry. The Chief Officer further clarified that the Charity's Constitution will require updating and explained the distinction between the respective responsibilities of the Charity and the Council.</li><li><b>Warden's report.</b></li></ol>



	<p>That this be received and noted. <b>RESOLVED.</b></p>
33/25	<p><b>To receive an update on Financial and Governance Matters:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To receive an Income and Expenditure Report for the period between 01.04.2025 and 30.04.2025.</b> That this be received and noted. <b>RESOLVED.</b></li> </ol>
34/25	<p><b>To receive an update on the Natural England and SSSI matters:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To receive an update on the Natural England Management Plan and Higher-Level Stewardship agreement renewal.</b> It was noted that a meeting with Natural England to discuss the application in more detail has been arranged for Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</li> <li><b>To receive an update from the engaged consultant and agree the appropriate action.</b> It was noted that a further update may be available following the meeting with Natural England scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</li> <li><b>To consider Himalayan Balsam Control and agree appropriate action.</b> That the contractor who undertook the Himalayan Balsam control works in the previous year be appointed again this year, subject to a quote not exceeding £1,500.00, and that the Chief Officer be authorised to proceed accordingly. <b>RESOLVED.</b></li> </ol>
35/25	<p><b>To receive an update on nominations for non-voting members prior to their nominations being received by Full Council, and to receive any new nominations.</b> It was noted that the representative from Natural England had declined her nomination due to a conflict of interest. That a recommendation be made to the Full Council to appoint Tanya Bahrouni, mental health nurse, as a non-voting member of the Committee. <b>RESOLVED.</b></p>
36/25	<p><b>To agree to develop relationships with community partners.</b> That the Office make enquiries to identify local businesses that may be willing to support Quarry Moor. <b>RESOLVED.</b></p>
37/25	<p><b>To note the position on the various matters on the site and agree appropriate action:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hut.</b> That this be returned to the next meeting for further consideration. <b>RESOLVED.</b></li> <li><b>Trees.</b> That this be returned to the next meeting for further consideration. <b>RESOLVED.</b></li> <li><b>Fencing.</b> That this be returned to the next meeting for further consideration. <b>RESOLVED.</b></li> <li><b>Car Park.</b> That this be returned to the next meeting for further consideration. <b>RESOLVED.</b></li> <li><b>Litter bin.</b></li> <li><b>Dog fouling.</b> That this be received and noted.</li> </ol>

	<b>RESOLVED.</b>
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<b>38/25</b>	<b>To note the time and date of the next meeting - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 at 6:00pm.</b> That additional meetings be called on Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 6:00pm and Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025 at 6:00pm.
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With business concluded the Chair closed the meeting at 6:58pm.

**Signed** .....

**Chairman**

**Dated** .....

DRAFT



# QUARRY MOOR NATURE RESERVE

43-25-2

## WARDEN'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES. EARLY JUNE 2025

The Reserve is looking very healthy at the moment. The recent rains have reinvigorated the ground vegetation, which was beginning to look tired and dry following the prolonged rainless period. Most, if not all, of the Hawthorn blossom has been fertilised and is forming into berries; likewise, the Crab Apple tree blossoms are now beginning to develop into fruits. The dominant tree blossom at the moment is Elder; if it follows the trees that have already been successfully fertilised there will be an abundance of berries later in the season to feed the birds. The birdlife of the Reserve is presently in a good state. Many species are still in full song, notably the Thrushes and Warblers; Blackbirds, Song Thrushes, Blackcaps, Willow Warblers and Cliff Chaffs can all be heard from the Car Park, whilst a little further down the main track a Great Spotted Woodpecker is constantly being very noisy, possibly breeding.

The Reserve's most important species, the Red Data Book listed Thistle Broomrape, has already started to appear, earlier than usual. Judging by the number already present, it looks like it will be another good year in 2025 for this rare and mysterious flower. Another of Quarry Moor's special plants - the Adder's Tongue Fern - is doing well this Spring. Although only in one small area, this Nationally declining species is holding its own on the site.

Unfortunately, the same rains that have helped our native flora have also spurred on the unwanted invasive Himalayan Balsam. Large patches are beginning to show in the eastern edge of the old refuse tip and the western edge of the Middle Pasture.

I was asked to look at some trees at the rear of unit no. 16, Quarry Moor New Park. Following a communication from the resident who was complaining about them, I did so on Friday 30 May. The resident was not in but I entered the property to check them out. In my opinion there is valid concern regarding the trees, in respect of loss of light and danger from falling dead timber, and professional attention is required.

There has been some digging up of turves in the Dell Area, at the rear of the Picnic Area. They appear to have been used by children to form ramps along a mountain bike trail. This area is ear-marked for scrubland creation, so once the fencing has been repaired access will be denied and the problem eradicated.

There have been no serious instances of vandalism or major littering of the site in the last few weeks. Dog fouling of course remains a constant problem.

ROBERT ADAMS

RESERVE WARDEN.



**Up date on Quarry Moor for April and May 2025.****Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ)**

The Secretary of State of DEFRA (Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) wrote to Ripon City Council because it appeared to the Dept. that the Council “own or occupy one or more 'relevant holding(s)' that, as of 12 February 2025, falls wholly or partly within an area designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) for 2025-2028.

A 'relevant holding' is defined under Regulation 5(5) of the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015 ('the Regulations') as any land and associated buildings which are used for growing crops in soil or rearing livestock for agricultural purposes, located within a designated NVZ.

Where DEFRA got the idea that Quarry Moor was used for growing crops or rearing livestock is a mystery. What was also apparent from the email letter was the opportunity to appeal against the assumption that Quarry Moor was a farm within an NVZ. There was no get out clause in this one size fits all notice and RCC was advised to appeal. I duly gave the Assistant Clerk the necessary phrases and maps to submit an appeal.

A response has been received noting that RCC should withdraw its appeal as Quarry Moor as a nature reserve is not a relevant holding and does not come under the notice!

**Natural England visit prior to applying to be part of the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, and removal of the soil bund adjacent to the SSSI boundary**

Sophie Crease, Higher Officer, Nature recovery and Protected Sites at Natural England has been pro active and extremely helpful in these two actions. The latter was direct contact with Taylor Wimpey alerting the company to its disregard to the specific planning requirement of no heavy machinery within 30 metres of the SSSI boundary; the company was unaware of the requirement as Homes England had failed to inform them of the planning condition; the bund was removed.

Sophie's pre application visit examined the current management plan for Quarry Moor and talked through the funding that would be available should the application be successful she stressed that education visits will provide significant funding. Was help from the Royal Engineers for the refurbishment of the Activities Centre available?

The new scheme is likely to run for 5 years, and 3 years for an education plan. The needs to be a separate Woodland management plan worked out with the Forestry Commission, with help from Natural England.

Funding for signs and seats at specific points could be progressed, a fire check list, fencing and possibly SFI (Sustainable Farming Incentive) funding for the big pasture,

Mick Stanley  
June 2025.

**Anzhelika Kumurzhy**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 29 May 2025 11:09  
**To:** Anzhelika Kumurzhy  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Quarry Moor

Hi Anzhelika

I hope you are well and that you received the 'Pre application email' from the RPA email address. After I met with you, I had a quick look at the site and found a few odd patches in the scrubby area that is also known as the Dell which look like they have been dug with a spade. I'm just curious to see if you know what they are? I'm attaching a few photos and have marked the location on the map below:













**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Admin](#)  
**Subject:** NVZ Appeal - FT/NVZ/2025/0003  
**Date:** 29 May 2025 16:35:54

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**Appeal Number: FT/NVZ/2025/0003**

FAO Paula Benson

I am writing regarding the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) appeal relating to Alderman T F Spence Charity's holding at Quarry Moor Nature Reserve.

Based on the information you have supplied, the land for which you are appealing is not a relevant holding for the purpose of the Regulations (land which is used for growing crops in soil or rearing livestock for agricultural purposes). You can therefore ignore the notice and you do not need to take any further action in regard to the requirements of the Regulations, as they do not apply to the land for which you are appealing.

We therefore invite you to withdraw your appeal. To do this, you can reply to this email to confirm that you withdraw your appeal and also send the email to the Tribunal ([grc@Justice.gov.uk](mailto:grc@Justice.gov.uk)).

Please confirm whether you would like to withdraw your appeal by **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025**.

If we don't hear back from you, we will request that your case is struck out due to your land not being a relevant holding.

You may have received this designation notice as there is an SBI number attached to the land registered to your address. If this is incorrect you can return the letter to the Rural Payments Agency at the address given at the end of the notice sent to you.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding your appeal.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



## Harvesting Success:

Pollution Prevention Rules for Farmers



*Working together for environmentally sustainable farming*

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