



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

40/26

Date: 20th April 2026
Time: 2:00pm
Location: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ripon.

Present:
 Cllr Martin-Long
 Cllr Duncan
 Cllr Hardisty
 Cllr McHardy
 Cllr Flatley
 M Stanley (Non-voting member of committee)
 J Geddes (Honorary Member)
 Cllr Cundall-Lister (Non-voting member of committee)
 T Bahrouni (Non-voting member of committee)
 Simon Warwick & Colleague (LUCT) (Non-voting member of committee)
 David Taylor (Non-voting member of committee)

In Attendance:
 Deputy Chief Officer
 Administrator

Sally Taylor
 Chief Officer
 15th April 2026

MINUTES

26/26	<p>1. To receive apologies for absence. Cllr Horton</p> <p>2. To approve reasons for absence.</p> <p>APPROVED.</p>
27/26	<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.</p> <p>NONE.</p>
28/26	<p>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.</p> <p>A member of public commented on the cliff face, and another made comment on the benches. The Chair advised a private meeting would be held with those after the official meeting.</p> <p>RECEIVED.</p>
29/26	<p>To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9/3/2026</p> <p>APPROVED.</p>
30/26	<p>To receive an update on Financial and Governance Matters:</p> <p>1. To receive HSBC statements from 1st March 2026-1st April 2026</p> <p>The Chair commented that the committee should observe the regular payments that are debited and what it is costing the charity on a monthly basis.</p> <p>RECEIVED.</p>

	<p>2. Rural Payments Agency funding update</p> <p>The committee was advised that Sophie Crease was leaving the position at Natural England. The committee was advised that the application had been finalised and that we are now waiting for funding to reach the charity.</p> <p>RECIEVED</p>
31/26	<p>To receive the following verbal reports and agree appropriate action:</p> <p>1. Warden's report.</p> <p>Comment was made by a member of the committee that the weekly reports were repetitive with no action being taken on the issues in hand such as broken fences, litter, dog waste etc. A question was asked about the sum of £613.60 that debits the bank account every month and what this payment covered. It was commented that there needs to be more positive and proactiveness regarding the findings of the reports. The question asked by The Chair was 'who's job is it – as a Warden'.</p> <p>The question was asked why the work such as brambles across a path were not tidied by the Warden. It was reported that no current job description was in place and PPE was not in use. It was reported that there may be some confusion with the work in hand due to LUCT also providing tidying duties.</p> <p>RECEIVED</p> <p>2. LUCT report</p> <p>It was reported that there was a problem with the spreading of Himalayan Balsam and that it would need acting on before it gets out of control. A comment was made that it would be a great community project to pull it up. LUCT offered to go to site to also act on the removal of this.</p> <p>RECEIVED</p>
32/26	<p>To consider a replanting programme</p> <p>It was noted that we were obligated to replant felled trees within 10 years of felling. Trees dedicated in memory to be an option. Trees to be planted where they need to be planted for ecological purposes. The opening of The Canopy needs to be addressed too. Also, the maintenance of new trees needs to be considered.</p> <p>Administrator to research this programme.</p> <p>APPROVED</p>
33/26	<p>To consider and approve the installation of new benches</p> <p>Administrator to meet Jeremy Dunford on site 21st April.</p> <p>DEFERRED</p>
34/26	<p>To receive an update on The Hut and consider next action</p> <p>Members of the committee and volunteers have spent a considerable amount of time cleaning up The Hut. It has been noted that due to the fact The Hut has been left for so long in disrepair that demolition may have to be an option.</p> <p>The Hut would be a huge asset if in full operational order for such things as Forest Schools and Mental Health Hub. There needs to be firm plans to replace The Hut if it is demolished.</p> <p>A minuted resolution to remove and replace needs to be taken to Full Council.</p> <p>Homes England have been considered to demolish & provide a new hut taken from Deverell Barracks to be recycled for this purpose. Cllr Duncan has written to Homes England with this suggestion. The use of Portakabin's would also be an option. It was agreed that this needs acting on now. It was noted that there is access to funds to act on this. It was proposed that the matter be added to the Agenda for Full Council for demolition and replacement of The Hut in June.</p> <p>APPROVED.</p>
35/26	<p>To consider the formation of 'Friends of Quarry Moor' volunteer group</p> <p>The Administrator is to research this.</p> <p>APPROVED.</p>
36/26	<p>To discuss a planned series of Heritage Events for 2026</p> <p>Richard Taylor spoke regarding a series of Heritage Open Days where Quarry Moor could be celebrated in a single day between 9th - 20th September. This could be linked to the proposal of an 'Open Day'</p> <p>RECEIVED</p>

Next Meeting: Monday 18th May 2:00pm

Signed

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Date