



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

Date: 9th June 2025
Time: 6:00pm
Location: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ripon.

Present	Cllr Martin-Long (Chairman)
	Cllr Duncan
	Cllr Flatley
	Cllr Hardisty
	Cllr Horton
	Cllr McHardy
	Mr M Stanley (non-voting member of the Committee)
In attendance	Chief Officer

39/25	<p>1. To receive apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Tanya Bahrouni.</p> <p>2. To approve reasons for absence. Not applicable.</p>
40/25	<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>
41/25	<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>None.</p>
42/25	<p>To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th May 2025.</p> <p>That these be approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings held.</p> <p>RESOLVED.</p>
43/25	<p>To receive the following reports and agree appropriate action:</p> <p>1. Clerk’s report. Refer to update on individual agenda items below.</p> <p>2. Warden’s report. The Warden’s report was received and noted, with thanks. The Chief Officer advised that we would issue an update online including some of the nature updates reported.</p>
44/25	<p>To receive an update on the award of the contract/partnership agreement following the meeting of Full Council on 2nd June 2025 and to agree appropriate action.</p> <p>The Chief Officer provided an update following the resolution from Full Council that she be delegated to negotiate an agreement with LUCT. A meeting was held with LUCT</p>

on the afternoon of 9th June 2025 when LUCT advised that they are delighted to receive instructions and need to refer the decision and discussion around whether a formal contract is awarded vs a Partnership Funding Agreement under a SLA to their trustees. Further, that they would need to consider what services they can offer in the current financial year due to the delay in appointment and report back to allow a contract/or SLA to be developed. Discussions with LUCT included the instruction to provide the items detailed in their submission detailed below.

Core work	Skilled staff – practical conservation
	Volunteer team supervised by team leader
	Specialist ecology advice
Optional added value	Funding bid development

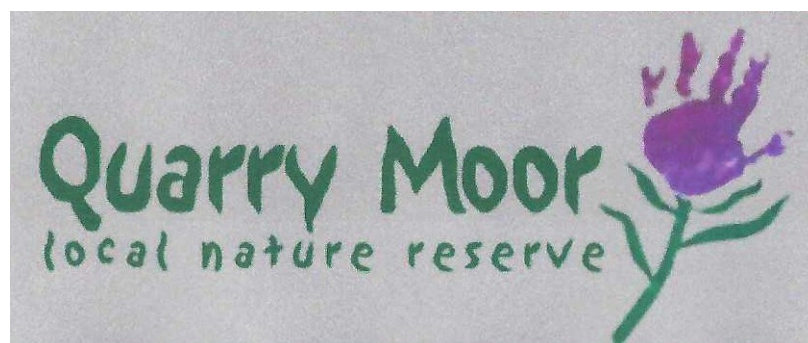
Leading on from the above, a conversation about additional services that could be provided subject to obtaining external funding took place, with LUCT enquiring about whether match funding could be provided to support applications to allow works to be undertaken beyond those detailed in the instruction from Full Council.

That the committee resolve to request that Full Council authorise the release of up to £5,000 from the Alderman T F Spence earmarked reserve at the committee’s discretion and subject to a resolution on the purpose of future funding applications, matching up to 25% of each funding bid that might be agreed with LUCT in the first instance. It was noted that the items under these funding bids could relate to examples such as the provision of educational, community engagement or wellbeing activities on the site by LUCT, at a rate of approximately two per month, with the commissioning a Woodland Management Plan being another example. It was noted that the number of activities provided on site would be subject to the amount applied for/match funded.

RESOLVED.

Discussions with LUCT included that the site ‘Quarry Moor – a local nature reserve’ needed to establish its own identity, separate from both RCC and the Alderman T F Spence Charity to demonstrate community engagement.

Agreed that the existing Quarry Moor ‘logo’ pictured below would be used to develop branding/community engagement.



RESOLVED.

	<p>Accessibility was discussed, with LUCT advising that accessibility encompassed a range of provisions and that an initial place to start to make a difference to the accessibility of the site could be as simple as the installation of benches along footpaths intermittently to allow people to take a short walk and rest as required.</p> <p>LUCT confirmed that their brief does not include undertaking a tree risk assessment and that whilst their arboriculturist will get involved on the site, they will not be able to get involved until late autumn 2025.</p>
<p>45/25</p>	<p>To receive an update on the Natural England and SSSI matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="421 539 1436 719"> <p>1. To receive an update on the Natural England Management Plan and Higher-Level Stewardship agreement renewal.</p> <p>That this be noted.</p> <p>RESOLVED.</p> <li data-bbox="421 741 1436 1021"> <p>2. To receive an update on Himalayan Balsam Control and agree appropriate action.</p> <p>It was noted that a quotation had not yet been received from the regular contractor on site, but that following a discussion on the afternoon of this committee meeting, 9th June, they had undertaken to provide one in the next couple of days.</p> <li data-bbox="421 1043 1436 1323"> <p>3. To receive correspondence from Natural England dated 29.05.2025 and agree appropriate action.</p> <p>That this be received, Cllr Martin-Long advised that the holes were as a result of criminal activity on the site and that North Yorkshire Police are aware of the issue which seemed to have abated in recent weeks.</p> <p>RESOLVED.</p> <li data-bbox="421 1346 1436 1581"> <p>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).</p> <p>That this be received and noted.</p> <p>RESOLVED.</p>
<p>46/25</p>	<p>To note the position on the various matters on the site and agree appropriate action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="363 1697 1436 2033"> <p>1. Hut.</p> <p>Cllr Martin-Long gave an update following a very positive meeting with the 21 Engineer Regt.. Further developments from the Regiment to be returned to a future meeting of the committee. Community/local business engagement around donations to the site was discussed, the Chief Officer undertook to further that work, raising awareness and potential future buy-in, noting the lengthened timescale.</p>

2. **Trees.**

i) **To consider an undertaking of a tree survey.**

That Barnes Consulting be engaged to undertake a tree survey and provide an updated tree risk assessment as a matter of urgency.

RESOLVED.

3. **Fencing.**

The Chief Officer advised that the meeting with LUCT included a conversation about the condition of the fencing at the entrance to the site and how the appearance might be able to be improved in the short term. A discussion about erecting a banner at the entry using the logo and site colours to start developing the branding took place.

That a banner be designed/procured and erected on the fencing of the picnic area, delegated to the Chief Officer.

RESOLVED.

4. **Car Park.**

Cllr Duncan provided an update to advise that he had spoken to Duffields who have agreed to donate any leftover materials from their work in the short term, using it to level the areas of concern in the car park as a temporary measure to allow the site to be open for access.

Cllr Martin-Long requested that the committee's grateful thanks to Duffields be placed on record.

A discussion around the erecting of 'no liability accepted for loss or damage on these premises' signs on the site. That the council do not proceed with this course of action.

RESOLVED.

5. **Litter bin.**

The uninstalled litter bins that are adjacent to the hut were discussed. That the Warden is requested to tidy up that area of the site and refer to the Chief Officer in the event that he requires any additional assistance.

RESOLVED.

6. **Dog fouling.**

That the updated position be noted. That advice is sought from the dog warden about professional dog walkers using the site with concerns about them not picking up after the dogs in their charge.

RESOLVED.

The Chief Officer advised that she had discussed the dog fouling problem with LUCT who had advised that their view was that as the site developed a new relationship with local people through the furthering of community engagement

	work they would expect the dog fouling problem to reduce as people regained a sense of ownership of the site.
47/25	To note the time and date of the next meeting – 21st July 2025 at 6:00pm. That this be noted.

With business concluded the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:04pm

Signed _____

Dated _____