

Minutes of the meeting of the York Branch of the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations held at the Huntington Community Centre, 26 Strensall Road, Huntington, York on Thursday, 7 February 2019 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT

Cllr P Powell (Chairman)	Nether Poppleton Parish Council
Cllr S Harrison (Vice Chairman)	Bishopthorpe Parish Council
Mr M Davies	Acaster Malbis Parish Council
Cllr D Walker	Acaster Malbis Parish Council
Cllr S Kay	Dunnington Parish Council
Cllr S Wiseman	Earswick Parish Council
Cllr P Leveson	Earswick Parish Council
Cllr I Bailey	Elvington Parish Council
Mr D Headlam	Elvington Parish Council
Cllr V Clare	Fulford Parish Council
Cllr D Blacketer	Heslington Parish Council
Cllr I Cage	Heworth without Parish Council
Cllr S Whitmore	Heworth without Parish Council
Cllr A Wilkinson	Kexby Parish Council
Cllr S Glenton	New Earswick Parish Council
Cllr A Dawes	Rawcliffe Parish Council
Cllr E Thornton	Rawcliffe Parish Council
Cllr A Powell	Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council
Cllr R Rollings	Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council
Cllr S Robson	Upper Poppleton Parish Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Sheena Spence

Chief Officer

APOLOGIES

Cllr L Frost
Cllr A Dykes
Cllr P Bramley
Cllr D Crawford

Acaster Malbis Parish Council
Dunnington Parish Council
Heslington Parish Council
New Earswick Parish Council

1/19 **SPEAKER – MR J STURDY MP**

The Chairman welcomed Julian Sturdy MP to the meeting. Julian commented that he admires the work that parish councils do at the grass roots level and that he has been involved from time to time in their work. He holds an annual meeting for parishes to speak to him and he is pleased to attend the Branch meeting whenever needed.

Julian began the discussion by giving an update on Brexit and said that he believes that there will be a deal (which he supports) but feels that this will be agreed at the eleventh hour. He encouraged parishes to get involved with the current consultation on the Environment Bill that is making its way through parliament as this includes some sensible proposals for 'wildlife corridors', and he talked about the value of sites such as Askham Bog as an example. Members were informed that the City of York Council is hoping for inspection and public enquiry for the Local Plan in the autumn, although there are still issues with the housing allocation number. CYC has had to clarify why it included less in the Plan than directed and this issue is focused on Green Belt land. He reported that this matter will be clarified in the Public Inspection and if CYC is forced to increase the housing number, that would likely mean the use of the Green Belt for residential development.

He reported on development in the centre of York, primarily that the area around the Station is being developed; mainly for office accommodation and improved car parking. CYC has now received funding from central government for this project.

Julian expressed disappointment that it was looking highly likely that Bootham Park Hospital would not be retained as a medical facility. Members agreed that the site and building was prime for York hospital expansion, but it was reported that residential development was more likely in this location. Julian was in the process of discussions to see how much of the Park could be saved for medical purposes.

He also reported on hydraulic fracturing in the area, particularly to the North of York. Members were aware that there could be exploratory sites quite close by in the future and Julian reported that he has opposed draft government policy to make the exploratory drilling permissible under the General Permitted Development Order.

A question was asked about dualling of the A64 and Julian reported that he expected that there would be a consultation in 2019 on three options for this highway. However, there were worries about cost and it may be the summer before the consultation gets underway. It was reported that the A1237 improvement works were on schedule. Julian agreed to obtain an update on this matter for all parishes following an upcoming meeting with the CEO of CYC. It was agreed that this be circulated to all parishes in the York area by YLCA.

Cllr Dawes reported that he had completed a survey of the burial grounds in the York area for the purpose of testing the lifespan of existing burial grounds to inform the Local Plan about this provision. It had been found that a number of burial facilities had less than 10 years to run before they were full and would be closed, but there was concern that CYC had made no provision for sites for burial facilities in the Local Plan. Julian commented that it was not mandatory for local planning authorities to make this provision in the Local Plan, but he agreed to have a look at the results of the survey.

Concern was expressed about the rapid expansion of York communities and alongside this, the capacity of infrastructure, particularly the railway. Julian confirmed that new rolling stock was coming onto the Trans Pennine route, ie York to Leeds, and these trains would have more carriages. Concern was also expressed that CYC appear to undertake many consultation exercises, but that very little tangible benefits seem to come from these. This discussion led the meeting onto the matter of HS2. Julian said that he feels that this is not needed, and he explained the rationale for this opinion. A number of representatives agreed that the train would not reach the high speeds desired due to the lack of distance between stations.

Finally, Cllr Dawes revisited the matter of fracking and the meeting discussed the potential for tremors and the acceptable level of these. Julian encouraged members not to compare USA tremor statistics with those from the UK as the situation there is completely different to here.

2/19 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3/19 **JOINT EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Cllr Powell reported that the Board, with its revised representation, met on 19 January. We started with a tribute to Cllr Dr J Dunford a West Yorkshire representative who was retiring for health reasons and the presentation of a Service Award for his many years of service as chairman of the Associations, NALC representative, Northern Group and many other functions.

Cllr Powell reported that the Executive had welcomed new Local Councils Officer Karen Canadine who had been in post since last November and noted the resignation of David Morton who apart from helping with training events had concentrated on keeping the Associations accounts correct.

The Exec had considered a financial report and considered the budget for next financial year without making alterations. It was agreed that the charges for training and other services would remain the same as this current year. Reports were tabled from the Employment Panel, with an update on various policies which have an annual review and from the Audit Panel.

There was a report from the Office Accommodation Working Group which had agreed that the current premises can no longer provide what YLCA requires from an office and that new premises would be sought.

Reports were received on many NALC matters.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Executive Board held 14 July 2018 be received and the draft minutes of the annual meeting of the Joint Executive Board held 20 October 2018 be noted.

4/19 **WORK OF THE YLCA AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

Current work of YLCA

The Chief Officer reported on recent work including casework statistics, upcoming planning seminars, the anticipated report from the Committee for Standards in Public Life and White Rose Update.

5/19 **BRANCH BUSINESS**

Report on the work of the York Conservation Advisory Panel

The Chairman reported that the Panel continues to meeting monthly. The panel has been joined by Alex McCallion from the Minster as Director of Works and Precinct. The City is still without a Conservation Officer the work being undertaken on a job sharing format. It has looked at many applications including York Central Outline Planning, York Station revised proposals for the station concourse, the Park Keepers Lodge in Rowntree Park and many alterations and extensions to shops, offices, guest houses, student accommodation and the City Centre Anti-Terrorism Measures.

Liaison Group

There has been no meeting since Neil Gibson resigned. The Chairman reported that he understood that Ian Cartwright has replaced him but that there has been no official notification of this appointment. Jennifer Allot, Head of Communities and Equalities, is point of contact for Parish Council Issues.

CYC Joint Standards Committee

Cllr Wiseman reported that she was now Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee. The meeting was informed that the CYC Monitoring Officer was on sick leave.

YLCA 75th Anniversary

The Chief Officer referred members to the recent edition of White Rose Update and informed them that a celebration of the work of parish councils would be held in Ripon Cathedral on 19 October at 3.00pm. She explained the intended format of the celebration and asked members to put the date in their council's diary.

6/19 **CURRENT NATIONAL ISSUES FOR LOCAL COUNCILS**

Elections 2019

The Chief Officer gave information about the elections, particularly the format of the annual meeting following the election on 2 May. It was noted that terminology used by the Electoral Commission was inconsistent.

Invitation from CYC for council representatives

The Chief Officer read an e-mail from Claire Foale at CYC, inviting the Branch to put forward two parish councillors to sit on a City narrative partnership task and finish group that would be looking at how York is perceived in the world and at the rapidly changing city infrastructure and economy.

RESOLVED

That Councillors Dawes and Thornton are appointed.

Training needs

The Chairman invited those present to make known what they would like to see provided by YLCA. Members suggested neighbourhood planning.

7/19 **OPEN FORUM FOR LOCAL ISSUES**

Parish liaison group separate to the Branch

The Chairman asked members to update him on what has happened with a proposal by a member council to establish a liaison group for parishes in the York area, separate to the Branch. A number of representatives reported that their parish had declined the invitation, saying that the parishes were already catered for via the Branch meeting which can be convened at any time

Dog fouling

Cllr Dawes reported that this is an ongoing problem in Rawcliffe Parish despite notices, bins and a litter picker. Various remedies were discussed, and Councillor S Harrison reported that Bishopthorpe Parish Council has had to fence the perimeter of its recreation ground. Cllr Wiseman reported that Earswick Parish Council has banned commercial dog walking and training on its recreational facilities. The terrible issue of sheep worrying by dogs was also raised as was horse droppings on public footpaths. Representatives understood that there is no dog warden at CYC at the current time.

RESOLVED

That the Associations write to CYC regarding a dog warden and to notify that person of the issues raised.

8/19 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED

That the next meeting be held as scheduled on 6 June and that Melanie Farnham be invited to speak about progress of the outer ring road improvements.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

Chairman.....Date.....