



NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING TOWN OF WHITBY

In accordance with Sections 14-22 of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an **ASSEMBLY of the TOWN MEETING of WHITBY** will be held in the **THEATRE OF THE WHITBY COLISEUM** on **MONDAY 25 MARCH 2024** at 6.30 o'clock in the evening.

Such persons only as are registered as local government electors for the town will be entitled to vote at the meeting, but the meeting is open to the public during the proceedings unless the town assembly, by resolution, otherwise directs.

The following business will be transacted:

1. To review the notes of previous meetings:
 - a. Annual Town Assembly – 22nd March 2023
 - b. Town Assembly – 4th September 2023
 - c. Town Assembly – 18th September 2023
2. To discuss matters in connection to the town of which written notice has been received.

Dated this 15th day of March 2024¹,

Cllr Robert Dalrymple
Town Mayor.

Please note:

Although members of the public are very welcome to attend the annual town assembly, only those persons whose names are included in the register of electors for the town may speak or vote on any matter. Those wishing to ask questions or make any comment, therefore, are asked to give their name and address when they wish to speak.

1. The 'at least seven clear days' notice for this meeting commence on Friday 15th March, (s243, LGA 1972)

Whitby Town Assembly – 22 March 2023

Present: 41 present; including 9 town councillors
Cllr Linda Wild Whitby Town Mayor, chairing
Cllr Jonathan Harston taking minutes

Cllr Linda Wild, Whitby Town Mayor, opened the meeting and welcomed those attending, and clarified procedures.

1a: Minutes of the 20 April 2022 town assembly were noted and approved, with typos corrected.

1b: Minutes of the 12 May 2022 town assembly were noted and approved, with typos corrected.

2: Discussion of matters in connection with the town.

2a: Nigel Ward, Schools merger

I attended the consultation at the Spa about the proposed merger of the secondary schools in Whitby. I have been contacted by many current and former teachers and pupils. People accept that there are problems, but it is important to keep local choice. Pupils need the option to move to a different school if their current school is unsuitable. The issue of choice has created the opposition to the proposed merger.

Proposal:

Whitby Town Council should write to North Yorkshire Council's executive member for Education and Schools, and the Corporate Director of Schools, to say that Whitby Town Council supports parents and pupils in Whitby in opposition to the proposed merger, and that this opinion should be taken into account in any consultation

[I think this should be The Town Assembly calls on NYC.... etc.]

Proposed: Nigel Ward, see address

Seconded: Alf Abbott, see address

Voted on and approved by a majority of people voting.

Rob Barnett: This seems to be a done deal for a land grab. We could ask for a decent plan for secondary education in Whitby. It appears to be a land grab to build second homes. Rural seaside towns with unaffordable houses being built, problem affects all rural season towns. There will be knock-on effects from the school proposals. We need to assist our authority with devolution of power from North Yorkshire Council, no longer at the behest of Scarborough Borough Council. We can make rules of town our priority. Schools issue highlights this problem. It is a land grab to build second homes. Children in Whitby move away for jobs, we are the low-pay capital of Britain. People don't want chip-shop wages. This is happening all over the country. We need to get education authority to make a decent education provision plan. We must have an independent enquiry on education in Whitby.

Proposal:

We must have an independent enquiry on education in Whitby.

Proposed: Rob Barnett

Seconded: ???

Voted on and approved by a majority of people voting.

Rob Barnett: We've had this before, education in Whitby is on the guillotine.

Joyce Stangoe: It's more than just education. It impacts on Whitby town, not just education.

other: North Yorkshire Council has the power to form an independent panel to do a review.

Alf Abbott: It needs to be Whitby Town Council leading on this.

other: This is urgent due to uncertainty. It needs to be done before any decision is made.

Linda Wild: Whitby Town Council have already resolved to support a consultation on the proposed merger.

other: At a previous meeting they asked for North Yorkshire Council officers to come to a meeting, but they have not come to a meeting.

Chris Riddolls: North Yorkshire Council just implied that Whitby Town Council should just respond to the consultation, not actually have any meetings with them.

Linda Wild: Whitby Town Council knows as much about the proposals as local residents. We need to pass this on before the deadline for consultation.

Joyce Stangoe: The consultation runs until 31st March, then goes to North Yorkshire Council on 18th April for discussion on feedback. There is then a comments deadline of 25th May, and the final decision is made on 20th June.

Nigel Ward: Some weeks ago I wrote to the board of governors asking them to explain why a letter to parents said that the Head had brought Newcastle Academy from “Needs Improvement” to “Good”. I researched this and found it is not to be. How is it possible to misrepresent credentials of the head teacher? I got a reply from the governors, they said: we are unpaid volunteers and sometimes make mistakes.

But the Chair of Governors is CEO of the Academy and is head teacher of Lealholm Primary School.

[This is misleading, the Chair may well be being paid to be a CEO somewhere, that doesn't mean she's paid to be a governor. I'm paid to be an NHS IT Engineer, that doesn't mean I'm paid to be a Whitby Town Councillor.]

I have been mis-led. I proposed a vote of no confidence on the governors at the Spa meeting and was supported. An online petition also had more than 400 supporters. But it is just a voice of opinion, it has no legal power. There should be an interim board to take over.

Proposal:

Write to the co-chairs of the Whitby Secondary Partnership Board of Governors call on them to write to the North Yorkshire Council Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills, and the Corporate Director of Children's and Young People's Services, asking them to:

** immediately withdraw the Whitby Secondary Partnership Board of Governors' formal request for the amalgamation of the Whitby secondary schools;*

** immediately formally appoint an interim Board of Governors for the Whitby Secondary Partnership;*

** and immediately after, they tender their resignations, along with all other members of the Board of Governors, from the Whitby Secondary Partnership Board of Governors.*

Proposed: Nigel Ward

Seconded: Rob Barnett

Voted on and approved by a majority of people voting.

Joyce Stangoe: Talks on move goes to board, but there are no parents on the board. Why are there no parent governors or LEA governors?

Linda Wild: The current state of the schools is terrible. We need to take the opportunity to improve the schools.

Nigel Ward: At the consultation the chair said they had no knowledge why no parent or LEA governors. They said they would look into it, but I never got a reply back.

other: Whitby Town Councillors need to be the voice of people in Whitby. Councillors need to write to papers, make our voice heard.

Linda Wild: We tried to get NYCC to come yto WTC to discuss, but NYCC didn't come. We should write to The Gazette saying North Yorkshire Council didn't turn up.

other: We must talk about the whole catchment area, not just Whitby. We need to involve councillors in the valley as well.

Rob Barnett: The public present should write to papers to get message out. Need to keep press coverage, keep foot on the pedal.

other: We need banners, fliers, protests, must not go quietly.

Joyce Stangoe: There are no North Yorkshire councillors here.

Sandra Turner: We have the support of Whitby Town Council councillors, but not North Yorkshire Council who are the education authority. North Yorkshire Council councillors haven't supported local choice.

Nigel Ward: Whitby Town Council is working with the people of Whitby to support Whitby.

2b: Andy Jefferson, Buses

Many parts of Whitby have had no bus service for years. Some parts are served by the 95 bus, but the service is shoddy. Buses are missing, low quality, lack of drivers. From 2nd April a 96 bus will be introduced to run via Castle Park, but it is being introduced by reducing the 95 service which will be cut back by half. The service is low because users have given up on it because the service is bad. North Yorkshire Council want people to reduce car usage, but there is no bus service.

Propose:

Whitby Town Council should request North Yorkshire Council retain the 95 bus service at the pre-April 2023 level to retain this essential lifeline for many elderly people, and furthermore to undertake an urgent review into providing a bus service to the parts of Whitby without any service at all.

Proposed: Andy Jefferson

Seconded: Nigel Ward

Voted on and approved by a majority of people voting.

[Note: I think this should be The Town Assembly requests NYC....]

Rob Barneet: It is important in terms of climate change, we need to include climate change impact, acknowledging the impact of cars on climate change and public transport.

other: The Sunday 95 bus has already been removed. The 95 bus is very often full, so what will happen when the service is halved?

Linda Wild: It will also be affected by the Swing Bridge being shut as people use cars when the bridge is closed.

Joyce Stangoe: 50% of Whitby's population is over 55. We have a faster aging population than most areas.

other: With the reduction in buses cars come into town, blocking the roads and reducing the bus services even further. We need better signage to reduce cars coming into the centre of town.

Nigel Ward: We need a proper traffic plan for Whitby.

Linda Wild: We had a million visitors last year, it's a nightmare for locals.

2c: Joyce Stangoe, Housing

Every week in planning applications we are now seeing business premises being changed to holiday homes as well as private homes.

Proposal:

((insert))

Rob Barnett: What does "affordable" mean? It's a nonsense. People in Whitby can't afford "affordable" housing.

other: When housing was built recently in Sleights it was restricted to locals with a local connection.

Joyce Stangoe: Whitby is not classed as a rural area, so gets lumped in with other urban areas.

Rob Barnett: We are a coastal town and have the same problems as other coastal towns. We need to change so that only locals can buy local houses.

Linda Wild: The draft Local Plan consultation has just closed. Whitby Town Council has commissioned a Neighbourhood Plan. It will be developed over the next 18 months. We need to get this into the neighbourhood plan.

other: How much can we do in parallel while also building the neighbourhood plan? The National Park has a local connection restriction, could this be adopted in Whitby?

Joyce Stangoe: Scarborough Borough Council claims that less than 19% of Whitby are holiday homes. People know about flats being built that are unsuitable for residential accommodation.

John Nock: Whitby Town Council planning committee does try to find reasons to oppose conversions, but Whitby Town Council don't make the decision. Scarborough Borough Council makes the decisions, from next month it will be North Yorkshire Council. People living more than 50 miles away could be making these decisions. We were promised that the new unitary council would give power to towns and parishes. We asked for a seat on the planning board, we were told Yes, but now have been told No.

Joyce Stangoe: There will be fewer planning councillors.

Nigel Ward: It's unfortunate that the new chair of planning, Cllr Trumper, has not attended.

Alf Abbott: Cllr Trumper insisted that parish cannot sit on the planning boards, only attend as observers.

John Nock: North Yorkshire Council are treating parishes with contempt. We were told to support the unitary proposals as it would result in £35m of savings by merging the councils. They are stating already more than £100m in deficit instead. We need to start from scratch over policy. Why has the money disappeared? The whole point was to save money.

Rob Barnett: I have been involved in building schools. They built houses on playing fields and built a new school, costing £30m. These amounts are nothing.

Joyce Stange: I have looked at other councils' residential occupancy rates. We can't wait for the whole town to be holiday lets.

other: I live on a small estate, I came here 35 years ago when it was all residents. In the last couple of years five houses have become holiday lets. If people can't buy at £400,000 they will buy what they can at £300,000 and convert them to holiday lets.

other: Holiday lets have gone too far. Tourism is not great for locals, we have the lowest pay in the country. No benefit for local residents. There are rumours that of the new Captain Cook development 19 houses have been bought as holiday lets.

Chris Riddolls: At Eskdaleside I sold them the land for housing and insisted it be sold to locals.

other: This isn't a 15-minute city.

other: I live in the town centre, next to holiday lets owned by a person in Bradford who owns 31 properties.

other: It's outrageous, and the prices they charge as well.

Nigel Ward: We live on Church Street. Each day I go up Blackburn's Yard, the Mary Linskill cottage has just sold for £570,000. These are old working class fishermen's cottages. In the 1970s people left these to move to the suburbs.

John Nock: North Yorkshire Council have the power to add a Second Homes tax on Council Tax.

Joyce Stangoe: But it's holiday homes that are the problem.

John Nock: The difference is blurred.

2d: Linda Wild, Parish governance review

North Yorkshire Council is consulting on creating a town council for Harrogate and for Scarborough. Harrogate has a population of 75,000 and is proposed to have 19 town councillors, Scarborough has a population of 60,000 and is proposed to have 15 councillors. Whitby has a population of 13,500 and has 19 councillors. Is Whitby over-represented? Should we have about 12 councillors, as in other similar sized places?

I propose to write to North Yorkshire Council to propose a governance review of the Town Council to have between 12 and 15 councillors, to bring the council in line with other similar sized town.

Alf Abbott: Scarborough has many identities, Whitby has one identity.

Heather Coughlan: Scarborough and Harrogate don't have a parish precept, so people in Whitby and other areas are paying for developments that happen in Scarborough town. Whitby has rarely had a full complement of 19 town councillors.

Nigel Ward: There are currently 19 councillors, many are co-opted, many elected unopposed. Reducing the number of seats would result in competitive elections as with fewer seats candidate would have to put themselves to the electorate.

Proposal: *To support Linda Wild writing to North Yorkshire Council.*

Support: 16

Against: 3

Rob Barnett: A reduction in members would make it hard to fill committees.

Heather Coughlan: Committees would be smaller with a smaller council.

Chris Roddolls: It needs to be clarified what procedures to follow.

Linda Wild: The next review will eventually happen by 2026, but we need to be prepared now so that it can be brought to attention.

3: Meeting closed at 8:05pm.

A. Attendance

Cllr Linda Wild
Cllr Jonathan Harston

Town Mayor

chairing
taking minutes

Cllr Rob Barnett
Cllr Heather Coughlan
Cllr Alf Abbott

Cllr Sandra Turner
Cllr Chris Riddolls

Cllr John Nock
Cllr Steve Hinchliffe

Sue Boyce
Val Appleton
Dot Russell
Carla Blackman
D.White
Brian Lorains
Jenny Burns
Nigel Ward
Gary Davies
Rachael Peart
Leona Collum

P.Holmes
Robert Young
Susan Stuart
Paul Bennison
Louise Waller
L.Brgep
Marie McCrone
Michelle Vasey
Robb Rich
Brian Jones
Peter Lyth

M.Holmes
Martin Hart
Sonya Kilpatrick
E.Price
Jane Warburton
Andy Jefferson
Robert McCrone
Alex Hawksfield
Joyce Stangoe
I.Dixon

Welcome

The town Mayor, Cllr Dalrymple opened the meeting at 18:04. He introduced himself, welcomed everyone in attendance and reminded those present that only registered electors in the parish of Whitby had the right to vote and speak at the meeting. The notice of the meeting was then read out.

1. Notes of previous Town Meeting

Mr Ward asked if the notes from the previous Town Meeting had been sent out and seen by anyone.

The Mayor responded that they had been sent to the two Town Councillors who had called the Town meeting. He asked Cllrs Barnett and Abbott what they had done with the notes they were given.

Cllr Barnett responded that he had done nothing with the notes as he believed it was Whitby Town Council's job to distribute documents for the meeting.

Ms Stango asked that in future the agenda and notes for Town meetings be published on the Town Council's website and proposed that the review of the previous meeting's notes should be postponed until the next Town Meeting which was approved unanimously by the meeting.

2. Notice of Motion for Town Poll

Cllr Barnett moved the motion: "Should the present members of Whitby Town Council resign en-masse to facilitate the democratic election, by ballot of a fully mandated representative Town Council for Whitby?"

He spoke about the opportunity afforded the town by local government reorganisation and also about the economic and social decline of Whitby.

Ms Broad asked a question regarding the public being able to speak at Town Council Meetings. The Mayor responded by explaining how WTC had recently changed its standing orders to allow members of the public to speak on any issue at full council meetings.

Ms Appleton spoke about the lack of information available about the Town Council's activities and the decisions it makes and how this limits the public in being able to engage with council meetings.

Mr Ward spoke about the importance of the Town Council. He said he wanted WTC to be Whitby's voice to the new unitary authority.

Cllr Wild asked Cllr Barnett to read the motion out.

The Mayor read the motion out.

Cllr Wild asked if the movers of the motion were accusing Cllrs of being elected illegally.

Cllr Barnett answered "No."

The Mayor asked those moving the motion what they thought would be different about holding elections now compared with the uncontested ones held 2 years ago.

Mr Bradley spoke about how he believed the situation had changed due to local Government Reorganisation and how he wanted a strong council. He also spoke about the issues facing the town such as the closing of Eskdale school.

Mr Ward then responded to the Mayor's question. He said it would be different because it the election would be promoted by community groups and media outlets.

Mr Derrick talked about the General Election hustings he attended as a candidate and about his hope that fresh elections would lead to the problems facing the town actually being discussed publicly.

Cllr Turner spoke about her personal commitment to the town as a councillor and the unlikelihood of these extraordinary elections being competitive.

Ms McCrone spoke about the Whitby Community network and wanted to reassure everyone that the WCN didn't want to replace the Town Council and that the motion for a Town Poll hadn't come from the WCN.

Cllr Jones spoke against the motion. He talked about the financial repercussions for the Town Council if there was to be both a Poll and seven bye-elections. He also spoke about concerns over the extraordinary elections not being competitive. He then affirmed his intentions to stand in the election if it went ahead.

Cllr Barnett spoke about how he believed democracy doesn't have a cost. He spoke about issues surrounding the Town Deal.

The mayor stated that the Town Poll would be paid by local tax payers via the Town Council.

Ms Davis asked for clarification on the suggestion that councillors were elected illegally.

Cllr Croft spoke about factionalism on the Town Council and his dismay at a lack of communication amongst councillors.

The Mayor for those in attendance and entitled to vote to make it known if they supported the motion. 11 electors announced their support, surpassing the requirement of 10 electors in order to hold the poll.

[Names and addresses supplied]

Assembly of the Town Meeting - Part 2, Draft Minutes Monday 18th September 2023, The Coliseum, Whitby

Present: over 50 present including Whitby Town Cllrs (WTC) Barnett, Riddolls, Abbott, Turner, Smith.

Chair: Mr Lee Derrick - as neither the Town Mayor or Deputy were present an elected Chair chaired the meeting, proposed by NW, seconded by RB and elected by the majority.

Secretary: Ms Joyce Stangoe - a volunteer was requested to take the minutes

Town Meeting:

Introduction: The Chair welcomed all present, and confirmed the meeting had been called by two Whitby Town Clls Riddolls & Abbotts in accordance with Section 14-22 of schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, due to the previous meeting held on 04/09/2023 being closed without the general public being allowed to speak.

1. Agree Draft Minutes 22 March 2023 & 04/09/2023: draft minutes deferred as contained personal data, also Meeting 04/09/23 did not identify those present or the Chair & Secretary.

2. Whitby Town Deal Discussion

2.1 Maritime Hub - a member of the audience highlighted the issues with building on Endeavour Wharf, these include, land under legal dispute with no SBC accounts signed off since 2015, area where silt is deposited - extensive/expensive foundations, building costs increase by 30% since start of project, Level 3 flood plain (WTDB suggested raising the building one level to give an under-croft with parking). Concern raised with lack of public consultation even with the ex Town Mayor and Town Clerk representing Whitby on Town Deal Board/Project team. A sum of £10M pounds unlikely to cover building costs, the scheme unlikely to address training needs for the Town, part of deal included transferring the fishing school and limited maritime training, with the building consisting of mainly offices. Noted Dalby Offshore has recently gone into liquidation, and limited call for offices with change in working patterns. Shallow harbour unsuitable for large boats, and difficulty in accessing the harbour-side for large transport vehicles.

Questions asked by members of the audience:

1. Has survey work been carried out? Feb. project meeting highlighted preliminary investigations completed but no meeting since. Thought float would be built instead of deep piling, but only have to look at the demise of the wharf railway line, and the warehouse to indicate this was likely to be unworkable.

2. Highlighted 6th largest port with Bell island in 1780 - 7 acres (since lost) allowed flood water to dissipate more easily than the present built up harbour.

3. Whitby Town Deal Board - it was explained this board was appointed, not elected to oversee the project groups following the allocation of the £17M funding with no say from local people.

4. Loss of warehouse was a lost opportunity could have been utilised for events such as Christmas Fair (cancelled a number of times due to bad weather. This was considered an eyesore, so what will new building be?

5. Lack of any vocational training in Whitby, why focus on Maritime when the Town & District needs training for hospitality, service and care sectors? Why not utilise the senior school soon to be closed?
6. Member highlighted this was probably due to NYC requiring money from a housing developer. Also highlighted Redcar Council have progressed most of their projects with their residents kept in the loop via website, Facebook and Councils magazine, these include a green energy training centre. Noted WTC has two monthly meetings and the town Deal projects have not been discussed.
7. Will this building become a white elephant if built, then turned into holiday lets. Can WTC put pressure on NYC & WTDB to ensure the building can never be used for anything other than educational and community purposes?
8. Appears from the audience's comments there is support to retain the £10M but to amend the project location with emphasis on training, so can we consider a proposal **"should Whitby Town Council petition the Department for Levelling Up, Homes & Communities (DLUHC) to halt and re-examine the Whitby Town Deal Board project to build a Maritime Hub on Endeavour Wharf"** - proposed by Nigel Ward, seconded by Sarah Skidmore. Further questions were then asked:
9. How can this proposal be stopped when many people not in favour - noted this was the reason for the proposal as the DLUHC Minister can call in projects if the local community oppose it - as demonstrated by a Town Poll.
10. Concern with proposal given does not address an alternative, or agree the need to consult local people. We are in favour of the £10M funding but feel it does not address the need for Whitby.
11. Need something similar to the Construction Village in Scarborough/Vocational training programme.
12. Why has no one consulted local people and asked what they wanted?
13. This meeting called asap after previous meeting to try and get any additional questions on the Town Poll already requested.
14. This project will not be halted/stopped without a "call in", the Town Hall project is already progressing from October.
15. "Halt & Examine" already proposed, does someone want to suggest an amendment to the proposal.
16. Project not thought out, losing more open space, resulting in an eyesore in key heritage area.
17. In agreement with previous speaker, more important the Town does not end up with an "eyesore" building, even if it means sacrificing £10M, if we have a chance to stop it we should.
18. Democracy never happens housing estates built even after last Town Poll, FOI's not answered etc.
19. Chair highlighted some interesting points had been made, then announced a reworded proposal **"should Whitby Town Council petition the Department for Levelling Up, Homes & Communities (DLUHC) to halt and re-examine in consultation with Whitby Residents the Whitby Town Deal Board project to build a Maritime Hub on Endeavour Wharf"** and asked for a proposer Nigel Ward and seconder Cllr. Barnett - majority in favour with 1 against and 1 abstention. The proposal was carried with 26 signatories recorded on the request for a Town Poll.

2.2 Town Hall Project - a member of the audience highlighted that most people in Whitby want to see maintenance carried out on the Town Hall, but has met no one who wants to see the plinth installed. The new photo on the Town Hall project on the Council web site is very misleading as the

plinth is actually 14 foot 9 inches. This has been reduced in size from the original design, but who was consulted on the second design, and what is the idea behind the plinth as it is not environmentally friendly and does not give more usable space. This does not enhance the 1788 building or the 1640 Market Square. Shocked by both WCS & WTC approving the design, as the planning meeting said they could not reject when backed by these 2 organisations.

Questions asked by members of the audience:

1. Recently taken over a business in the market place, receiving conflicting stories from the Project Manager, needs to have access to outside area daily to make business pay, however table space lost where steps will be and H&S issues for staff with number of steps. Neighbouring business also can only have under-croft storage 3 days a week
2. Attended May 2022 consultation and listened to many people speaking with the architects, most wanted this third most photographed building in Whitby restored - nothing else. Flash flooding and emergency vehicle use still not fully considered.
3. We need to see the Town Hall reinstated to it's original design. How much of the £1.5M already spent, is there sufficient to continue?
4. Are the glass panels to be fitted - this is still in the planning system.
5. Why do we need a plinth?
6. Needs restoring to original design, and use as a Tourist Information Centre.
7. £200,000 reportedly spent to date. Project and Market Manager in Whitby tomorrow to measure out the plinth, to identify where fixtures & fittings needed & also to measure Endeavour Wharf for temporary market area. Contractors thought to be appointed Nov, start work Dec 23.
8. SBC discussed maintenance issues some time ago with a York company supplying a quote of £100,000, however not progressed, and minor repairs carried out using unsuitable materials for this listed building which is now falling out.. Tax payers have every right to ask for value for money when repairs carried out - this was not the case.
9. Where will stall holders operate if work progressed?
10. Have the architects identified why the plinth was required, does not enhance the building, keep as is. What is happening to the room above - confirmed plans to repair.
11. Do not know of anyone in Whitby who wants the plinth, who asked for it and why? How do we stop it?
12. Reverend Haydn Williams led a Right-of-Way dispute at Whitby on both the abbey and the enclosed land on West Cliff - we need a new Reverend Haydn Williams to lead the people of Whitby in protecting our heritage.
13. WTC suggested in 2010 that the Town Hall upstairs room be used as a Town Council meeting room, but lacked accessibility and an emergency escape. Pleased to see some WT Cllrs taking part in the debates, but noted many missing.
14. When Planning Department submitted a report had missed out contacting and then reporting on Georgian Society's comment, added as an amendment at last minute. If plinth goes ahead will spoil the view of the market place and the setting of the Town Hall.
15. Chair then read out a motion **“should Whitby Town Council petition the Department for Levelling Up, Homes & Communities (DLUHC) to halt and re-examine the Whitby Town Deal Board project to regenerate the Market Place, and to restrict the project to the renovation of the Old Town Hall?”** and asked for a proposer Val Appleton and seconder Barbara Benson - majority in favour with 1 against and 2 abstention. The proposal was carried with 27 signatories recorded on the request for a Town Poll.

3. Any Other Business

Questions asked by members of the audience:

- 1.** Only two Town Deal projects completed with one a Community Hall & Boxing Club supporting the local community progressed on time/in budget. What benefit to the Town do the other projects bring?
- 2.** Major issues with maintenance of public buildings and structures including harbour, lighthouses, piers & extensions, cliff lift, whalebones etc, lack of parking & likely to lose more on the harbour - when will something be done to ensure residents & tourists continue to visit the Town centre. Need to highlight with WTC and NY Cllrs.
- 3.** Vote requested on supporting diversion of money from present projects to Cliff lift (£3M needed to repair)- majority voted in favour. Harbour Master has confirmed funding available to repair East pier capstans, but still needed for West pier capstans.
- 4.** Cemetery - no decision yet. If Larpool playing field used will again result in loss of another playing field/green space, not accessible by public transport. Green Lane not considered again due to accessibility. Land behind Love Lane suggested, and residents have no objections.
- 5.** Where is all the money going from Whitby, nothing is maintained or improved yet tourism has increased?
- 6.** Do we want market stalls surrounding our war memorial on Dock End - is this respectful?
- 7.** Issue raised with not be able to ask questions at WTC meetings, and the attitude of some Councillors who appear to feel the general public should not speak, stifling public participation and views. Cllr Riddolls stated the policy has been amended and residents can now raise any subject at a meeting.
- 8.** First experience of a Town Meeting at the last meeting, disgusted at the way the meeting was conducted and upset that genuine people and Councillors could be treated in this way.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.40pm and thanked the members of the public for attending and Whitby Town Councillors for listening to their questions and comments highlighting we need to continue attending meetings and raising issues of concern. A member of the audience thanked the Chair & Secretary for their assistance in ensuring the meeting ran smoothly.