

PANNETT PARK | WHITBY | YO21 1RE
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Dear Councillor,

18 April 2024

You are **summoned** to attend a meeting of the **TOWN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE** to be conducted at the **Pannett Gallery**, on **Tuesday 23 April 2023 at 6:00pm**, the agenda for which is set out below.



Michael King
Town Clerk

To: Councillors Abbott, Mrs Brown, Mrs Coughlan,
Dalrymple, Harston, Nock and Mrs Wild

Cc: Sub. Councillor Jones

NOTICE OF MEETING – Public notice of the meeting is given in accordance with schedule 12, paragraph 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES**
To receive apologies for inability to attend.
- 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**
To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests which members may have in the following agenda items and consider any dispensation requests.
- 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
Standing Orders will be suspended for up to 15 minutes to allow for questions or statements about business items on the agenda, submitted by members of the public (limited to 3 mins per person).
- 4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2024** **page 3**
To approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Town Development and Improvement Meeting held on 20 February 2024.
- 5. CLERK'S UPDATE ON MATTERS RAISED PREVIOUSLY**
Verbal update
- 6. ISSUE RAISED BY A RESIDENT** **page 5**
To consider a letter outlining perceived traffic dangers in Ruswarp High Street
- 7. MATTERS OF REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE REQUIRED IN TOWN**
Opportunity for members to highlight areas of concern which may be brought to the attention of the appropriate department of North Yorkshire Council.

WHITBY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **TOWN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT** Committee held in the Pannett Gallery on Tuesday 20 February at 6:00pm.

Present: Councillors Coughlan (Chair), Abbott, Brown, Dalrymple, Nock and Wild.

Also: M King, Town Clerk.

NOTICE OF MEETING – Public Notice of the Meeting was given in accordance with Schedule 12, paragraph 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972

362/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Harston and Councillor Jones (as substitute).

MOVED by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Nock.

RESOLVED that the apologies of Councillors Harston and Jones are accepted.

363/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

364/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

365/23 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2023

MOVED by Cllr Dalrymple, seconded by Cllr Nock.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Development & Improvement Committee held on the 19 December 2023 are approved as a correct record.

366/23 CLERK'S UPDATE ON MATTERS RAISED PREVIOUSLY

The Clerk reported no specific responses to date. Members noted that the parish portal was currently not operating correctly and that a support call was under advice from NYC support.

MOVED by Cllr Nock, seconded by Cllr Abbott

RESOLVED That the position is noted.

367/23 PUMP TRACK PROPOSAL

The Clerk reported progress made by the Whitby Bike Park CIC in securing funding for its proposal to build a pump track on the West Cliff. The town council has previously expressed its support in principle and its preparedness to offer any assistance that it reasonably can to achieving this project. Details are anticipated from North Yorkshire Council about future ownership of the site,

management and maintenance responsibilities. It is unknown at this stage if an active partnership role is envisaged for the town council. Any development requiring a commitment from the town council would be referred to a future meeting.

MOVED by Cllr Dalrymple, seconded by Cllr Abbott

RESOLVED that the position is noted.

368/23

MATTERS OF REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE REQUIRED IN TOWN

The following areas of concern were identified to be brought to the attention of the appropriate body.

The enforcement of pavement licenses on Baxtergate has been separately raised with NYC by the Planning and Licensing Committee.

- a) **Request** – from a resident for waiting restrictions over the exit from Pembroke Way, Whitby when making a right turn onto A171 Mayfield Road. To be passed to Highways, acknowledging that this is a common request in this area.
- b) **Motorhome Parking at Abbey Headland** – seek explanation from NYC of why restrictions have been removed.
- c) **Leisure Centre** – Contact responsible director and portfolio holder at NYC to seek assurance about the management and maintenance of the building – welcome a site meeting.
- d) **Khyber Pass Old Toilet Block** – Note that there is a build-up of rubbish behind the Heras Fencing.
- e) **New Quay Road and Pier Road** – condition of road and the number of potholes.
- f) **Swing Bridge** – is an annual repaint scheduled as part of the March closure.
- g) **Vacant shops** – particularly on Baxtergate and Flowergate. Is NYC proactively looking to support businesses through central government and local programme funds.
- h) **West Pier Railings** – these are now in very poor condition – this issue has also been raised through the Harbour Committee.

MOVED by Cllr Wild, seconded by Cllr Abbott

RESOLVED That issues be progressed by the Clerk through the NYC portal and with the relevant officers.

Reproduced below is a letter received from a Ruswarp resident last month, raising concerns about the potential conflict between pedestrians and motor vehicles where the pavement is narrow on Ruswarp high Street.

He is seeking the town council's support in his approach to North Yorkshire Highways. I have also advised that he contacts North Yorkshire Councillor Trumper to raise this issue with him.

Dear Mr King,

I'm writing to you out of desperation in the hope that you may be able to add some support to my complaints and concerns.

As you will know Ruswarp village High Street is extremely narrow yet carries an ever increasing amount of traffic, especially HGV's, coaches, and other large commercial vehicles, particular during the daytime period. The High Street forms part of the classified road B1416, which may as well be an 'A' road, as it is generally used as a short cut around Whitby by commercial traffic travelling between the A171 at Scarborough, and Teesside. Many of the vehicles are extremely large articulated lorries, which often become stuck on Ruswarp Bank hill.

It also has a village shop at the narrowest point and a Primary School close by. The extremely narrow pavements are often used by elderly persons, users of mobility scooters, but also young school children.

I have previously raised concerns to NY Highways regarding the traffic situation, including speeding issues, as there appears to be a total disregard for the 20mph speed limit in the village, with many vehicles doing at least twice this speed.

However, nothing appears to have changed, and despite some traffic 'warning signs' on the A171 advising of steep hills, the number of large commercial vehicles is ever increasing.

However, my most pressing concern now is for pedestrians using the extremely narrow pavement, which measures only around 30 inches (760mm) wide at the narrowest point, near to the shop. I have on 2 earlier occasions been caught by wing mirrors of passing vehicles from behind, as they have driven right up to the kerb edge, with tyre wall in contact with the kerb, or even onto the footpath, to avoid larger vehicles approaching from the opposite direction. It doesn't appear to be an option for some drivers to stop and wait to allow an approaching vehicle to have priority. On many other occasions I have found myself, especially when walking my dogs, having to quickly jump out of the way of approaching large vehicles.

More recently, about a week ago, I found myself being forced to literally jump out of the way, dragging my 2 dogs on their leads, as a large 'Coatham' coach travelling towards me suddenly drove straight into the kerb to avoid another vehicle speeding into the village. If I had no taken evading action, either I or my dogs would have been hit.

Within just a few days of the coach incident, alarmingly I encountered a very similar incident, this time involving a car which must have been travelling at a speed more than double the 20mph speed limit.

The actual carriageway is barely wide enough to accommodate 2 passing vehicles at this point, and especially so if either vehicle is wider than a standard motor car. I was given to understand that, although not set in stone, there is a recommended safe minimum width for a pavement alongside a carriageway, of 1500mm under normal circumstances, with an absolute clear minimum of 1000mm 'in exceptional circumstances'.

Surely, with the ever increasing commercial traffic here, including the significant number of 'Coatham' coaches to and from the mine, there is a good case for a one way priority traffic system with a chicane to be put in place, similar to that on the B1420 at Briggswath in Sleights. I believe that this would not only allow for some widening of the footpath at the dangerously narrow point, but it would also act as a deterrent and discouragement to drivers of unnecessary heavy commercial vehicles which would be better suited to remaining on the main A171 through Whitby.

This should also solve the ongoing problem of HGV's repeatedly losing traction and getting stuck on exactly the same point at Ruswarp Bank. After all, the majority of these HGV's are not local, and do not appear to have any business along the B1416.

Having previously raised this idea with Highways some time ago, one of the reasons I was given for not pursuing this as an option was that 'this would cause unnecessary braking of heavy vehicles coming down the hill into the village and therefore cause excess air pollution from brake and clutch wear! '. This I find very strange, not least because these vehicles should already have braked and slowed down considerably to adhere to the existing 20mph speed limit.

It would appear that I am not alone in my encounters with traffic on the narrow footpath on the High Street, as I have spoken to several local residents who have had similar experiences. I'm sure that the traffic incident and accident figures will not reflect the frequency or number of accidents though as victims rarely report these matters due to the lack of evidence and likely response from police. Similarly with the separate, although indirectly linked, matter of HGVs getting stuck on Ruswarp Bank, this is a regular weekly occurrence, which has often resulted in parked vehicles along Ruswarp Bank being damaged or losing wing mirrors. I am aware that 'damage only' RTC figures are not even recorded nowadays.

I believe that, given the increasing traffic load and impatience of drivers, it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs involving a pedestrian. I have reported my concerns again to North Yorkshire Council Highways (ref 101010410373) , and ask that you also consider these issues and give support to some much needed changes,

Yours sincerely,

Name and address supplied