

***RICHMOND TOWN COUNCIL***  
***Minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2011***

**Present:** Councillors           Heap  
  White  
  Johnson  
  Harris  
  Robinson  
  World  
  Lord  
  Hignett  
  Holmes  
  Blease  
  McGarry

**In attendance:**                   Mr Miles Templeton (Town Clerk)  
  Mrs C. Ord

**Prayers** were said by Rev. Allan Reed

**01.02.11      **Apologies:****   Apologies were received from Councillors Burrows, Cooper and Steggles

**02.02.11      **Public Open Session:****

There were no members of the public present

**03.02.11      **County Councillor:****

County Councillor Parsons referred to Minute 16.01.11 and stated that he wished to clarify the situation, as a matter of public record, regarding the proposal to declare Earls Orchard a village green. He stated that an NYCC committee would make the final decision on this and there would be an opportunity to appeal. Either way, the land could still be used, in perpetuity, by Richmond Town Football Club should they wish to use it. An official of RDC arranged for the installation of a fence on the edge of the land, adjacent to the river, and it is this fence, not the one which surrounds the pitch itself which has caused resentment amongst dog walkers, who feel that they cannot access the main part of the field. Some of them are now lobbying for the land to be declared a green, not to stop the football, but to guarantee access for everyone. He had heard complaints about dog excrement being left on the land but stated that this matter should be reported to RDC in the normal way. Councillor World thanked the County Councillor for this clarification and stated that it was well needed. He suggested that if the land was a village green then anyone could go onto the land and have a picnic whenever they wanted to, even if in doing so they may interfere with the right of the footballers to have sole use of the pitch to play a match. Councillor World also stated that he would welcome a dog warden on patrol at Earls Orchard each morning. Councillor Blease stated that he did not think there was a lobby of locals in favour of the proposal but that there may be only one family or

individual behind the move. He further stated that the fence was necessary in order to stop a football from going into the river. Councillor Johnson felt that the fence was needed in order to limit the amount of dog excrement on the playing area. County Councillor Parsons responded by stating that football had been played at Earls Orchard for years and that, as far as he is aware, no-one had contracted an illness caused by dog excrement. There were now a number of dog wardens and it might be possible to increase the patrols at Earls Orchard. He rebuked the suggestion that only one family were behind the proposal but that, even if that were the case, they have a democratic right to propose the change. Councillor Johnson stated that he objected to the tone of the County Councillor in implying that the view of a Town Councillor was 'laughable'. The County Councillor stated that no disrespect to the Councillor, or the Council, was meant. County Councillor Parsons made reference to 12.01.11 and stated that all libraries in the area are involved in a consultation process and any of them may be subject to some form of expenditure cut. He then informed members that a decision had already been reached on the mobile library units which would go as part of that process.

**04.02.11      Declarations of Interests and Lobbying:**

It was agreed that these should be dealt with as and when they arose during the meeting.

**05.02.11      Minutes:**

Proposed:      Councillor Lord              Seconded:      Councillor Robinson

**RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 31 January 2011 be accepted as a true record.**

**06.02.11      Update:**

Item 09.11.10 – The Town Clerk informed Councillors that further discussions had taken place with the Station regarding the Market Charter and he had discussed with them the scheduled events to identify which would be subject to stallage fees. He also stated that he is looking into the possibility of a one off payment to cover those events.

Councillor White informed members that he had seen the Notice in the press to advertise the Market Charter.

**07.02.11      Town Clerk's Report:**

**Boundary Riding:** The Town Clerk asked that thanks be extended to Carol Ord, for the work carried out on Boundary Riding.

**Website:** The Town Clerk commended the quality of the work carried out by the Andy Macey who is now responsible for updating the Council's website.

**NYCC Chain of Office:** The Town Clerk informed members that he had received a request from North Yorkshire County Council regarding a chain on display in the Green Howard's Museum that they would like to reclaim and reinstate. On checking through Richmond Town Council archives he stated he could not find any evidence that the chain was in fact given to Richmond Town Council. The chain deposited in 1974 is displayed with the Town Council's artifacts. Members asked the Town Clerk to check with members of the Council who were serving in 1974 to see if they could recall any information.

**Financial Regulations:** The Town Clerk informed Councillors that he would be looking at reviewing the Financial Regulations in line with the External Auditors recommendation.

**Internet Hotspot:** A requested had been received for an Internet Hotspot in the Town Hall. Members felt that consideration should be given to the request and asked the Town Clerk to investigate provision of the service.

**Ingress of Fumes into Main Hall:** It has been noted that on occasions when the fire is lit in the premises adjoin the Town Hall smoke fumes filter into the main hall. Councillor Robinson suggested that capping off the Town Council chimney would more than likely resolve the problem. Members requested the Town Clerk arrange to have the cause investigated.

Proposed: Councillor Hignett    Seconded: Councillor Lord

**RESOLVED: that a carbon monoxide detector be fitted to monitor the problem.**

**Clock Repair:** The Town Clerk apologized for the oversight in not putting the clock repair estimate on the recent Resources agenda but that it would go to the March meeting.

**08.02.11      Communications:**

**Item 12- Richmond Local Development Framework:** Councillor Harris stated that Richmondshire District Council had produced a Local Strategy Statement. He suggested that two Councillors look at the documents and make observations to Richmondshire District Council and that he would be very pleased to receive their input. He asked that Councillors interested in appraising the documents inform the Town Clerk.

**Buskers:** Councillor World informed members that the Buskers had returned to the Market Place and stated that Richmondshire District Council should be informed, as the Buskers had been playing for some 6-7 hours at a time.

**09.02.11      Accounts:**

Proposed: Councillor Robinson    Seconded: Councillor Lord

**RESOLVED: The accounts were noted.**

**10.02.11 Committees  
Planning - 9 February 2011**

The Minutes of these meetings were noted

**Resources - 7 February 2011**

Proposed: Councillor Lord      Seconded: Councillor Robinson

**RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2011 be approved.**

**Communities - 21 February 2011**

Proposed: Councillor Johnson      Seconded: Councillor Harris

**RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2011 be approved.**

**11.02.11 Outside Bodies:**

Councillor Harris reported that he had attended a meeting of the RSVCI where Tourist Information provision was discussed at length. The continuing provision of the 'What's On' guide was also discussed and it may not be possible to continue with this publication in its current format. There was a suggestion that the guide be available on the internet for users to print locally but no final decision had yet been made. The use of the site at Richmond Lower School was also discussed and the YHA may not now be seeking to acquire the site for their use.

**12.02.11 Members Comments:**

No member's comments recorded.

**13. 02.11 Tourist Information Provision:**

Councillors Harris and Robinson declared an interest. Councillors World and Lord were also District Councillors and Councillor World stated that he would speak on the matter in the Town Council and not at District Council. Councillor Lord stated that he would also speak on the matter at this Town Council meeting.

Councillor World opened the debate by stating that a Tourist Information Point (TIP) would not be as beneficial to tourism within Richmond as a Tourist Information Centre (TIC) would be, despite what was being stated at RDC. He would prefer it if the TIC (if that was what it had to be) was located within the Market Place. Furthermore, he would like a TIP to be 'manned' and not just be an information point with a few leaflets, and for the TIP to be

open 7 days per week, all the year round. He thought that the Market Hall was an ideal location for such a TIP. He closed by stating that many other places within the UK were opening TICs as they were considered to be vital for the rural economy. Councillor Lord supported what Councillor World had said and he also felt that a TIC, not a TIP, was vital to Richmond. He deplored the decision that had been taken to close the TIC. He also felt that the TIP could be located within the Market Hall. Councillor White also wished to see a ‘manned’ TIP if the town had to lose its TIC. He felt that the current location within the Friary Gardens was ideal but he would also support a move of the point into the Market Place.

Councillor Johnson agreed that the decision was a bad one but that within the current economic climate such cuts were inevitable. He did not feel comfortable with any suggestion that the Town Council take on the responsibility to manage a TIP. Councillor Heap stated that the current location is well-known and a good one. He would prefer only one location for the provision of Tourist Information. He also had reservations about the Town Council taking on the role of managing a service. Councillor Hignett agreed with this and stated that the Town Council should seek to support the new service provider and she hoped that, in future when the economic climate improved, that a TIC could return to its existing location. Councillor Harris stressed just how important tourism was to the economic vibrancy of the town and he also condemned the decision to close the TIP as once it was gone it may never return. Councillor Heap stated that he thought that RDC had ‘washed their hands’ over the matter and they did not wish to continue with Tourist Information provision at all. Councillor McGarry stated that the TIP may provide opportunities for income and that he was concerned that a clash between the normal ‘business’ of a TIP provider and the tourist information that such a provider was obligated to provide may not best serve the needs of the town. Councillor Hignett stated that whoever gained the contract for the TIP should be invited to attend the Communities meeting each month at the Town Council.

Proposed: Councillor Hignett      Seconded: Councillor McGarry

**RESOLVED : That the Town Clerk write to RDC stating that the Town Council were willing to support the successful bidder for Tourist Information provision.**

Proposed: Councillor World      Seconded: Councillor Lord

**14.02.11      RESOLVED: to move into Private Session**