

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

**Present:** Councillors           Heap  
  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

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

**02.03.11      **Public Open Session:****

A member of the public was present but no questions were raised

**03.03.11      **County Councillor:****

County Councillor Parsons referred to recent decision made by Richmondshire District Council to close the Tourist Information Centre and informed members that the decision has now been called in by three councillors and referred for scrutiny. He stated that decision on the closure of the TIC is therefore not final at this stage.

County Councillor Parsons reported that the cuts to the bus services were starting to filter through and the Town Council could expect a lot of complaints.

There were also further problems with the cobbling work carried out at the bottom of the Market Place as due to poor quality cement mix the whole area would have to be redone. County Councillor apologised for the inevitable inconvenience to traders and businesses within the town and stated that the dates for the carrying out the work would be scheduled to cause the least disruption; he also added that there would be no cost implications for the tax payer. Councillor Johnson stated that in previous years the cobbles had been inserted lengthways and this no longer seems to be the case and asked whether that was one of the reasons why they work loose so easily. County Councillor Parsons stated that since 1974 there was a considerable increase in traffic volume and heavier vehicles loosen the cobbles, however, he stated he would investigate this suggestion.

Councillor Lord reported that on East Ward NYCC Highways seem to be filling the potholes in an ad hoc fashion and there did not appear to be any quality control. Residents had also complained to him that the tarmac residue was not being swept up and was being carried by shoe into people's houses. County Councillor Parsons stated that if Councillor gave him the street names where this problem had occurred he would ask highways to carry out an inspection.

In previous years access to Social Services day care centres were charged at the rate of £2 per session. In 2011/12 this will increase to £49.10. This increase is certain to lead to complaints and the County Councillor asked if any complaints referred to the Town Council could be forwarded on to him.

The Mayor stated that the work recently completed to extend the footpath, to remove the speed hump and to resurface the Channel had greatly improved the entrance to the Market Place and was much more visually inviting. He also stated the he felt the whole town had benefited from the resurfacing. He expressed his thanks, on behalf of the Town Council, to NYCC Highways Department.

Councillor Harris informed members that NYCC Highways staff had now moved from Green Howards Road to the Depot at Gatherley Road. He also asked County Councillor Parsons for an update on the siting of the Bus Shelters and was informed that Richmondshire District Council is working with English Heritage with regard to the planning application and that the entire issue would have to be resolved by the end of the next financial year.

**04.03.11      Declarations of Interests and Lobbying:**

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

**05.03.11      Minutes:**

Proposed:      Councillor Robinson      Seconded:      Councillor Lord

**RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 28 February 2011 be accepted as a true record.**

Proposed:      Councillor Robinson      Seconded:      Councillor Lord

**RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7 March 2011 be accepted as a true record subject to the following amendment**

**(i) that Councillor Holmes be removed from the list of attendees**

**06.03.11      Update:**

There were no updates.

#### **07.03.11 Town Clerk's Report:**

##### **Whit Fair**

The Town Clerk stated he had applied to Richmondshire District Council for a road closure order for the Whit Fair in the usual way and had been informed by the legal department that with the exception of Military Events and Remembrance Day they would no longer be dealing with the Town Council road closure requests and these should now be directed to NYCC for action. He also stated that he had further been informed that road closure applications processed by NYCC would be charged at the rate of £300 per application.

Councillor World stated that he was dismayed at this decision which seems to have been taken without consultation of any kind. He was particularly concerned for the various charitable groups who would be charged a £300 fee and these would include The Meet and various cycling events and felt that the decision was made by stealth.

Proposed: Councillor World                      Seconded: Councillor Harris

**RESOLVED: that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive in the strongest possible terms informing RDC that RTC deplore the decision that was made without any consultation and request answers to the following questions:**

- (i) when did Richmondshire District Council send a letter to notify Richmond Town Council of the changes**
- (ii) when was the meeting to discuss the proposed changes?**
- (ii) which Councillors were present at that meeting?**

**This decision was unanimous.**

**Councillor Harris declared an interest**

##### **Continental Markets:**

The Town Clerk informed members that Continental Markets would be taking place in the Market Place on the 31<sup>st</sup> March and the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. They would set up in the area normally used by the Farmers Market on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

##### **Booking of Town Hall for Health Care Screening:**

Councillors were informed that an enquiry had been received for the use of the Town Hall by a health care screening company who may wish to book the premises to hold screening sessions for osteoporosis. It was thought that the enquiry was made by a private concern and not connected with the NHS. The Town Clerk sought direction from members. Members stated that they had no objections to the booking providing the commercial user's rate was applied.

**08.03.11 Communications:**

**Item 14: - Parker's Veg of Richmond:**

The Mayor informed members that he had personally received this letter and he had subsequently visited the Shop holder to discuss the concerns raised.

**Item 15: - Proposed disposal of land at Richmond Lower School**

Members requested that this item be placed on the agenda of the next Town Council Meeting

**09.03.11 Accounts**

Proposed: Councillor Lord Seconded: Councillor Robinson

**RESOLVED: The accounts were noted.**

**10.03.11 Committees**

**Planning - 9 March 2011**

The Minutes of this meeting were noted. The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March will be presented in April.

**Resources - 14 March 2011**

Councillor Lord informed members that he would be raising various budget matters in Private Session.

Proposed: Councillor Lord Seconded: Councillor Robinson

**RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2011 be approved.**

**Communities - 21 March 2011**

Proposed: Councillor World Seconded: Councillor Robinson

**RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2011 be approved subject to the following amendments.**

- (i) change of date on Minutes to 21st March
- (ii) Councillor Hignett asked for the categories to be clarified regarding the Garden competition

**Donations Committee: 23 March 2011**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March were noted.

**11.03.11 Outside Bodies:**

Councillor Lord asked that a vote of thanks be recorded to Mick Jewitt from Hambleton District Council and to Pat Wilson from Richmondshire District Council who had both been instrumental in achieving a nil increase in the charges for CCTV in 2011/12. Councillor Lord also informed members that all of the CCTV cameras were fully operational and being monitored at all times.

Councillor Harris reported that he had attended a meeting of the RSVCI and that unfortunately there was very little money in the budget for the further refurbishment of shop-fronts within the town.

Councillor Harris also reported that plans for the Eco week and the Walking and Book Festival were progressing satisfactorily and he made reference to the hard work put in by Colin Grant to make these events a success.

The Mayor reported that he had attended a meeting about Richmond's of the World (ROTW) at Aske Hall and was pleased to see how well this project is progressing and how interesting the website is. He was also pleased to see that there was a link between this project and Richmondshire Museum where interested parties can look into the history of their antecedents.

The Mayor informed members that Richmondshire Museum will be opening its doors to the public on 1 April and entry would be free on that particular date. There is also a display on Boundary Riding which takes place on Wednesday 24 August this year.

**12.03.11 Members Comments:**

Councillor Johnson referred to an article in the Darlington & Stockton Times in which the Mayor appeared on the front page. He stated that such publicity was good for the town.

Councillor Harris drew Councillors attention to the fact that this would be The Town Clerk's last Town Council Meeting and wished to thank the Town Clerk for the excellent work he had carried out during his appointment.

Proposed: Councillor Harris                      Seconded: Councillor Heap

**RESOLVED: that a vote of thanks from all Councillors present, be recorded to the Town Clerk, Mr. Miles Templeton for the excellent job he had done during his term of office.**

**13. 03.11 Financial Regulations:**

Proposed: Councillor Lord                      Seconded: Councillor World

**RESOLVED : that the Financial Regulations be adopted.**

**14.03.11 Boundary Riding:**

Discussion took place on Boundary Riding and a number of members volunteered to serve on the committee. Councillor McGarry asked that consideration be given to holding evening meetings to allow him to attend.

Proposed: Councillor Robinson Seconded: Councillor Lord

**RESOLVED: that the following members serve on the committee for the organisation of Boundary Riding. Councillors Heap, Robinson, Lord, World, McGarry and Harris**

**15.03.11** Proposed: Councillor Lord Seconded: Councillor McGarry

**RESOLVED: to move into Private Session**