

Minutes of the meeting of the Richmondshire Branch of the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations, held on 2 February 2023, remotely, from 7.00pm

**PRESENT**

Cllr W Delf (Chair)  
Cllr P Holder  
Ms C Smith

Cllr I Woods  
Cllr J Amsden  
Ms L Hodgson  
Cllr L Taylor  
Cllr B De Ath  
Cllr Watkinson  
Cllr S Thubron  
Ms V Raven  
Mr D Keep  
Cllr I Threlfall  
Cllr J Sharma

St Martin's Parish Council  
Leyburn Town Council  
Leyburn Town Council & Redmire Parish Council  
Richmond Town Council  
Carperby Parish Council  
Scotton Parish Council  
Newsham Parish Council  
Newsham Parish Council  
Bellerby Parish Council  
St Martins Parish Council  
Scorton Parish Council  
Middleham Parish Council  
Scotton Parish Council  
Colburn Town Council

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Karen Mann  
Tim Myatt

Local Councils Advisory and Training Officer (LCATO)  
Senior Corporate Affairs Advisor, Yorkshire Water

01/23 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

02/23 **WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

03/22 **SPEAKER**

The Chair thanked Tim Myatt for attending and he gave a presentation to those present. He explained the region covered, which included 5 million residential customers and 130,000 businesses. Yorkshire Water is a private business since 1995. Shareholders have not received a dividend since 2017. He explained the demographic breakdown of Yorkshire and the Humber. It is the second largest landowner in Yorkshire and it hopes to achieve net zero by 2030 for operational emissions.

It is an anchor institution, with staff, assets and responsibilities linked directly to the area that it operates. It works with fellow anchor institutions to create partnerships based on long-term results for the region.

Tim explained about the hosepipe ban in 2022 due to an exceptionally dry summer.

Over the last five years Yorkshire Water has invested over £500m in leakage reduction and reduced water lost through burst and leaks by 14%. It is going to make sure all of the storm overflows are monitored by the end of 2023, building on 96% coverage from 2020, and by 2025 an interactive map will be available to residents showing near real-time data on spill performance.

Five key priorities have been identified by the Yorkshire Leaders Board and they are included in the presentation provided.

Tim explained that Yorkshire Water is not a statutory consultee for planning applications. However, when consulted the developer services team make an assessment of the site for both clean and waste water. The developer should adhere to the hierarchy of sustainable drainage detailed in the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG).

The main offender of blockages is wet wipes and councils were asked to help Yorkshire Water by letting residents know that 40% of sewage blockages were from wet wipes and to not flush them down the toilet.

Following the presentation Tim went through the questions raised prior to the meeting and also questions raised by those members present. The LCATO was asked to circulate a copy of the questions along with the answers to all members and the presentation after the meeting.

The chair thanked Tim for attending the meeting and he left at 7.45pm.

### **RESOLVED**

That the LCATO circulate the presentation and Question and Answer Sheet to all members provided by Tim Myatt.

#### 04/23 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2022 were considered.

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, to be signed by the Chair at the June meeting.

#### 05/23 **MATTERS ARISING**

No matters arising.

#### 06/23 **JOINT EXECUTIVE BOARD**

There were no questions raised from the JEB minutes of the 15 October 2022. Cllr Threlfall was in attendance at the meeting held in January 2023 and updated that a discussion had taken place about the power to provide Christmas Lights.

### **RESOLVED**

The update be noted.

#### 07/23 **WORK OF THE YLCA AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

##### ***Current working and ongoing training***

The LCATO had circulated a report on the work of YLCA. It was noted that 309 detailed responses on casework had been sent to member councils and parish meetings.

Malton Town Council had achieved the Local Council Award Scheme, Quality Gold Award, the first council to do so in Yorkshire.

The White Rose Bulletin, Law and Governance Bulletin and Training Bulletin had been provided to members.

Charter meetings were being held with North Yorkshire council representatives. The Chief Officer had met with the Monitoring Officer from two authorities to discuss issues with local councils in their areas.

##### ***Training***

An officer of YLCA had completed the SLCC training, ILCA to CiLCA course.

Webinars and face to face training had continued to be successful, the training programme for February and March available on the YLCA website. Three councils had received Whole Council Training.

### **RESOLVED**

That the update provided by the LCATO be noted.

***North Yorkshire Council Charter***

An update on the parish charter progress for February had been circulated before the meeting. Councils that could send representatives to the Richmond District Charter meeting, to be held on the 23 February 2023 at Mercury House, Richmond from 2pm – 5pm, were encouraged to do so.

**RESOLVED**

That the update be noted.

***Face to Face Training with Branch meetings***

The LCATO updated that it had been suggested that face to face training takes place prior to a Branch meeting. It was felt that this was an excellent idea and that members may attend training, depending on the topic of the session.

**RESOLVED**

That Richmondshire Branch members were in agreement that this would be a good idea.

***Local Councils Award Scheme – Assessors***

The LCATO gave a summary of the Local Councils Award Scheme and that any councillors or clerks that may be interested in becoming an assessor to email Joy Morgan, [admin@yorkshirelca.gov.uk](mailto:admin@yorkshirelca.gov.uk) with their expression of interest. The chair asked what qualifications are needed to be an assessor and the LCATO explained that there were no qualifications needed and training would be provided. It is voluntary with a 1-3 hours commitment when being asked to be part of the assessment panel. The current panel is 12 people but more are needed as more councils are applying for the Award.

**RESOLVED**

That expressions of interest from potential Assessors are sent to Joy Morgan.

***October Branch meetings***

The update provided on the agenda, that the Joint Executive Board had decided that October Branch meetings would only be held if there was demand to hold one, was discussed. It was felt that not having a meeting after June until February was too long a period and it would be better to hold two meetings a year, perhaps June and November. Members felt that the Branch meetings were important and were part of the membership and important to keep communication coming forward, especially with the Unitary Council moving forward.

**RESOLVED**

The LCATO feedback that the preferred option was to continue holding Branch meetings if it goes down to two per annum to reschedule the meetings so that they are approx. every 6 months.

***Branch resolutions to the YLCA Joint Annual Meeting on the 22 July 2023***

No resolutions came forward.

***Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission (YHCC)***

The LCATO updated that the YHCC had hoped to provide a video, however, there had been technical issues and the video was not available for the meeting. It was agreed that the Branch would like to hear from YHCC and that they would be invited to attend remotely, at the June Branch meeting if possible, if not that the video would be provided for the meeting.

**RESOLVED**

The LCATO invite the YHCC to attend the June Branch meeting, either in person or remotely, or the video be provided for the meeting.

09/23 **CURRENT ISSUES FOR LOCAL COUNCILS** (for any issues that affect councils or parish meetings Yorkshire-wide or nationally)

***Leveling Up Bill***

Members noted the update provided with the agenda.

**RESOLVED**

That the update provided be noted.

10/23 **OPEN FORUM FOR LOCAL ISSUES AND MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBER COUNCILS/PARISH MEETINGS**(for any issues that affect councils or parish meetings within the

Middleham Town Council had concerns over the deadline provided by the External Auditor. This was discussed and it was felt that having a deadline was advantageous.

A question was raised about the King's Coronation – what councils were doing for the celebrations.

Richmond had included in the precept funds to have entertainment and activities offered free to residents. There would be an Artisan Market and the ceremony would be live in the Town Hall.

Scorton Parish Council is organising events like the Queens Jubilee Celebrations.

There was information included in the NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin about Coronation events. The chair suggested that councils share what they are doing with each other.

**RESOLVED**

That the discussions be noted.

11/23 **TO AGREE ON A SPEAKER IF REQUIRED**

It was agreed that the Climate Commission be invited to the next meeting.

It was suggested that the LCATO contacts someone from Durham Unitary Authority or the Durham CALC to ask if a speaker from a parish or town council, that has gone through the Unitary process be invited to attend the next meeting.

It was suggested that a speaker from the Lead Flood Authority be invited to attend the next meeting as the presentation from Yorkshire Water had been excellent.

**RESOLVED**

That the LCATO contact the Climate Commission to attend or provide the video for the next meeting and a speaker be invited from Durham area to report on the pros and cons of a unitary authority. If no one is available to invite a speaker from the Lead Flood Authority.

12/23 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday 15 June 2023 to be held at Newsham Parish Hall, from 7.00pm.

The chair thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chair .....Date .....