

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIPON

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 7PM IN THE MAYORS PARLOUR, THE TOWN HALL, RIPON

PRESENT: Cllr M F Stanley – The Right Worshipful The Mayor
 Cllr Mrs L P A Barnes
 Cllr B Bateman
 Cllr Mrs S E Brierley
 Cllr M Chambers
 Cllr S J Hawke
 Cllr P Horton
 Cllr S Martin
 Cllr Mrs P McHardy
 Cllr A F Skidmore
 Cllr D Todd
 Cllr M Waiting
 Cllr Williams

The Clerk
 Admin Assistant
 Serjeant At Mace
 3 members of the public
 Representative of the Ripon Gazette

Late Arrivals: Cllr Powell – 7.02pm
 2 members of the public arrived at 7.02pm, 1 member of the public left again at 7.02pm & returned at 7.08pm

Early Departures: None

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Serjeant At Mace said prayers.

		Action By:
70/14.	<u>To receive apologies for absence</u> Apologies were received from Cllr J Martin-Long	
71/14.	<u>Members of the public are invited to question, seek clarification or make representation to members of the Council on any agenda item as listed below.</u> None	
72/14..	<u>To request any Disclosure of an interest in relation to any matter under consideration at this meeting (financial or otherwise) & to consider any written requests for dispensation</u> None	
73/14.	<u>To approve the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 21 July 2014</u> Proposed – Cllr Skidmore Seconded – Cllr Horton “That the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 21 July 2014 be approved” RESOLVED	

74/14.	<p><u>To receive the following committee meeting minutes for information only</u></p> <p>a. <u>Planning Committee Meeting held on 7 July 2014 & 28 July 2014</u></p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Horton Seconded – Cllr Barnes</p> <p>“ That the minutes of the said meetings be received”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>b. <u>Hugh Ripley Hall Committee Meeting held on 28 April 2014</u></p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Martin Seconded – Cllr Chambers</p> <p>“ That the minutes of the said meeting be received”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>c. <u>Staffing Committee Meeting held on 3 June 2014</u></p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Barnes Seconded – Cllr Brierley</p> <p>“ That the minutes of the said meeting be received”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>d. <u>City Plan Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2014</u></p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Stanley Seconded – Cllr Horton</p> <p>“ That the minutes of the said meeting be received”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>e. <u>Alderman TF Spence meeting held on 6 January 2014</u></p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Brierley Seconded – Cllr Stanley</p> <p>“That the minutes of the said meeting be received”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
75/14.	<p><u>To receive a verbal update on further correspondence from the Witness Care unit & report on the position of this Councillor following the conclusion of the court case – Mayor to speak</u></p> <p>The Chairman advised members that the correspondence received confirmed that this Councillor had been found guilty of fraud by abuse of position –Fraud Act 2006. The sentence for this was 200 hours unpaid work. As there had been several enquiries to the council offices from the public about the position of this councillor the chairman confirmed that the law clearly states that a person can only be disqualified from holding office as a parish councillor if they have been convicted of a criminal offence & sentenced to not less than three months imprisonment. Therefore Councillor Williams remains a councillor.</p>	
76/14.	<p><u>To consider committee membership – Mayor to speak</u></p>	

	<p>The Chairman reported that in view of the court case as in the above agenda item Cllr Williams be removed from the Finance & General Purposes Committee & Alderman TF Spence committee</p> <p>The Chairman requested a recorded vote on this item.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Stanley Seconded – Cllr Skidmore</p> <p>“That Cllr Williams is removed from the Finance & General Purposes committee & the Alderman TF Spence committee.”</p> <p>Cllr Stanley, Cllr Barnes, Cllr Brierley, Cllr Bateman, Cllr Chambers, Cllr Todd, Cllr Skidmore, Cllr Martin voted in favour of the motion.</p> <p>Cllr Horton, Cllr McHardy, Cllr Hawke, Cllr Waiting, Cllr Powell voted against the motion.</p> <p>Cllr Williams abstained</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
77/14.	<p><u>To consider financial discrepancies & restitution – Cllr Skidmore to speak</u></p> <p>Cllr Skidmore wished to bring 2 matters to the council’s attention. The first was with regard to a statement published recently claiming that a large sum of money, £300,000 had been secured for the council which he can find no evidence to support this claim. The 2nd matter concerned the sale of jubilee commemorative mugs by the council where the audit trail held by the council identifies a discrepancy between the audit figures & the balance of the mugs still held by the council.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Skidmore Seconded – Cllr Stanley</p> <p>“That the district auditor carries out a forensic audit of the accounts in an attempt to clarify the situation.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>With regard to restitution Cllr Skidmore proposed that the Council has a statutory duty to recover the sum & seek legal advice on how to achieve this. This was seconded by Cllr Stanley.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	<p>AFS/Clerk</p> <p>AFS/Clerk</p>
78/14.	<p><u>To report on the City Council move to offices upstairs – Cllr Skidmore to speak</u></p> <p>Cllr Skidmore informed members that discussions have taken place over a period of time with the Head of Estates at Harrogate Borough Council since it became known that HMRC were to vacate the 1st floor offices in the Town Hall. Harrogate Borough Council has agreed to allow RCC to move to the vacated HMRC offices at no extra cost to the council. HMRC will leave all office furniture in place at no cost to RCC. There will be a small fee for moving the office equipment but the head of IT at HBC should be able to link all the computers, printers & telephony at no cost to RCC also. RCC will retain the Mayors Parlour, the strong room, the kitchenette & the toilet.</p>	
79/14.	<p><u>To receive the report from the City Development Manager & consider the</u></p>	

	<p><u>recommendations within – Market Place progress report</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive & note the recommendations in the report & that the Mayor, Cllr Stanley & Deputy Mayor, Cllr Chambers be appointed Chairman & Vice-Chairman of the Market Place Events Advisory group. It was also RESOLVED to authorise the City Development Manager to act on behalf of the council, as the premises licence holder for the event on 13 September 2014.</p>	
80/14.	<p><u>To receive the report from the City Development Manager & consider the recommendations within – Christmas Lights Improvements Phase 2</u></p> <p>Members would like to see more support from businesses in the City & that the City Development Manager should contact the Chamber of Trade to seek support for the project.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive & note the report.</p>	
81/14.	<p><u>To receive the report from the City Development Manager & consider the recommendations within – A Proposal to Host Yorkshire Day in 2018.</u></p> <p>Members were concerned about the cost of hosting an event.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to agree in principle to the proposal to host Yorkshire Day in 2018 subject to the costs being sought & brought back to council for approval.</p>	CDM
82/14.	<p><u>To receive a report from the City Development Manager & consider the recommendations within – Le Tour De Ripon 2014 – post Event Evaluation</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive & note the report. The council give grateful thanks to the City Development Manager & his assistant & to the Le Tour organising committee for all their hard work on the success of the events</p> <p>It was noted there was a lack of volunteers which does needs looking at to attract more volunteers another time.</p>	
83./14	<p><u>Correspondence to receive:</u></p> <p>a. <u>Harrogate Borough Council Annual Review Spring 2014</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive & note this item</p> <p>b. <u>The Electoral Commission - Individual Electoral Registration guide</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive & note this item</p>	
84/14.	<p><u>To receive & note the dates for Mayor Making & Mayors Installation 2015</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive & note the dates in this item.</p>	
85/14.	<p><u>To consider an event to acknowledge the achievements of Commonwealth gold medallist, Jack Laugher</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to commemorate his achievements with an event & make a presentation of a citizens award. The event should also include Geri Buckley, the local lady who shoots for the rifle club in Ripon who also represented England at the Commonwealth games.</p>	
86/14.	<p><u>To receive a report from Harrogate Borough Councillors if appropriate</u></p>	

	No report was received	
87/14.	<u>To receive a report from North Yorkshire County Councillors if appropriate</u> No report was received	
88/14.	<u>Mayoral Announcements – for information only</u> There were no Mayoral announcements	

The meeting closed at 7.47pm

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR