

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIPON

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2014 AT 7.57PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE TOWN HALL, RIPON

PRESENT:

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

The Clerk
 A member of the press
 The Dean
 Sergeant-At-Mace

Late Arrivals: None

Early Departures: Cllr Skidmore – 8.47pm
 Cllr Williams – 9.05pm
 Cllr Bateman – 9.06pm

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Dean said prayers.

		Action By:
89/14.	<u>To receive apologies for absence</u> Apologies were received from Cllr M Chambers	
90/14.	<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	
91/14..	<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	
92/14.	<u>To approve the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 1 September 2014</u> Proposed – Cllr Skidmore Seconded – Cllr Brierley “That the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 1 September 2014 be approved”	

	RESOLVED	
93/14.	<p>To receive the following committee meeting minutes for information only</p> <p>a.Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 21 July 2014, 1 September 2014</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Skidmore Seconded – Cllr Hawke</p> <p>“ That the minutes of the meeting held 21 July 2014 be received”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Skidmore Seconded – Cllr Hawke</p> <p>“That the minutes of the meeting held 1 September 2014 be received</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>b.Planning Committee Meeting held on 18 August 2014, 8 September 2014</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Horton Seconded – Cllr Powell</p> <p>“ That the minutes of the held 18 August 2014 meeting be received”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Horton Seconded – Cllr Powell</p> <p>“ That the minutes of the held 8 September 2014 meeting be received”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>c.Staff Committee Meeting held on 29 July 2014</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Barnes Seconded – Cllr Skidmore</p> <p>“ That the minutes of the said meetings be received”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>d.City Plan Committee Meeting held on 8 July 2014</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Stanley Seconded – Cllr Barnes</p> <p>“ That the minutes of the said meetings be received”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>e.Alderman TF Spence Committee Meeting held on 6 August 2014</p> <p>Proposed –Cllr Brierley Seconded – Cllr Stanley</p> <p>“ That the minutes of the said meetings be received”</p>	

	RESOLVED	
94/14.	<p><u>To appoint a new committee member to the fill the vacancy on the Finance & General Purposes Committee & the Alderman TF Spence Committee.</u></p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Stanley Seconded – Cllr Skidmore</p> <p>“That Cllr Waiting be appointed to the Finance & General Purposes Committee to fill the vacancy on the committee”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>There were no members nominated to fill the vacancy on the Alderman TF Spence committee.</p>	
95/14.	<p><u>To consider the information & advice from the Clerk on the resolution made on agenda item 77/14 ‘that the District Auditor carries out a forensic audit of the accounts’ from meeting held on 1 September 2014 & consider the appropriate action</u></p> <p>The Chairman asked Cllr Skidmore to speak on this item as Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes committee who had been looking into this financial discrepancy he reported at the last meeting of council. The amount of money referred to relates to the sum secured as part of the S106 agreement from Safeways & the leisure centre build some years ago. These funds were invested & retained by the City Council at the time for projects in the city. The interest from these investments paid the management fee required for HBC to manage the facility. Interest rates dropped & coupled with a new contract for management with HBC the interest rate was insufficient to meet the management fee. As a result the then Council made a decision in negotiation with HBC to hand the freehold of the Leisure centre to HBC at no cost to the Borough Council. It was at this time that the freehold of the Leisure Centre was handed back to HBC. The remaining sum of monies secured as part of the S106 agreement was retained by RCC.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Skidmore Seconded – Cllr Bateman</p> <p>“that in view of the facts received the City Council do not proceed with the District Auditor”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
96/14.	<p><u>To receive a verbal report back from Councillor Skidmore on legal advice for the restitution from the resolution made on agenda item 77/14.</u></p> <p>Cllr Skidmore reported that the legal advice he had obtained advised that the Council was entitled to seek restitution as a result of the recent case at Crown Court & that the person responsible should be approached to repay. Cllr Bateman advised members that this had been brought up by the auditor in his report last year. Cllr Horton asked what had happened to the sum of money received in the Clerks office that matched this amount. Cllr Skidmore reported that a sum of money had been received by the Clerk that matched the amount and this had been handed to the police as part of the evidence for the court case. This money had now been returned to the Clerk but it is not known where it has come from as it had been handed in anonymously. This money is being held at the council at present for the council to decide what to do with this money.</p>	

	<p>Proposed – Cllr Skidmore Seconded – Cllr Bateman</p> <p>“that the person concerned should be approached to recover the £220”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
97/14.	<p><u>To seek approval from Council to publish the minutes of meetings in draft form on the website before they are approved at the next meeting.</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED that minutes of meetings are put on the website in draft format as soon as they can after the meeting has taken place.</p>	
98/14.	<p><u>To receive & note the completion of the annual audit for the financial year ended 31 March 2014 noting the external auditors report & consider any recommended action from the Finance & General Purposes committee meeting 20 October 2014, agenda item 53/14. to be taken on the conclusion of the report.</u></p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Skidmore Seconded – Cllr Brierley</p> <p>“That the completion of the audit & the comments contained within are recommended to Full council for approval”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
99/14.	<p><u>To consider a convey of the Freedom of the City to RAF Leeming – Mayor to speak</u></p> <p>Cllr Stanley reported that the relationships with RAF Leeming were good & they were keen to get strengthen the links with the City.They also have 2 standards laid up in the Cathedral.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Stanley Seconded Cllr Bateman</p> <p>“That RAF Leeming be given the Freedom of the City of Ripon”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
100/14.	<p><u>To seek & consider feedback from Councillors on their involvement in City Plan consultation - Mayor to speak</u></p> <p>The Mayor informed members that the City Plan was now at the draft consultation stage & he wanted to see more councillors involved in the City Plan work. He wished to thank the City Plan committee & the working group who have given a considerable amount of time to get the plan put into action.</p>	

The Dean left the meeting – 8.35pm

101/14.	<p><u>To consider correspondence from Harrogate Borough Council with regard to the Parish Consultation arrangements for 2014</u></p> <p><u>a. To consider sending two representatives to the meeting</u></p> <p>Cllr Stanley & Cllr Martin volunteered to attend the meeting</p>	
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	<p><u>b. to note the closing date for receipt of questions & to consider any questions to be put forward to the meeting.</u></p> <p>The Chairman asked all members to send any questions to the Clerk by the closing date of next Tuesday 28 October 2014.</p>	
102/14.	<p><u>To receive a report back on the proposals for hosting Yorkshire Day 2018 from City Development Manager – referred from Full Council 1 September 2014</u></p> <p>It had already been agreed in principle to host Yorkshire Day 2018 & members felt that this was generally a good idea although some doubted that there would be no cost to hosting the day. There was plenty of time to start putting some funds to one side each year to help with the costs of the festival of events as the Civic gathering on Yorkshire Day would be self-funded.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Williams Seconded – Cllr Skidmore</p> <p>“that the recommendations in the report from the City Development Manager be actioned & that work commences for events by developing a concept for the event & a funding strategy to facilitate its delivery”</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
103/14.	<p><u>To consider an additional order to the council standing orders – see paper enclosed</u></p> <p>The Clerk had provided advice to the Council received from YLCA that any such addition to the standing orders was not enforceable although the City Council is free to adopt such wording if it so wishes. Cllr Skidmore said that other advice he had received said otherwise & proposed that further legal advice was sought & brought back to this council for further consideration before a decision was made. This was seconded by Cllr Martin-Long.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	

Cllr Skidmore left 8.47pm

104/14.	<p><u>To consider a suggestion to produce a leaflet on Ripon City Council expenditure/achievements to be distributed with council tax bill 2015/16.- Mayor to speak</u></p> <p>There was concern that the cost of this exercise was not cost effective when there are other places that this information could be published, such as the website, Ripon Gazette. It was also acknowledged that not all people have access to the internet or read the Ripon Gazette.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to defer this item until proper costings such as additional postage are obtained & brought back to this council for consideration.</p> <p>Cllr McHardy wished it to be minuted that the Mayor had not given her chance to speak for a second time.</p>	
105/14.	<p><u>To consider & approve the adoption of the revised rules for the effective management of recording at local council and parish meetings to replace the</u></p>	

	<p><u>guide 'our approach to audio & visual recordings, photography & use of social media at council meetings' (adopted at Full Council 10.03.14) following the introduction of the Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 for the recording of Council & Parish meetings.</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to adopt the rules for the recording of council & parish meetings.</p>	
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Cllr Williams left the meeting
The member of the press left the meeting

106/14.	<p><u>To receive minutes from external groups</u></p> <p>a. <u>Ripon Ring meeting 3 June 2014 – distributed to all councillors 27.08.14</u> b. <u>Ripon In Bloom meeting – 7 August 2014 – distributed to all councillors 01.09.14</u> c. <u>Ripon Municipal Charities – 30 April 2014 – distributed to all Councillors 16.09.14</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive & note these minutes from external groups</p>	
107/14.	<p><u>Correspondence to receive & note:</u></p> <p>a. <u>Ripon & District Citizens Advice Bureau - merger</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive & note this item</p> <p>b. <u>Harrogate Borough Council – Overview & scrutiny annual report 2013-14 & economy report for the Harrogate district</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive & note this item</p> <p>Cllr Powell declared an interest in this item as a member of the Harrogate Borough Council Overview & Scrutiny committee.</p>	
108/14.	<p><u>To receive a report from Harrogate Borough Councillors if appropriate</u></p> <p>There was no report received</p>	
109/14.	<p><u>To receive a report from North Yorkshire County Councillors if appropriate</u></p> <p>County Cllr Horton reported that a meeting had been held earlier in the evening with NYCC with regard to the street lighting reduction scheme for Ripon.</p>	
110/14.	<p><u>Mayoral Announcements – for information only</u></p> <p>There were no mayoral announcements</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.07pm

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR