

NORTON-ON-DERWENT TOWN COUNCIL



Clerks Report January 2024

January has been a very busy month. Various issues have been reported around the town and some have been easier to deal with than others. The fence at Lakeside took some getting to the bottom of as many of the departments at North Yorkshire Council felt it was not 'their' fence but I believe it is now being dealt with by North Yorkshire Council.

We have had complaints regarding dog fouling around many areas of the town. After speaking to Norton Community Officer they have put signage up around the town to remind and encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets.

I attended a training event at North Yorkshire Highways at Kirby Misperton. This was really interesting and very useful. While I was there I took the opportunity for them to give me access to Norton's online portal. This means I now have direct access for reporting the relevant issues in the town and these are sent straight to the correct officer to deal with. This should hopefully help with our response times for issues that are highways related.

Following some recent incidents in the Cemetery I am now working with the police who intend to start monitoring the situation.

The senior's lunch was a great success and I believe it was enjoyed by the residents that attended. I will be contacting the Councillors that attended and worked really hard to give feedback and their thoughts on the event. A big thank you to Karrio who supplied the meat and Marks and Spencer's would kindly donated prizes for the bingo and the dancers who performed.

I had a walk around with Malcolm and various issues were raised. Some minor repairs were required at the Skatepark which are now all dealt with. The only outstanding problems are with the apparatus themselves so I have contacted King Ramps and have been informed that repairs should be made in the next week.

The gates at King Georges have been repaired and painted. A resident that was visiting the park at the time said she thought it was a great improvement.

The paving on Church Street outside the toilets is in a really poor state. Two slabs in particular are a serious trip hazard. Malcolm and Andrew intend to repair these as soon as weather conditions permit.

Following talks with the supplier of the hedge intended to be placed on the allotments in January, I have since cancelled the scheme and the Council will receive a full refund of £261.60. While the

whips ordered was a native mix, the intended hedge included ornamental wild cherry trees to be spaced at 6 metres. The allotments tenancy agreement states that only fruit trees are to be grown on the site and they must be on a dwarf rootstock. The trees supplied would be in breach of the Council's own terms. The whips to be supplied were 60-80 cm therefore around 40% could potentially fail costing the Council further. As these were obtained on a grant (Council paid £261.60 the actual costs of whips in the trade would be approx. £350) they were not able to be planted at any other site due to the terms of the grant. I believe that the funds could be invested in more pressing matters on the allotments at this time.

I am still dealing with issues regarding the AGAR and PKF Littlejohn 2023 accounts. Various documents were not supplied and variances in the accounts are still causing ongoing issues. As another year end is on the horizon I requested the auditor to come in for a day and work with me on the current year. She is satisfied with the accounts so far and will work with me on this year's audit. See agenda item 13.

A wall at the allotments from the Parliament Street side has collapsed leaving significant debris on a plot. I am currently trying to contact the plot owner to discuss the matter. I will also be going to the site to see the situation as I have been informed that further areas are likely to fall. The area has been cordoned off and signage is visible stating not to approach the area. I will report further findings at the next meeting and possibly have quotes/options for the Council to reach a decision on resolving the matter.

Claire Eade
The Clerk