



## **BOROUGHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

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### **MINUTES OF THE BOROUGHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

#### **ANNUAL Meeting held on 2nd May 2023**

Meeting was held at the Council Offices.

**Councillors attending:** Sean Hynes (Chair), James Wilkinson, Pauline Phillips, Peter Phillips  
John Goss, Monika Kaczmarczyk, Julie Fuller, Kenny Fuller.

**Clerk present:** L. Leatherbarrow.

#### **Apologies for absence**

Cllr James McNeil, Cllr Robert Young

**Meeting opened at 18:30.**

#### **1. Mayor's Report 2022-23**

**The mayor gave his report to the Councillors assembled:**

2022-23 was a year of change across North Yorkshire impacting gradually on local Parish and town councils with the move to a Unitary Authority being implemented finally in April 2023. 2022 was a year of preparation and consultation. Changes slowly being embedded now. Biggest change is that the areas of the County are once again being slightly changed- impacting local authority systems and organisation that we work within. Our aim is to keep abreast of change and support the community with regards any changes that may impact directly with systems.

Continued building in Boroughbridge town and locality means the town is changing slowly with increasing numbers of new households joining the established community. This impacts the infra structure and has brought fresh challenges to the road systems with increased traffic and building works disruption, but the positive is the welcomed dynamic nature of new members of a community bringing fresh ideas.

At BBTC changes also occurred with office staffing. Newly appointed Town Clerk and Deputy role. Consistency in delivery is the aim and this is being achieved with the support of the Councillors. Internal organisation within the TC has changed slightly as committee membership and organisation was reviewed to improve efficiency and to ensure Cllr skills are used to the best advantage.

TC aims remain embedded: to provide the best for the community in Boroughbridge. Projects the TC has supported and initiated all aim to improve and maintain a positive environment for the townspeople. Key projects have been:

Cemetery improvements. Aldborough Gate Cemetery has had repairs to the classic lych gate structure to ensure it is maintained safely.

Also, there is a new notice board and fence, with new gate and storage area for the rubbish bins, new water butt to improve facilities and appearance of the cemetery. On-going review is made of the trees, hedging and grounds maintenance to ensure the Cemetery is safe and tidy. Likewise, the memorial testing programme is on-going in both Aldborough Gate and Boroughbridge Cemetery.

Boroughbridge Cemetery has had a new footpath surface that has improved the accessibility for all users. Already reports from wheelchair user that this has allowed better access for the first time in years. A new notice board has also been erected in the Cemetery to replace the old one. Boroughbridge Town Council maintains the grounds regularly, as always, and is responsive to the comments of public users, such as removal of ivy on areas affected. Boroughbridge Town Council was pleased to be approached by Commonwealth War Graves commission this year. Agreement was given for a notice to be erected to better advertise the fact the Cemetery has Commonwealth War graves, which are important to the town.

A new bench was bought for the recreation ground this year and works carried out to remove ivy from trees in the park, opposite to Boroughbridge Cemetery, which will help ensure their survival. Other Boroughbridge Town Council assets are regularly maintained and considered as part of on-going programmes. Valuation of specific assets has been considered with respect to possible better use of Boroughbridge Town Council asset wealth for the dynamic changing community, including Mill Lane site. This is a project in progress currently, with optimistic outcomes.

The Third arrow site has been renovated and made safer and better protected, in partnership with a private individual who also is keen to protect this part of the town's important historical heritage. Improvements have brought a new fence around the site, levelling of the kerbed area adjacent to the arrow and a new accessible friendly gate.

The project to add lighting to the bridge over the Ure has unfortunately been suspended currently. Spiralling costs after Covid have changed funding required and this has been suspended until alternative plans can be implemented.

Exciting new project is developing regarding provision of a sports facility for the town.

Recognising the lack of sports facilities for young people and adults, a group is working hard to develop plans and identify funding streams to support this new venture. The BTC is working closely with the group, offering support as needed. One Cllr is a driving force within the group. The public toilets in Back Lane Car Park are currently being renovated. Improvements were badly needed and are now being implemented. Facilities are well used by visitors and will be a positive asset when finished. New sanitary ware and interior decoration is being fitted.

The experimental decision to allow designated Motor Home parking in the car park has been reviewed. It is continuing as feedback from Motor Home users has been so positive. Parking payments have boosted funds for car park maintenance and the visitors are bringing added spending power to the local shops and restaurants. The facility will remain under review but is continuing.

The tenacity, determination and commitment of a particular Cllr is ensuring BTC is holding North Yorkshire Council to task with regards Commuted Sums funding. The funding is agreed when new housing developments are given planning permission. It is intended for community use, with improvement of facilities close to the new housing that is permitted. North Yorkshire Council systems have not recently been open about the funding and Boroughbridge Town Council is working hard to ensure the funding is used as intended. Many hours of hard work have been invested in this issue during the year.

The sad death of the Queen Elizabeth in 2022 was respectfully marked in the Council and by the town. Receipt of a note of thanks from King Charles following condolences sent from Boroughbridge Town Council and residents was warmly appreciated and valued.

The coronation of King Charles is soon to occur. Boroughbridge Town Council has decorated the Buttermarket in celebration of the event. A small commemorative gift is being given by

Boroughbridge Town Council to the local primary school children to mark the event. A Civic Service of celebration and thanksgiving is also being held by the mayor in partnership with the Rev Dr Gardiner on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at St Andrews Church.

Partnership working between Boroughbridge Town Council continues wherever possible with local community groups that are felt to improve services/facilities for the residents. The council office space outside the Buttermarket is offered for such ventures, when appropriate. Examples are the Barclays banking van arriving each fortnight, Citizens Advice van visiting the town, Police partnership 'hub'.

Partnership working with local and county Police services is continuing. Boroughbridge Town Council councillors are members of The Safer Neighbourhood Group for local parishes, but as a council Boroughbridge Town Council has tried to hold Police to account for local policing issues residents have raised. Greater partnership working is now promised for the future.

New car parking electricity charging points are planned for the Back Lane car Park for later in the Spring.

Finances are continuing to be closely monitored and maintained. The Precept has been reconfirmed this year at similar levels to last year. This is positive and keeps the council moving forward to support the town.

The last year has contained many challenges for Boroughbridge Town Council. These challenges we must learn from and improve upon, and not allow our focus to be diminished in any quarter.

## **2. Parish Precept 2023-2024**

The Parish Precept total for 2023-2024 is £70,000.

## **3. Questions from members of the public**

No questions were received

### **The meeting ended at 18:40.**

*Following the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, the right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the Council, Committees and Sub Committees is established, but anyone wishing to do so, should advise the Clerk or Chair of the Council, to ensure compliance with BTC's adopted policy to manage this activity effectively and lawfully.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor and Chair of Council

Date \_\_\_\_\_