



BOROUGHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD on Tuesday 1st April 2025.

Meeting held at the Council offices. Meeting started at 18.30.

Present at the meeting: Cllr Pauline Phillips (Chair), Cllr Peter Phillips, Cllr Kenny Fuller, Cllr Julie Fuller, Cllr Sean Hynes, Cllr Jamie McNeil, Cllr Zoe Metcalfe, Cllr Rob Young, Cllr Nathan Plowright, County Councillor Robert Windass, Pam Howell (Clerk), Liz Leatherbarrow (Clerk, taking minutes).

No members of the public attended.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Mayor's Report

As I reflect on the past year in my role as mayor, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication of our council members, community, and clerking team. It has indeed been a year of significant progress and challenging transitions.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to John Goss, Monika Kaczmarczyk, and James Wilkinson who left the council during my term of office. Their contributions were invaluable, and I wish them the very best in their future endeavours. Additionally, I am pleased to welcome Zoe Metcalfe and Nathan Plowright to the council. I look forward to working with you and seeing the positive impact your fresh perspectives will bring to our community.

One of the major shifts we have faced is the consolidation from a District Council to a single Unitary authority. This change has brought about its own set of complexities, demanding us to adapt and evolve our approach to governance. Despite the hurdles, our clerking team, namely Liz and Pam, have risen to the occasion, managing the increased workload with remarkable efficiency and commitment.

In these changing and challenging times, it is becoming increasingly difficult to provide a first-class service for the community we serve. With budget cuts in North Yorkshire Council

and escalating costs, we will endeavour to meet these challenges. Just don't expect everything to remain the same, as it won't.

May I also remind our community that NO Town Councillor takes one penny out of the public purse. We all stand for election to serve our community.

Throughout my mayoral year, I have endeavoured to advance two substantial projects that promise to enhance the quality of life in our community.

Firstly, the development of our Recreation Ground on Wetherby Road has seen the establishment of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), a significant investment of just over £100,000. This funding was secured from developers, ensuring no burden on our rate payers. The next phase involves improving the junior play area, again with funds from developers. Unfortunately, progress was delayed as we had to verify our ownership of the recreation ground, which was generously bequeathed to the Town in 1924 with the stipulation that it remains for recreational use only.

The second, and most substantial project by far, is the Sports Village at Aldborough Gate. This initiative is a collaboration between the Town Council, a charitable trust, and a local businessman. Once completed, it will provide a 7-acre recreational area with an exercise track, a grass area for field sports, a MUGA, and more—all free to access. Additionally, the remaining 3 acres will feature a state-of-the-art gym, health bar, and meeting rooms, requiring membership for access. The team is currently finalizing the intricate planning procedures, and with full support from our MP, we hope to see this project come to fruition soon.

On a disappointing note, we had hoped to proceed with the sale of our Mill Lane site to a local dentist, but due to prolonged planning difficulties, the deal fell through.

We have continued to strengthen ties with our schools through our Schools Liaison Team, working hard to help them secure funding to expand their classroom capacity.

Additionally, we have worked to create stronger links with the local police team through our dedicated Police Liaison Team.

I'd like to address the impact of development on our community, particularly regarding the allocation of our community's 106 money. This funding, received from developers to offset the impact on our Parish, has been a constant challenge. We have never been consulted on the allocation or the amount of this money, and since the unitary authority took power, our involvement in spending decisions has diminished. We continuously remind those in office that this is our community's money, not NYC's.

On a positive note, we do have a substantial amount accruing in 106 monies for a community centre building. We shall move forward with this project in due course.

As we plan for the future, it is encouraging to see the potential for a new community centre that will serve as a hub for local activities, events, and services. This new facility will not only provide a communal space for gatherings and celebrations but also offer resources and programs that cater to the needs and interests of all age groups within our community.

We are committed to ensuring that this community centre becomes a vibrant and welcoming space where residents can connect, learn, and thrive. Your ongoing support and engagement will be crucial as we move forward with this exciting project, and we will keep you informed of our progress every step of the way.

The installation of low-level lighting over the river bridge has met many challenges. Initially, plans were almost complete several years ago, but then COVID and rapidly rising costs set the project back. Additionally, planning difficulties have further delayed progress. While this

project is still being pursued, the costs may now be beyond our means. We shall, of course, keep those who donated money for the project informed as we navigate these hurdles. And finally, at long last, Roecliffe Lane has been resurfaced. Thanks to Councillor Robert Windass, who used some of his locality budget, which enabled us to install a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) to help reduce the speeding traffic.

At the end of the mayor's report Cllr Hynes offered a vote of thanks to the mayor for her hard work during her period of office.

Gratitude was also extended to the mayor's consort Cllr Peter Phillips and to the Deputy mayor who had supported her throughout the year.

These thanks were reinforced by all present.

Cllr Peter Phillips offered thanks on behalf of the whole council to the clerking team for their support to the council during a year when changes to the organisation of NYC into a unitary authority had prompted increased workloads.

3. Parish Precept 2025- 26

At the Full Town Council Meeting held on 3rd December 2024, it was resolved that the Precept should be set at £99,000 for 2025 - 2026 (Minutes 3.12.2024 8.2).

4. Any other business

No other reports were given.

The meeting ended at 18.40.

Each page of these Minutes has been read and confirmed, following ratification at the Full Council Meeting held on 6th May 2025.

Signed _____
Mayor and Chair of Council

Date _____