



**Tadcaster Town Council**  
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Open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to  
12.30pm

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2024 AT 7 PM IN THE ARK**

**PRESENT:**

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>S Cobb</b>
<b>COUNCILLORS</b>	<b>G Butcher, G Lodge, K Poskitt &amp; P Tunney</b>
<b>CLERK</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>DEPUTY CLERK</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	<b>Two representatives of Tadcaster Community Sports Trust, One member of the public</b>

**AT1 APOLOGIES** – To receive and accept apologies for absence from Councillors D Bowgett, F Greig, C Metcalfe & R Sweeting.

**AT2 PUBLIC SESSION – DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM** - Members of the Public were welcome to speak and raise any matters relating to the town.

Representatives from Tadcaster Community Sports Trust (TCST) delivered a brief overview of Green/ Open Space in the town.

Representatives reported on the following subjects: -

- Selby Local Plan – Green Space obligations – ensuring residents have access to high-quality open space is an important part of providing sustainable, inclusive and healthy places to live.
- Green Space Audit – March 2024 – There were significant shortfalls in green open space provision set out within the Green Space Audit. Tadcaster was below the benchmark in many areas.
- Green Space Audit – Sport and Recreation - There was numerous ongoing issues across various sports, a lack of facilities, increased levels of rainfall, potential impacts from local developments. There was an expectation that Green Space issues would be remedied by the previously proposed Sports Park.

A map showing the extent of Special Policy Area T2, the London Road site, and Proposals for a Sports Park were highlighted to members.

Previous Consultation responses had been sent to the Selby Local Plan in 2022 and Tadcaster Neighbourhood Development Plan in 2023.

A 20-page response had been sent by TCST to 2024 Selby Local Plan questioning the “soundness of the document” and asks how: -

- Residents of Tadcaster and local villages would be provided with access to high quality open space, in accordance with the Local Plan Vision and objectives.
- The NYC strategy was to deliver appropriate and accessible sport and recreation facilities and high-quality green space which support the health and well-being of the community, as described throughout the Local Plan, was to be delivered.

- There were significant shortfalls identified by the Green Space Audit along with Playing Pitch Strategy and Local Football Facilities Plan and were to be remedied.

A video produced in readiness for February 2022 Public Consultation and funded by Selby District Council was shown to members. Members were informed that the land had been retracted and the scheme had not currently been taken forward.

K Poskitt reported that she wholeheartedly supported the Sports Park Proposals and was sympathetic that land had been put forward for the scheme and then retracted at a later date.

She felt that the issue of lack of Green Space in the town needed to be brought to full Council. She would ensure that an NYC response regarding the above questions was forthcoming.

TCST Representative reported that potentially significant SDC funding had been lost, momentum for the scheme had diminished, should the scheme be taken forward in the future, funding would be starting from scratch.

Members agreed that Green Space in the town required investigation.

**RESOLVED - That Green Space in Tadcaster be raised as an agenda item at the next appropriate meeting.**

**ACTION – Clerk to deal.**

**AT3 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT** – To receive the Chairman’s Report of Council activities for the past year.

In the absence of the Chairman D Bowgett, S Cobb Vice Chairman read out the following Chairmans Report 2023/2024: -

*“This has been the first full Town Council year since the dissolution of Selby District Council, and the formation of the unitary North Yorkshire Council. It has been another year of transition, as we have established relationships with the new responsible officers and councillors at North Yorkshire.*

- *We have also seen a change in our MP, as Nigel Adams stepped down, and Keir Mather was elected at the by-election last July. We will change our MP again in the next council year, as the upcoming General Election will see the Selby & Ainsty constituency cease to exist, and Tadcaster becoming part of the new Wetherby & Easingwold constituency.*
- *The upcoming council year will also see the election of a new Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, who will head up a new combined authority encompassing these areas. We look forward to the opportunity to work with the new Mayor on various issues.*
- *Work has continued on the Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Scheme. The Environment Agency continue to maintain a presence in the Ark on Tuesday mornings, and provide regular updates at Town Council meetings.*
- *In February, the town was privileged to host the first Royal Air Force Air Cadets Sunday Parade since the pandemic.*
- *The Air Force Cadets also helped to steward the Christmas Market in December, making the event another success. Our thanks go to the staff and Cllr Sweeting for their hard work in organising and running the event.*
- *Two VAS signs have been purchased to be used at six of the entrances to the town where speeding concerns have been identified. We have agreed with the police to provide the speed data on a monthly basis, and the signs will be moved between locations every three months, in line with North Yorkshire Council’s requirements.*
- *Work continues on the Tadcaster Neighbourhood Development Plan. A further consultation took place last year, and the feedback from residents will help shape the plan going forward.*

- *Development also continues on the Selby District Local Plan, which has been taken over by North Yorkshire Council following the dissolution of Selby District Council. The Town Council will submit its reply to the latest consultation phase at the next Full Council meeting.*
- *As chairman, I would on behalf of the Town Council like to place on record our thanks to the staff for their continued hard work, their professionalism, and for going well beyond the call of duty on too many occasions to count."*

#### **AT4 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: -**

- **Environment**

S Cobb reported the following: -

Allotments – a water supply had been installed in Councillor Middlemiss Allotments.

He greatly appreciated the annual Allotment Competition judging by Shirley Fawcett – she had made positive comments. In general, there had been much improvement.

The Council are responsible for the successful planting and hanging baskets in the town during 2023/2024.

**Christmas Market** –on 3 December 2023 had been very successful, he was looking forward to the market on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

Litter/Dog Bins and benches were in a good state of repair.

- **Emergency Planning Sub Committee –**

The Environment Agency were moving towards spades in the ground for the Flood defence. The Council had worked closely with North Yorkshire Council on reducing number of Bridge closures.

Christmas illuminations were improving year on year.

The Council were forward to North Yorkshire's Bus Station refurbishment works.

The Council were in the process of writing a biodiversity policy.

- **Finance and General Purposes**

The Remembrance Sunday parade was another successful one and saw a particularly strong attendance at the livestream which took place in the Riley Smith Hall. We are hopeful of maintaining this format going forward.

Maintenance was carried out on the War Memorial, including a repainting of the chains surrounding the memorial.

The F&GP committee and Cemetery Sub-Committee have agreed to develop a five-year programme for cemetery maintenance, in order to anticipate future maintenance needs and ensure that we are able to meet any required costs. The maintenance that has taken place this year has focused primarily on the boundary wall and the trees.

At the recommendation of F&GP, a formal minuting policy has been developed and adopted by Full Council, based on guidance from numerous sources including the Cabinet Office's minuting policy.

The Town Council has maintained its agreement with the Tadcaster Community Action Group to provide 50% funding for insuring the flood pumps.

We have begun to plan a beacon lighting event for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day on June 6.

#### **AT5 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON OTHER BODIES: -**

- **Yorkshire Local Councils Association (Selby)** - Councillor D Mackay was Absent from the meeting.

- **Swimming Pool Users Committee** - Councillor S Cobb –

2023 Had been really challenging, but yet really rewarding!

We went into 2023 with huge concerns regarding the price of energy and a deficit budget.

We had to minimise our spending, increase prices and manage the budget very carefully.

We did a lot of work explaining the price increase to our customers and reasons behind it.

Fortunately, this was really well received by the customers and clubs, and attendance remained strong.

We have continued our community works delivering School Swimming Lessons, Disability Clubs, Rehab sessions and much more.

We invested funds into installing Solar Panels which will reduce our energy costs by approx 10%. We also received £20k from North Yorkshire Council to support us throughout this period.

For all the challenges in 2023 we have reported the highest attendance we have ever had in one year, which is amazing. It just shows that the community facility is still really well supported and needed in the town.

Our challenges moving into 2024 will be to maintain the high-level customers base and quality standards.

Manage staff and energy costs carefully, improve our community outreach work and engage more volunteers. We have also got to manage the aging building carefully with some large investment costs required in the building fabric and electrical distribution supplies.

In December 2024 we will celebrate our 30th Anniversary and are planning to host a number of events and activities throughout this week.

A resident reported that there was a £300,00 fund available for swimming pools and Tadcaster was included.

K Poskitt reported that North Yorkshire Council had donated £61,000 to the Swimming Pool.

- **Dawson & Oglethorpe Trust - Councillors** – Councillor K Poskitt reported that the Trust met very infrequently and there was nothing to report

- **Tadcaster Twinning Association Committee** - Councillors D Bowgett & S Cobb  
The meetings continue to be well attended and we seem very much at home in the Barn now.

#### **Visit of friends from Saint-Chély**

In April 2023 we hosted six of our French friends for a few days. We managed to present them with a packed agenda, and we received positive feedback from the visitors.

*Boules match with Wetherby Twinners*

*In the Summer we held our third match with Wetherby, and it probably was their turn to triumph.*

*We'll have another go at them this July.*

#### **Christmas market stall**

As usual, we had a successful tombola stall at the Christmas market to help bolster our funds. Thanks to all who helped us to add nearly £300 to our funds.

#### **Annual dinner at Saponi di Napoli**

It was good to get together with some of our long-standing supporters in February. Thanks to Ramon, Pauline and Alison Wilkinson for arranging this event. The raffle added in excess of £40 to our pot.

#### **Other areas of progress**

##### **School links**

The local schools continue to benefit from our links with Saint Chély d'Apcher. Both Tadcaster Grammar School (TGS) and Riverside School have established email and letter writing exchanges between individual students from the College Notre Dame and the Ecole Sainte Marie respectively. Moreover, around 45 students from the College Notre Dame will be visiting TGS in June for a day and the students will meet up and be spending the day together. As previously discussed, we will finance part of the TGS day with their French penfriends by providing a lunchtime meal for them and their partners and providing funding for transport for the students' visit to York together.

Alison and Chris Young have visited both Tadcaster Primary Academy and St Joseph's School to give a presentation and talk with the pupils about the town and area around Saint Chély

d'Apcher and our links with the schools. They were made to feel very welcome, and the pupils were engaged, asking many questions about the town. This also fitted in well with the topic they were doing this term on their local area, so that the students were able to make comparisons with a similar sized town in another country. Hopefully, these visits will serve to raise awareness of our twin town and help the pupils to be more open and outward-looking towards other cultures.

We are still waiting to talk to the Riverside pupils but teacher illness has prevented this so far. Alison and Chris have been well-received when talking with Jen McCombe from Riverside about our links and she has been instrumental in making contact with the primary school and developing the penfriend links.

We trust that all these activities will serve the greater purpose of developing awareness of another culture as well as long-lasting friendships with Saint-Chély d'Apcher.

#### **Summary**

The twinning project is healthy as we enter our 25<sup>th</sup> year- particularly pleasing is the progress at the school level – many thanks for the efforts of Alison and Chris in this respect. Another good year then – thanks to everyone who's helped and supported us in the last year.

- **Selby District AVS** – Members were informed that the AVS had changed name to Up for Yorkshire.

**ACTION – Clerk to ascertain if Up for Yorkshire required a Council Representative.**

- **Tadcaster Community Library** - Councillor F Greig was absent from the meeting.
- **Tadcaster Medical Centre Patient Participation Group** – J Chiswick was absent from the meeting.
- **Environment Agency – Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Client Group** – S Cobb –

Report on Flood Alleviation Scheme

The contractor for the scheme and fish pass will hopefully be BAM Nuttall.

Following successful pre-planning discussions, a full planning application should be submitted in summer 2024.

The scheme must ensure protection of people and property but must also be good value for money.

Later this year essential infrastructure and diversionary work, mainly around the bridge, will take place.

The main work is expected to start in Spring 2025 with completion expected by Winter 2026. Consultation will continue every Tuesday morning between 10 and 12. Visualisations will soon be ready.

#### **AT7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

P Tunney reported that the previous year had seen instances of unacceptable behaviour which had affected Councillors and Staff, he felt this should not be occurring, and the Council should be looking at ways to eliminate issues which should be addressed with the community and the Council.

#### **AT8 CLOSE OF MEETING**

