



Tadcaster Town Council

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Open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting TADCASTER TOWN COUNCIL

Date: Tuesday 1st April 2025

Time: 7pm

Venue: The Ark, 33 Kirkgate, Tadcaster, LS24 9AQ

In attendance: Cllr D Bowgett (Mayor), Cllr R Sweeting (Deputy Mayor), Cllr G Butcher, Cllr J Chiswick, Cllr F Greig, Cllr G Lodge, Cllr K Poskitt, Cllr D Mackay and Cllr P Tunney. In addition, 10 members of the public.

Officers: J Crowther, Town Clerk. G Ashton, Locum.

Late arrivals: none

early departures: none

The meeting opened at 7pm

Minutes of the Meeting

AT/25/1 APOLOGIES

a) To receive and record apologies for absence.

Apologies received in advance of the meeting from Cllrs Stephenson, Cobb and Metcalfe.

b) To resolve to approve reasons for absence.

Resolution: to accept and approve the reasons for absence received in advance of the meeting from Cllrs Stephenson, Cobb and Metcalfe.

AT/25/2 PUBLIC SESSION – DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM –

Mayor David Bowgett presented a number of Merit Awards on behalf of Tadcaster Town Council. The first of these Merit Awards was presented to Ramon and Pauline Sans for 25 years dedicated service to the community of Tadcaster as part of the Tadcaster Twinning Association. A vote of thanks and a Merit Award was also presented to Andrew Birdsall who has just stepped down after 10 years as the Chairman of the Tadcaster Twinning Association. A further two Merit Awards were presented to Mike and Matt Appleyard for their services to the town for watering the floral displays / hanging baskets throughout the town.

AT/25/3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a) To receive the Chairman's Report of Council activities for the past year.

Mayor David Bowgett provided his annual report to the Council:

- As the result of boundary changes which came into effect at the last general election, Tadcaster now finds itself in the Wetherby and Easingwold constituency, for which Sir Alec Shelbrooke was elected as MP. The council would like to place on record its thanks for the hard work that Keir Mather did during his year representing the town as our MP, and wish him the best for his ongoing role as the MP for Selby.
- The Selby District Local Plan, which had been in active development since the start of the decade, was this year cancelled with a view to being folded into a new North Yorkshire Local Plan. We have been told that negotiations with the major landowner in the town remain ongoing.
- The Tadcaster Neighbourhood Development Plan remains in active development, and a final draft will be submitted to the Town Council in the near future.

- Work has been continuing on the Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Scheme throughout this council year, and a formal planning application was submitted in October. A campaign was launched to get as many possible public responses to the planning application, and so far over 1,200 responses have been received by North Yorkshire Council. The Environment Agency continues to maintain an active presence in The Ark and in the town, and provides regular updates at council meetings.
- The Tadcaster Community Speed Watch was launched last year, and is already showing very promising signs, having reduced average speeds on Wetherby Road by a noticeable amount. The group continues to recruit volunteers, and is in discussions with North Yorkshire Police as to additional possible locations.
- An extensive refurbishment of the bus station is currently taking place. As part of this refurbishment, a Changing Places toilet facility will be added, providing some long-overdue facilities for disabled individuals, and parents of disabled children.
- In no small part due to the efforts of Tadcaster residents, the Yorkshire Coastliner returned to a thrice-hourly service for the first time in nearly a decade.
- The Remembrance Sunday service was once again a great success, and the livestream in the Riley Smith Hall was very well-attended. We also welcomed the RAF Air Cadets Parade for the second year in a row, which was likewise a successful event.
- As chairman, I have attended two meetings of the North Yorkshire Prevent group, which aims to stop terrorist threats and radicalization of vulnerable individuals.
- Last August, our long-serving Deputy Clerk Jo Mottershead left our employ, and we continue to wish her all the best for the future. Since then, Georgina Ashton has been providing invaluable support in the role of locum clerk. We commissioned a review into the council's staffing structure, and have just begun recruiting for one of the two new roles that have been recommended as the outcome of the review.
- Looking forward, the Tadcaster beacon will be lit for the 70th Anniversary of VE Day on Thursday May 8th. I can also announce that the Toulston Ten charity walk, which will be raising money for the mental health charity MIND, is provisionally scheduled to take place on Sunday May 11th. Further afield, a Tadcaster Carnival is planned to take place on Sunday July 13th, and celebrations for the 70th Anniversary of VJ Day on Friday August 15th are currently in the planning stages.

YLCA Report

The YLCA has resumed having in-person meetings this year, though due to scheduling conflicts I was not able to attend either of them. Their main focus over the past year has been assisting in setting up the new town councils for Harrogate and Scarborough that will hold their first elections next month; it is hoped that these councils will provide a model for the further devolution of powers to town and parish councils across North Yorkshire.

AT/25/4 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

a) To receive a report from the Environment Committee Chairman

Cllr Poskitt provided her annual report as Chairman of the Environment Committee:

EMERGENCY PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE Councillors D Bowgett, S Cobb, P Tunney, K Poskitt and R Sweeting were appointed to the committee with R Sweeting acting as chair. The forward plan for the committee is to review and amend the Towns Emergency Plan. Resilience and Emergencies officer Wendy Muldoon attended an emergency planning committee to present how we move forward with the plan and how NYC can support. Wendy shared some documents and booklets on community safety.

TTC's emergency plan is in need of updating due to changes in businesses and residents and community spaces that would now be recognised as public gathering spots in the event of an emergency. Cllr Tunney and Cllr Poskitt need to work with members of the community and the town Anchor organisation to strengthen the document.

RIVERSIDE LAND Members agreed to appoint a solicitor to look into the ownership of a patch of land on the river.

BIO-DIVERSITY It is a legal requirement for the council to have a Biodiversity Policy in place. A working group of D Bowgett, S Cobb and C Stephenson was established and the draft policy was written by Cllr Bowgett. This was presented and approved at the October meeting.

GREEN SPACE An acknowledgement of the severe lack of Green Space in the town was made at the June meeting. This was raised by the Tadcaster Community Sports Trust, but had been reported by the EA during their initial town research for the FAS. Tadcaster is well beneath the national average when it comes to access to green space. Green space is referred to as any land that is accessible for anyone to use, parks and play areas. The proposal of the new sports ground on London Road would go a long way to resolving a lot of the issues but still requires approval from the Brewery on the land. Cllr Poskitt continues to work with the Trust and the Council to promote the scheme.

ALLOTMENTS Tenancy Terms and rules and regulations were approved by committee members, A new clearance fee was agreed due to the poor state some of the plots are left in. Rates and terms were sent to tenants.

BUS STATION The bus Station refurbishment is due for completion mid-April. The changing places toilet is completed with shower etc. There is a site visit and handover due mid-April. Councillors will be invited down to look at the new facilities.

CHRISTMAS MARKET Members agreed that to alleviate the workload of the Clerk, that the Christmas Market planning and organising be handed over to a subcommittee for the time being. The purpose of which would be to bring the community into the group to be more involved with the planning of the market. Cllr Poskitt and Cllr Sweeting are leading on this group with support from the Clerk on matters that would still need to remain under the council eg road closure, TEN license.

LITTER PICK Cllr Butcher has taken on the responsibility of organising the Litter Pick and the 2025 date is set for the 5th April

b) To receive a report from the Finance and General Purposes Committee Chairman
Cllr Lodge provided a verbal update. Thanks to Cllr Lodge (Chairman) and Cllr Butcher (Vice Chairman) for leading this committee over the past 12 months. Cllr Lodge confirmed that there is a new budget in place to invest with the hope to establish a firm financial foundation for the future. The cemetery is a matter of interest, a jewel in the crown, hope it continues to be that going forwards.

AT/25/5 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON OTHER BODIES: -

a) **Yorkshire Local Councils Association (Selby)** - Councillor D Bowgett
YLCA's main focus over the past 12 months has been the creation of a new Town Council for both Harrogate and Scarborough and it hoped that they will provide a model for devolution of services to parish and town councils going forwards, over the coming months and years.

b) Swimming Pool Users Committee - Councillors S Cobb & J Chiswick

Tadcaster Swimming Pool Trust had a mixed year in 2024 with positive attendance throughout all of our activities. In total we had over 200,000 visits from a variety of customers. We continued to provide access to everyone in the community, including schools, clubs and community groups. In the 2024/25 academic year we have supported the Primary Schools by allowing free school swimming for one year.

The main challenge was still the increased utility costs with the Trust spending £30,000 more than in 2023, but using less energy. We were successful in securing £61,000 from the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund to install a Pool Cover and Energy Monitoring equipment. This is already helping to reduce our energy consumption and our carbon footprint.

Our team of dedicated staff and volunteers have also continued to grow with us employing four apprentices and training volunteer lifeguards in industry qualifications. To date we have x16 full-time employees, x30 part-time and contracted swimming teachers and casual employees and of over x70 volunteers.

Challenges for 2025 We have two major challenges for 2025:

- Increase in National Minimum Wage and National Insurance costs

We employ a lot of young people who will benefit from the significant increases in the minimum wage, however along with the NI increases and proportional increases, it is going to cost the Trust an extra £60,000 as a minimum.

- Age and Deterioration of the Building

We celebrated our 30th Anniversary in December, which is amazing for our small facility and the way it is operated is outstanding. We spend around £80,000 per year servicing equipment and maintaining the facility, but this is increasing year on year. Recent Inspections have found that major parts of the mechanical and building fabric are in need of replacement.

Electrical Distribution Board- £100,000 – ✓

Sand Filter media - £20,000 – ✓

Heat Exchange Unit - £10,000 – ✓

Building Wiring – Awaiting quotes

Sewerage Pumps - £16,000 – ✓

Chemical Dosing Unit - £6,000 – ✓

New Fire Alarm - £5,000 – to be completed

A major refurbishment of the Changing Rooms is required with a significant investment of £500,000. As you can see from the above figures we have and will continue to have significant cost challenges with the level of investment required to keep the facility operational. However, the Board of Trustees, Staff and Volunteer are more dedicated than ever to keep this much loved community asset open and accessible for everyone to enjoy. If anyone requires more information or further details about anything in the report please let me know.

Cllr Poskitt explained that there is a staff employee (Luke) at Tadcaster Swimming Pool who has created recycling opportunities for swimming equipment and that this initiative is going nation and global. For example, he is looking to negotiate contracts with companies in Thailand to regenerate and recycling old swimming noodles/floats into flipflops. Members also commented that Tadcaster Community Pool has celebrated 30 years of operation in December 2024. Both of these examples, demonstrate the wealth of expertise and innovators that exist within our town. A vote of thanks to all those involved.

Chris Porter, Operations Director chris@tadcasterpool.org.uk

c) **Dawson & Oglethorpe Trust - Councillors** – Councillor F Grieg

Bishop Oglethorpe and Henrietta Dawson set up a trust for children in education to support those less privileged. The grant opportunities always go to good causes in the town. Cllr Poskitt couldn't speak more highly of where the funding goes in the town, the benefits go far and wide across the local community. Huge thank you to the committee.

d) **Tadcaster Twinning Association Committee** - Councillors D Bowgett & S Cobb

Tadcaster Twinning Association - Report from the Chair for the year ending March 2025

Our meetings continue to be well attended.

Visit of students from Saint-Chély In June, Sophie Azemar brought a party of 50 teenagers to Tadcaster. They had a full day at TGS and then a few hours with us at The Barn. The following day, the students visited York along with their penfriends.

Visit of Mathis Hugon Sandrine's son, Mathis came to stay for two weeks in August – the first with the Youngs and the second with the Birdsalls. We did our best to give Mathis a range of experiences to help improve his English.

Boules match with Wetherby Twinners In July we held our fourth match with Wetherby and it was again a win for them – the tally is now 2:2.

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 add £240 to our funds.

Annual dinner at The Rockingham Arms, Towton 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 £70 to our pot. Thanks also to Norman Clark for helping with the decorations.

School links The young people of Tadcaster continue to benefit from our links with Saint- Chély d'Apcher. Having visited both Tadcaster Primary Academy and St Joseph's RC School to raise awareness of these links, Chris and Alison Young are due to take an assembly at Riverside Primary School on 25 March to give a presentation on Saint Chély to 200 Key Stage 2 pupils.

In June 2024, 45 students from the Collège Notre Dame visited Tadcaster Grammar School for the day, where they attended lessons and took part in activities to practise their English and for the English students to meet their penfriends and practise their French. Tadcaster Twinning Association provided the funds for a fish and chips lunch and for the coach for the students to visit York together the following day. Recently, the students took part in a video conference with their French friends during the school day, enabling both French and English students to communicate and interact with each other. It has been heartening to see the enthusiasm for these projects and the links and friendships that have ensued.

Pétanque terrain Following groundwork done by Ramon and Norman, we are currently pursuing this project in association with Magnets Sports Club. We've had several meetings with interested parties and have received a quote and design from a specialist contractor.

Summary After ten years as Chair, I'm pleased that the Twinning Association is still with us. Groups of us have managed to visit Saint Chély on three occasions during this time. Particularly pleasing for myself was the walking group Bill and I took in 2017. Another group visited in 2019 at the time of the 20th anniversary, when we presented our French friends with a signpost to guide them to Taddy. We've hosted our counterparts from France several times during the last ten years and I personally have made some good friends in Saint Chély.

I'd like to thank all of you who have helped me keep the Association buoyant over the last ten years. I will particularly thank our treasurer Alison Wilkinson, who is also standing down at this time. Andrew Birdsall, Chair, March 2025

e) **Up for Yorkshire** – Councillor K Poskitt

Up for Yorkshire is a CIC, anchor organisation for the Selby District. Support for lots of different groups/activities including Selby Foodbank. The relationship is formed, however there are much similarities between this and then work of The Barn.

f) **Tadcaster Community Library** - Councillor F Greig

The building is tired but the committee are constantly trying to keep the building in good repair. The Slipper Social was well attended, funded through the Art Council, lots of people attended and were provided with a free pair of slippers. Constant battle with energy costs, thanks to Cllr Poskitt who provided some of her locality budget towards this group for energy costs. Last week, there was a launch at the Library, the “Now Then” project, this project is funding the carnival. One of the projects within this was to commission “street art” project, the artist has been commissioned from Barcelona. The Library worked with all 3 primary schools and the artist, who then designed 3 murals in the library which were presented and opened last week. The murals have a “book theme”, designed by primary school children and are exciting pieces of art work, now on show.

g) **Tadcaster Medical Centre Patient Participation Group** – Councillors S Cobb & J Chiswick – no update provided.

h) **Tadcaster Flood Defence Alliance** – Councillor S Cobb – no additional updates to circulate. Following on from recent Town Council reports, the amount of public support is unprecedented for the scheme. Likely to be tabled at Strategic Planning Committee over the next couple of months.

AT/25/6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AT/25/7 To note date, time and location of next meeting – 7th April 2026 for the next Annual Meeting. Next full council meeting on 15th April 2025 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.36pm