



## Tadcaster Town Council

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Open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm

### Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting of TADCASTER TOWN COUNCIL

**Date:** Tuesday 3 February 2026

**Time:** 7pm

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

**In attendance:** Cllr K Poskitt (Chair), Cllr R Sweeting, Cllr Bowgett, Cllr G Butcher, and Cllr P Tunney. 2 members of the public.

**Officers:** J Crowther, Town Clerk. L Tate, Administration Assistant.

Late arrivals: None

*Early departures:* Cllr R Sweeting 19.07, 2 members of the public 20.00.

*The meeting opened at 7pm*

#### Minutes of the Meeting

<b>E/26/35</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b> a) To receive and record apologies for absence. Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Cllr S Cobb, Cllr J Chiswick, Cllr C Metcalfe, Cllr C Stephenson. No apologies received from Cllr D Mackay. b) To resolve to approve reasons for absence. <b>Resolution: to accept and approve the reasons for absence received in advance of the meeting Cllr S Cobb, Cllr C Stephenson, Cllr J Chiswick, Cllr C Metcalfe. Unanimous.</b>
<b>E/26/36</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST &amp; DISPENSATION REQUESTS</b> a) To note any written requests for dispensation the Clerk may have received from members. <b>None</b> b) To consider any new dispensation requests. <b>None</b> c) To receive Declarations of Interests from members not already declared under the members Code of Conduct or members Register of Interests, in any business to be transacted. <b>None</b>
	<b>At the discretion of the Chair agenda item was moved forward for discussion</b>  <b>E/26/39 a)</b> To receive an update on the 2025 Christmas Market and to consider a way forward for the Christmas Market for 2026. i. To elect a lead Councillor for the 2026 event. The Market went well, footfall seemed high. There were changes from previous years and new additions including Santa's grotto in St Marys Church, School

	<p>performers and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony as well as lantern making in the church. There was Positive feedback from locals and visitors. Plans for 2026 are to increase the number of traders and food offer and to form a working group.</p> <p><b>Resolved: To accept the above proposal for the 2026 market. Unanimous.</b> <b>Resolved: To elect Cllr R Sweeting as the lead Councillor for the 2026 Christmas Market. Unanimous.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Sweeting left 19:07</b></p>
<p><b>E/26/37</b></p>	<p><b>PUBLIC SESSION – Suspension of Standing Orders</b></p> <p>To allow members of the public and representatives from other organisations to speak on any matter as it relates to the town – Members of the public are requested to submit any questions in advance of the meeting to the Clerk. Standing orders will be reinstated on the closure of this agenda item.</p> <p><b>Resolved to: suspend Standing Orders 2(f) to allow members of the public to raise items of interest in the public session.</b></p> <p><b>Resident 1:</b></p> <p><i>1) Would the council consider wildflower garden on the riverbank?</i> The Environment agency will be responsible for this area, included in proposed changes for flood defences and an environment plan and landscaping.</p> <p><i>2) There have been recent emergency events incidents in the UK such as a loss of drinking water in Kent and Sussex, flooding in South-East England and wildfires on the North York Moors.</i> <i>While emergency and disaster preparedness are primarily the responsibility of central government and Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) is Tadcaster Town Council confident that these bodies have undertaken sufficient planning and preparedness to meet the needs of Tadcaster should an emergency occur?</i> We have an Emergency Planning Sub Committee; who have made good progress, but still more needed on some matters, most areas are covered by North and North Yorkshire Community register. We have an Emergency Plan and public information section, covering the majority of the issues mentioned. We have shown how our emergency planning can work with previous emergencies – we need to ensure all our communities are aware of the plan and the roles within it. Resident invited to stand to join the Emergency Planning Sub Committee – <b>Action: Emergency Planning Sub Committee meeting to be arranged.</b></p> <p><i>3) The resident's employer allows him to take 2 days a year to help with the community – is there anything that he can do to help the council? he has an interest / knowledge of Himalayan Balsam.</i> The Council said they were very grateful and would discuss, the Clerk agreed to discuss logistics with the resident to help on the riverbank</p> <p><b>Resident 2:</b></p>

	<p>1) Funds to be raised for the pedestal is ongoing- this relates to item E/26/40d), further down the agenda.</p> <p>2) Resident spoke about blue plaques, can we have some in Tadcaster? Other local towns have many and they help promote the town. He encouraged the council to be more heritage minded.</p> <p>David Gluck, TRCIC looked into this in the past. The town is full of history and lots of people are involved in heritage. <b>Action: Cllr. Poskitt to follow up.</b></p> <p>3) Could Tadcaster have an Events committee?</p> <p>There is an events committee, meeting tomorrow, events include: carnival, cinema, comedy nights, Bridge Celebration day.</p> <p>4) Could more people be invited to get involved at the Christmas Market, increasing street musicians? Grammar school band?</p> <p>Councillors welcomed ideas, stating there was busking last year and schools (each school in the town had a slot). More street performers can be looked at, but are expensive – feedback will be taken back to the events committee. Grammar school band is hard to secure, as its logistically hard to organise</p> <p>5) Would the council be willing to support at town fete – on private land?</p> <p>Resident advised to speak to the landowner and then approach the council if permission is given. Resident thanked for their contribution. A suggestion was made to engage with the landowner at a future stage.</p> <p><b>Resolved: to reimpose Standing Orders 2(f). Unanimous.</b></p>
	<p><b>At the discretion of the Chair agenda item was moved forward for discussion</b></p> <p><b>E/26/40 d)</b> To consider a resident’s proposal for a solid limestone pedestal with sloped top and plaque near the war memorial.</p> <p><b>Resolved: To agree in principle the limestone pedestal and plaque: Unanimous</b></p>
<b>E/26/38</b>	<p><b>To NOTE</b> as a true and correct record, the MINUTES of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2025 - <b>Noted</b></p>
<b>E/26/39</b>	<p><b>EVENTS MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>a) To receive an update on the 2025 Christmas market and to consider a way forward for the Christmas Market for 2026.</p> <p>This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>a) To consider and agree a date for a litter pick in Tadcaster.</p> <p>i. To consider and approve the litter pick risk assessment.</p> <p><b>Action : Cllr. Poskitt to provide a contact for Scouts</b> as the lead Councillor has not had a response from them. Cllr Poskitt and Cllr Bowgett to help on the day.</p> <p><b>Resolved: To agree the date of Saturday 28/03/2026 for the litter pick. To elect Cllr Butcher as the lead Councillor. To approve the litter pick risk assessment. Unanimous.</b></p>
<b>E/26/40</b>	<p><b>ASSET MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>a) To review the 2025 Christmas Illuminations in Tadcaster and discuss the illuminations for 2026.</p> <p>A verbal update of the 2025 illuminations from the working group. Plans to replace some of the older lights with coloured string lights, a coloured flagpole tree at the junction of Station Road and Wetherby Road to replace the Tadcaster Community Tree.</p>

	<p>Cllr Tunney suggested finding funding from businesses, could the business forum be asked if they would contribute. Glen Goodman corner suggested as a space for businesses to sponsor, the small trees also need updating. <b>Action: Cllr. Tunney to approach the Business forum and bring back to the next appropriate meeting with a proposal.</b></p> <p><b>Resolved: to replace the lights suggested and approve the Flagpole tree: Unanimous</b></p> <p>b) To receive an update from The Environment Agency on methane emissions around Viaduct walk.</p> <p>Currently monitoring continues to March 2026. If results continue to show the emissions have reduced monitoring will stop at that point and the requirements will be reviewed for the monitoring locations going forward.</p> <p>c) To consider the removal of a tree on the riverbank The tree was discussed, along with another tree on the riverbank.</p> <p><b>Resolved: To remove both trees on the riverbank: Unanimous</b></p> <p>d) To consider a resident's proposal for a solid limestone pedestal with sloped top and plaque near the war memorial. This item was discussed higher up the agenda</p> <p>e) To consider the exclusion of the press and public by virtue of the Public (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.</p> <p>f) To receive an update on the maintenance works on the viaduct.</p> <p>Items e) and f) were discussed further down the agenda.</p>
<b>E/26/41</b>	<b>POLICY &amp; GOVERNANCE - None</b>
<b>E/26/42</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</b></p> <p>a) To consider a residents concerns about dogs on the riverbank walk. Councillors acknowledge this is a long standing issue, tolerated by the well behaved dog owners, it is not only the areas mentioned in the e-mail, there are more issues across the town. The e-mail refers to Grimston Park land, dog fouling and dogs being off leads, there are signs up, but these are not enforceable, which makes it challenging to police the issues. There are talks between Tadcaster Primary Academy to start an initiative. The initiative is planning to apply for a grant from the council and role out ideas to reduce issues. The Council share the residents frustrations, there are schemes and projects in the pipeline.</p> <p>b) To consider a request from a NYC representative to update the three fingerposts in the central car park and Twinning Association finger post on the cobbled market place. Councillors happy for the updates, we will need permission from the twining association for one of the posts. Posts need updating and agreed the following suggestions: Swimming Pool, Library, The Barn, Bus Station (Toilets) Tadcaster Albion, and the River Bank, Riley Smith Hall</p> <p><b>Resolved : proceed as discussed. Unanimous</b></p>
	<p><b>At the discretion of the Chair agenda item E/26/40 e) and f) was moved lower down for discussion.</b></p> <p>e) To consider the exclusion of the press and public by virtue of the Public (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.</p> <p>f) To receive an update on the maintenance works on the viaduct.</p>

	<p>The principle inspection will begin in better weather, March time, date to be agreed.  Some of the river debris has been removed. Further work was required.  <b>Resolved: Approval given to Clerk to review invoice for work: Unanimous</b></p>
<b>E/26/43</b>	<p>To consider <b>agenda items for next meeting.</b>  <b>A Merit award for resident</b>  <b>Emergency Planning Sub Committee meeting- 17<sup>th</sup> February (6pm), to include -revisiting bridge closure protocol, Surface water pump (permanent).</b>  <b>Action Cllr Tunney send points to Jane</b></p>
<b>E/26/44</b>	<p>To note <b>date, time and location of next meeting.</b>  <b>2 June 2026, 7pm, The Ark</b></p>

*The meeting closed at 20:14*