



Tadcaster Town Council

The Ark, 33 Kirkgate, Tadcaster LS24 9AQ

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Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting TADCASTER TOWN COUNCIL

Date: Tuesday 7 April 2026
Time: 7pm
Venue: The Ark, 33 Kirkgate, Tadcaster, LS24 9AQ

In attendance: Cllr R Sweeting (Mayor), Cllr Bowgett (Deputy Mayor), Cllr G Butcher, Cllr C Stephenson and Cllr P Tunney. 4 Members of the public.

Officers: J Crowther, Town Clerk.

Late arrivals: None

Early Departures: 3 members of the public 19:04

The meeting opened at 7pm

Presentation of a merit award for litter picking in the Town. The Chair thanked the recipient for all the hard work and continued dedication to help keep Tadcaster clean and tidy.

MINUTES

AT/26/1	APOLOGIES a) To receive and record apologies for absence. Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Cllr Chiswick, Cllr Cobb, Cllr Greig, Cllr Lodge, Cllr Metcalfe, Cllr Poskitt. No apologies received from Cllr Mackay. b) To resolve to approve reasons for absence. Resolved: to accept and approve the reasons for absence received in advance of the meeting from Cllr Chiswick, Cllr Cobb, Cllr Greig, Cllr Lodge, Cllr Metcalfe, Cllr K Poskitt. Unanimous.
AT/26/2	PUBLIC SESSION – DISCUSSION AND OPEN FORUM – Members of the Public are welcome to speak and raise any matters relating to the town. Public 1: Here to listen to the meeting, interested in planning and regeneration in the Town
AT/26/3	CHAIR'S REPORT a) To receive the Chair's Report of Council activities for the past year. We have two main issues in our town at the moment: Firstly, the Tadcaster Flood alleviation scheme, which the Environment agency and local landowners are closely working together to advance and have in front of the planning committee later this year. Secondly, empty premises and the regeneration of the town- we look forward to working with Tom Jenkinson- locality lead for Selby and Ainsty for North Yorkshire County Council in creating the Town investment plan and we look forward to the members workshop on the 18 th May. There have been changes through the year with staffing issues, but I am pleased to welcome a new Administration assistant to the role, I would also like to thank our Clerk for keeping the office running. It has not been easy with staffing, but hopefully this is now getting resolved. I thank them for their continued support for us as a council.

	<p>The Tadcaster Community Speedwatch continues to work well, trying to reduce the speed throughout the town and I thank them for their continued hard work.</p> <p>As a council we marked the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with the lighting of the Beacon and the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day with a Civic service and band concert, which everyone supported, bringing the community together for these national celebrations.</p> <p>The Main two annual events that the council are involved in are the Remembrance Sunday service and parade and the Christmas Market and Christmas illuminations, all extremely successful this year.</p> <p>I take this opportunity to thank Councillors, the Council staff and the people of Tadcaster for their continued support. We have a wonderful community spirit and we should be proud of it.</p>
<p>AT/26/4</p>	<p>REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIR</p> <p>a) To receive a report from the Environment Committee Chair.</p> <p><u>Planning</u> Over the past year, there have been changes and updates to the FAS. Project Manager Karl Ickeringill stepped down and since then a new PM has been appointed. The objections that were submitted by a key stakeholder were all reviewed by the EA and to date most of the issues have now been resolved. Whilst we don't have a clear determination date, we would expect the Planning App to be in front of the Strategic Planning committee before Summer.</p> <p>We also saw 2 significant housing planning apps submitted to NYC. One an outline plan for 100 homes on the corner of Station and Leeds Road, the other for 33 dwellings on land off Hilcrest known as Butches field. Whilst the station road development doesn't need to be fully submitted for another 2 years, an internal determination date has been set for June this year.</p> <p><u>Events Management</u> In early February 2025 the council discussed the future of the Christmas Market and who would manage it going forward and a decision was made for a working group to manage the event.</p> <p>The Market took place on Sunday 30th November and was deemed a success. The working group had brought in other community volunteers to help manage new elements of the market. It was agreed by all that whilst the Market came in with a budget deficit, the overall event was successful and had new elements that would be taken forward over future years. The Churches involvement and the Santas grotto were highlights for all. The day also ended with a Lighting of the Christmas tree, an event that involved those who had taken part in the Christingle service.</p> <p>The working group remains and will build on last year with the aim of the event becoming economically viable this year. Thanks to all involved.</p> <p><u>Cycle Racks</u> In June last year, a resident brought to us the suggestion to have further Cycle racks in the town, it was discussed that encouraging more active travel in the town would be a good move and also encourage people cycling through the town to stop and enjoy our services. Since that suggestion, a car park space on the edge of the central car park was identified as a good spot to put some racks. They have since been installed and have proven well used.</p> <p><u>Highways improvement</u> There have been a number of improvements to the highways over the year. We've benefitted a much needed tidy up of our white lines and parking bays in the town and new enforcement signs have also been installed. We have new double yellow lines in place at the end of Stutton Road and also new ones being put in on the corner of Wetherby Road. All of these were presented to TTC and received approval.</p> <p><u>Dog Poo bins/Bins</u> An area of concern that was raised last year was the replacement of some</p>

	<p>of the dog poo bins and also some of the general bins, over the year this has declined, and we have now had to replace 8 of the bins (it may now be more) This is due to damage, general wear and tear or theft. Those that have gone missing have been reported to PC Woods.</p> <p><u>Bus Station improvements</u> Following a series of delays the bus station was finally completed. We now have improved toilet facilities, a changing places unit and real time bus information. The upgrades were not without challenges and there are still some niggles ongoing which have been discussed with the regen team. Unfortunately the Changing places room has been vandalised on a few occasions and has been closed in order to fix the damaged items, it is temporarily on reduced opening hours (9-4) in order to deter young people from accessing it during the night. Cllr Poskitt is in talks with the conveniences manager on how to prevent further damage.</p> <p><u>Emergency Planning Sub Committee</u> Cllr Tunney and Cllr Poskitt are still to meet to make the final changes to the Towns EP. Following support from Wendy Muldoon, we have all we need to get the Plan in place, however recent world events would need us to review what needs to be done should a fuel/energy shortage occur.</p> <p><u>War Memorial Benches</u> Following a suggestion from resident Norman Clark, the memorial benches are now in place. The Town Council had very little involvement in this community project other than to agree to the land usage and also support with installation. Credit goes to Norman and his tenacity raising money and sourcing the benches.</p> <p><u>Precept Setting</u> Due to ongoing costs, ongoing cemetery shortfall and expected increase in costs for areas such as the Viaduct and other environmental costs, council agreed to raise the precept to 5% following recommendations from the BEG.</p> <p><u>Litter pick</u> The 2025 litter pick was a great success, Cllr Butcher took over the running of the event which was well attended by residents of the town and our local scout group. This years event takes place on Saturday 11th April.</p> <p>b) To receive a report from the Finance and General Purposes Committee Chair.</p> <p>2025/26 has been a steady year. The difficult decision to raise our precept from the Council Tax by 18.5% meant that for the first time since 2018/19 we did not have a large shortfall in funding that had to be made up from our reserves. This meant we were able to raise our precept by 5%, in line with other Councils, for 2026/27 to maintain a better financial standing and maintain our reserves.</p> <p>We have contributed to Remembrance Day, which is a well-attended and loved community event, made even more special with the recent addition of the sponsored poppies to commemorate local people. These will continue to be displayed on the Church railings as a focal point within Tadcaster.</p> <p>As a forward look to the upcoming financial year, there will be efforts to incorporate biodiversity within the Cemetery, a full condition survey and recommendations for the Viaduct which the Council owns and maintains, and the inclusion of the 'Lamp Light of Peace' for Remembrance Day 2026.</p>
<p>AT/26/5</p>	<p>REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON OTHER BODIES: -</p> <p>a) Yorkshire Local Councils Association - Councillors D Bowgett and D Mackay</p> <p><u>YLCA Report 2025/26</u> This last year has in some ways been a comparatively quieter one for the YLCA, after the past two years were spent helping the York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority and Harrogate and Scarborough Town Councils get up and running. However, the year has still seen a high demand for the organisation's training services, both from councillors and staff, which has come about from a high turnover of both across the</p>

	<p>county. The issue of councillors and local government employees, being seen as acceptable targets for abuse from members of the public has clearly not gone away, and the cost of living crisis has in many cases also eaten into the amount of time that town and parish councillors, who are unpaid volunteers, are able to dedicate to their role. Consequently, the YLCA has spent a significant amount of time supporting parish and town councils that have found themselves without a clerk, and/or without enough members to hold quorate meetings.</p> <p>The YLCA continues to offer forums, both online and in-person, to support councillors and council staff, and encourages both to make use of them where possible. Going forward, the next council year will see elections for North Yorkshire Council and all the parishes and towns therein, a new long-term deal for public transport in the county, and the Tour of Britain cycling race.</p> <p>b) Swimming Pool Users Committee - Councillors S Cobb & J Chiswick - None</p> <p>c) Dawson & Oglethorpe Trust – Councillor F Greig - The Chair, Cllr Sweeting, Chair of the Trust it stated the Trust continues to go from strength to strength helping those in need.</p> <p>d) Tadcaster Twinning Association Committee - Councillors R Sweeting & S Cobb – Cllr Bowgett stated the new informal format has been successful.</p> <p>e) Up for Yorkshire – Councillor K Poskitt - As above in the Environment Committee Chairs report</p> <p>f) Tadcaster Community Library - Councillor F Greig - The Council agreed at its last Council meeting to support the library financially towards training new volunteers to assist the public to access North Yorkshire Council services, decorating the library and work to increase energy efficiency.</p> <p>g) Tadcaster Medical Centre Patient Participation Group – Councillors S Cobb & J Chiswick - None</p> <p>h) Tadcaster Flood Defence Alliance – Councillor S Cobb - None</p>
AT/26/6	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Community Speed Group update, Cllr Bowgett attended the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority meeting on 27 March 2026 where it was agreed to provide funding for the introduction of fixed speed cameras.</p> <p>The Council’s annual litter pick is on Saturday 11 April 2026 – all welcome.</p> <p>Cllr Tunney invited by the Environment Agency to speak at the Flood and Coast 2026 International Conference 9 -11 June 2026, Exhibition Centre at Liverpool Experience Campus, Liverpool.</p>
AT/26/7	<p>To note date, time and location of next meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 6 April 2027, 7pm, The Ark</p>

The meeting closed at 7:21pm