



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

**Time:** 7pm

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

**In attendance:** Cllr D Bowgett (Chair), Cllr G Butcher, Cllr C Metcalfe, Cllr R Sweeting, Cllr P Tunney and, 4 members of the public.

**Officers:** L Tate, Administration Assistant.

Late arrivals: None

Early departures: 2 members of the public 19:23

Prior to the meeting Cllr Sweeting presented Cllr Metcalfe with a certificate for 50 years of service to the Town Council, thanking him for his service.

*The meeting opened at 7pm*

#### Minutes

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>E/27/1</b> | <b>APOLOGIES</b><br>a) To receive and record apologies for absence.<br>Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Cllr J Chiswick, Cllr Cobb and Cllr K Poskitt. No apologies received from Cllr D Mackay, Cllr C Stephenson<br>b) To resolve to approve reasons for absence.<br><b>Resolved: to accept and approve the reasons for absence received in advance of the meeting from Cllr J Chiswick, Cllr Cobb and Cllr Poskitt. Unanimous.</b>  |
| <b>E/27/2</b> | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST &amp; DISPENSATION REQUESTS</b><br>a) To note any written requests for dispensation the Clerk may have received from members. <b>None</b><br>b) To consider any new dispensation requests. <b>None</b><br>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>E/27/3</b> | <b>PUBLIC SESSION – Suspension of Standing Orders</b><br>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.<br><b>Resolved to: suspend Standing Orders 2(f) to allow members of the public to raise items of interest in the public session.</b><br><br><b>Public 1:</b> <i>Please may I request any further information that may be about:</i> |

- i) The current number of 'void' residential, council properties in Tadcaster?
- ii) the current number vacant private residential properties in Tadcaster?
- iii) any recent investments by North Yorkshire Council (NCC) in bringing Void properties into use?
- iv) Any trends in these three areas?

*I have recently noted the North Yorkshire Mayoral Active travel fund and the NCC proposed submission of bids for funds. Are there any current, prospective projects that may be submitted for the Tadcaster area in future funding rounds?*

*May I respectfully request that the council consider making updates on these two matters standing items on the Environment Committee agenda?*

*Councillor Poskitt provided the following response in advance of the meeting: As ever, thank you for raising these important questions and keeping them on the agenda.*

*I think I may have accidentally answered one of your questions at a previous meeting. You were asking about empty properties in the town and I mistook it for you asking about social housing. There are (were) 34 empty council properties, that was the figure a few months back but things can change quite rapidly with upgrades and improvements but that gives you a rough idea. All of those properties are void for various reasons, they either need small repairs or quite fundamental improvements. Much of the housing stock under the old SDC was not taken care of or monitored as well as it should have been. That's not me passing the buck to a previous authority, I just know from the reports we get at Housing and Leisure that this has been a really challenging area, to give you just one example, one lady had a bathroom that was 67 years old, it should have been updated decades ago but hadn't. It now has.*

*As a member of the housing and leisure Scrutiny committee, I sat on the working group to determine the new Voids Management Strategy. The group looked at what was a reasonable turnaround time and what state a void should be in when its passed onto a new tenant. The void management strategy was approved by the Executive in Jan this year, I've attached it for you to have a look at. With this in place, I expect the turn around and management of properties to improve greatly, once the stock is improved the turn arounds should be much swifter.*

*I don't have the number of void private residential properties but I will check in to see if the Council have some data based on any that are paying increased council tax charges.*

*In terms of investment, as mentioned above the council are investing in getting the Tadcaster housing stock back to a lettable condition. In addition to this in April this year, it was announced the Homes England was granting funds to local authorities to "buyback" properties lost through the right to buy scheme. This is really welcome news and will help increase the social housing stock for Tadcaster.*

*To answer the question about Active Travel. The Mayoral Funding is now closed I believe. Sadly, we didn't have any schemes that would have been ready to receive funding from this pot. That's not to say that the need wasn't*

*there. I am a big champion of Active Travel and have been working closely with primary schools on areas like walking buses (we hope to have a walking scheme established in Sept from Central Car park to St Josephs and Riverside) I am also in favour of the governments school streets initiative, but at this current point in time we were not in a position to apply for funding. This is something that 100% the town council should be more aware of and responding to. Again, this is not an insult to TTC but we really need more proactive members who will go out and pursue these pots. I really welcome the idea of keeping these vital issues on the agenda, so as a TTC member, I am happy to suggest this but I feel it better placed on the Full Council agenda.*

The Chair summarised Cllr Poskitts response, speaking about empty properties and Active travel grants- there was a discussion around national cycle routes and encouraging people to visit the town. Further discussion over managing and understanding of the impact of the void council properties- how many void properties in the whole of North Yorkshire as well as Tadcaster. The value of lost revenue (rental and Council Tax) while they are empty. Chair suggested a FOI request to be put in to find this information.

**Action: Cllr Poskitt to seek this information.**

**Public 2:** To add detail to the planning application on 2 Apsen Way- the member of the public is concerned about the tree causing damage, falling on the road and causing injury, a detailed report from a specialist was supplied to councillors to read, which is on the planning portal stating the tree is dangerous and they advise felling it.

**Public 3:** *Council properties- what is the policy for the future, there does not seem to be anything happening?*

The Council is aware there is a back log of voids. Cllr Poskitt works hard with housing and sits on a committee.

There is a programme of works to get homes to a standard required by 'Decent home standard' the issue is North Yorkshire are not up to date with the works.

*Update on the Plinth (E/27/8 b))- Does not know how much money is required to secure the plinth but will be able to provide the amount needed by the next Council meeting.*

*Tadcaster is supposed to be a community- why do Councillors not like Facebook posts- their support could help local businesses.*

Discussion that some Councillors do not use social media, but are active in other areas including the Business Forum.

*Public 1: Cycle racks – He has found a website which helps cyclists locate bike racks – he has registered the rack in Tadcaster on the Council's behalf*  
Councillors thanked the member of the public for doing this.

**Resolved: to reimpose Standing Orders 2(f). Unanimous.**

**E/27/4**

**To NOTE** as a true and correct record, the MINUTES of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 3 February 2026. **Noted**

| <p><b>E/27/5</b></p> | <p>Members to note and resolve to comment on the following applications received (North Yorkshire Council):</p> <p>a) Planning Applications:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="280 230 1445 555"> <thead> <tr> <th>Valid date</th> <th>Planning Reference</th> <th>Proposal</th> <th>Address</th> <th>Deadline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>07/05/26</td> <td>ZG2026/0415/TPO</td> <td>Remove to ground level, treat the stump and replant to T1 (Yew) protected by Tree Preservation Order 17/1985</td> <td>Badgers End, Ouston Lane, Tadcaster</td> <td>03/06/26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15/5/26</td> <td>ZG2026/0452/TPO</td> <td>Application for consent to fell 1No Beech tree covered by TPO 2/1984</td> <td>2 Aspen Way, Tadcaster, LS24 9TQ</td> <td>12/06/26</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>ZG2026/0415/TPO – No Objections</b></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><br/> Discussion around felling the tree and replacing with another. The member of the public referred members to the report, which states there is honey fungus on the roots, but once this is cleared the intention is to replant.<br/> <b>Resolved: to reimpose Standing Orders 2(f). Unanimous.</b></p> <p><b>ZG2026/0452/TPO - No objections to felling the tree, Councillors would like a new tree planted when the Honey Fungus is cleared from the area.</b></p> | Valid date   | Planning Reference                  | Proposal | Address | Deadline | 07/05/26 | ZG2026/0415/TPO | Remove to ground level, treat the stump and replant to T1 (Yew) protected by Tree Preservation Order 17/1985 | Badgers End, Ouston Lane, Tadcaster | 03/06/26 | 15/5/26 | ZG2026/0452/TPO | Application for consent to fell 1No Beech tree covered by TPO 2/1984 | 2 Aspen Way, Tadcaster, LS24 9TQ | 12/06/26 |
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| <p><b>E/27/6</b></p> | <p><b>SUB COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2026/2027</b></p> <p><b>Emergency Planning Sub Committee</b></p> <p>a) To appoint members to the Emergency Planning Sub Committee<br/> <b>Resolution: Cllr Bowgett, Cllr Sweeting, and Cllr Tunney to sit on the Emergency Planning Sub Committee for the municipal year 2026/2027 and seek confirmation from Cllr Mackay, Cllr Poskitt and Cllr Cobb if they wish to remain on the Emergency Planning Sub Committee</b></p> <p>b) To elect a Chair<br/> <b>Resolution: to approve Cllr Sweeting as the Chairman of the Emergency Planning Sub Committee for the municipal year 2026/2027 Unanimous</b></p> <p>c) To elect a Vice Chair<br/> <b>Resolution: to approve Cllr Bowgett as the Vice Chairman of the Emergency Planning Sub Committee for the municipal year 2026/2027. Unanimous</b></p>  |  |                                     |          |         |          |          |                 |  |                                     |          |         |                 |  |                                  |          |
| <p><b>E/27/7</b></p> | <p><b>EVENTS MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>a) To receive an update from the lead Councillor regarding the Christmas Market on 29 November 2026.<br/> Planning of the event is progressing, there are plans to continue the work from last year and involve the community, enquiries have started coming in. The Clerk has arranged the road closure, TEN, first aid and bins. The group of volunteers will continue with arrangements.</p>   |  |                                     |          |         |          |          |                 |  |                                     |          |         |                 |  |                                  |          |
| <p><b>E/27/8</b></p> | <p><b>ASSET MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>a) To consider litter picking in the Town and local litter pick groups and keeping Tadcaster tidy.<br/> Not a great attendance this year for the litter pick, suggestion that we need to increase publicity. <b>Action: Cllr Butcher to ask why some groups did not attend</b></p>   |  |                                     |          |         |          |          |                 |  |                                     |          |         |                 |  |                                  |          |

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|         | <p>There are a few groups currently regularly litter picking. The council now has a supply of litter picking equipment, discussions around supporting groups by lending the equipment.</p> <p>Keeping Tadcaster tidy – a member of the public has commented that there are a lot of leaflets / banners on lamp posts. Discussion around weeds around the town particularly Ouston lane and Commercial Street.</p> <p>Grass cutting for North Yorkshire Council is poor and needs to improve, talks of the church yard not being kept too</p> <p>Members are pleased to see the hanging baskets up in the bus park.</p> <p><b>Resolution: Consider another litter pick later in the year, discuss keeping Tadcaster tidy at the next appropriate council meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Ask Cllr Poskitt to seek information on if the North Yorkshire Council grass cutting and maintenance can be improved and add to the next appropriate meeting.</b></p> <p>b) To consider a proposal from a member of the public regarding funding for a stone pedestal near the war memorial between the two benches.</p> <p><b>Resolution: in principle the council supports funding the plinth, defer to the next Council meeting to agree the amount. Unanimous</b></p> <p>c) To discuss a way forward for the illuminations.</p> <p>Members of the public have voiced that they would be willing to help with illuminations.</p> <p>Discussions around if we should enhance what we already have and ask for volunteers.</p> <p>and have a wider debate and seek help from local people.</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>Public 3- Lights should be funded by large businesses.</p> <p><b>Resolved: to reimpose Standing Orders 2(f). Unanimous.</b></p> <p><b>Resolution: Move to a discussion to full council. Unanimous</b></p> <p>d) To receive an update on the allotment competition to be held w/c 6 July 2026. The Allotment competition is planned to take place in July, with two judges from Yorkshire in Bloom choosing the winners. The website has been updated, posters displayed in the allotment notice boards and allotment holders e-mailed.</p> <p>e) To consider the rent and deposits for the allotments for 2027.</p> <p><b>Resolution: to retain the allotment tenancy fee of £35 for a small plot and £50 for a large plot with the deposit of £50 per plot. Carried, one against.</b></p> |
| E/27/9  | <p><b>POLICY &amp; GOVERNANCE –</b></p> <p>To review the following terms of reference, policies and risk assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terms of Reference Environment Committee</li> <li>Terms of Reference Emergency Planning Sub Committee</li> <li>Memorial Bench Policy</li> <li>Tree Policy</li> <li>Viaduct Risk Assessment</li> <li>Allotment Risk Assessment</li> <li>Allotment Rules and Regulations, Tenancy/ Joint Tenancy Agreement</li> <li>Viaduct Embankment Land Rules and Regulations and Agreement</li> </ol> <p><b>Resolution: to approve the above policies, agreements and Terms of Reference. Unanimous</b></p>  |
| E/27/10 | <b>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</b>  |

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|----------------|---|
|                | <p>a) To consider correspondence that North Yorkshire Council has reopened the Call for Sites for a period of 6-week from 11/5/26 – 22/6/26</p> <p>Cllrs suggested need to have a more adventurous view to new sites, Chair pointed out that councillors can submit individual submissions to the call for sites as well as the town council.</p> <p><b>Resolution: Move to full council. Unanimous</b></p> |
| <b>E/27/11</b> | To consider <b>agenda items for next meeting.</b> Grass cutting and weeds, Keep Tadcaster Tidy and Litter picks, Call for sites.  |
| <b>E/27/12</b> | To <b>note date, time and location of next meeting.</b><br><b>6 October 2026, 7pm The Ark</b>   |

*The meeting closed at 20.00*