

Minutes of the Norton Town Meeting held on Monday 5th June 2023
in the Council Chamber, The Old Courthouse, 84b Commercial Street, Norton at 6.30pm.

PRESENT Councillors; D Keal (Mayor), M Brampton (Deputy Mayor), L Burr MBE, P Farndale, D Lloyd-Williams, S Shaw, A Spencer, H Spencer, and J Vale

APOLOGIES Councillors R King and I Conlan.

IN ATTENDANCE C Eade (Assistant Clerk).

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE Six members of the public

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Norton Town Meeting held on Monday 16th May 2022 (Minutes 1 to 5 inclusive) be approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by Cllr L Burr MBE, seconded by Cllr D Lloyd-Williams. All other Members approved.

2. MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The mayor's report for the year 2022/23 was received and noted by all present.

2022- 2023 has been a year of mixed celebrations and sadness, with the Queens Jubilee celebrations in Norton in June 22, followed by the sad death of the monarch in September. Norton again celebrated in May 2023 with the coronation of King Charles III.

The council year began with the members finally approving the refurbishment of the iconic half-pipe on the skatepark. £50,000 from Ryedale District Council helped to secure its future with it being fully opened with a celebratory event attended by over 300 people in October.

The clerk has put a lot of work into improving the allotments in Norton by working with allotment holders and the Allotment Association. With some pointed correspondence, many allotment holders have improved their plots and others have given them up so they can be acquired by new people. The allotment shop reopened in November following a grant from the town council to repair the floor. The councils stock of allotments also increased this year with the reintroduction of charges on the plots behind Vine Street. Many thanks to the clerk for the effort put into improving our allotments, which has recently been added to still further with the plans to create a hedge between the allotments and Karro, courtesy of MoreHedges grant.

The clerk has also introduced cashless payments for the council to collect rents from allotment holders.

We have had a number of outbreaks of anti-social behaviour in Norton which the police have attempted to deal with, with mixed success. They encourage residents to report any such incidents to them and use CCTV to identify culprits where possible. This is a worrying development in the town.

Councillor Joshua Vale joined the council in November 2022. Francis Maietta also had a brief tenure as a member, but left the council in January 2023.

The Malton & Norton Neighbourhood Plan has continued to be revised during 2022-3 and is now nearing completion. It will then be submitted to North Yorkshire Council.

Traffic congestion and air pollution in the town is still a great cause of concern for the council and residents. We are still awaiting a planning decision on a new housing development proposed on Beverley Road, which will lead to a new link road from Beverley Road across to Scarborough Road. A joint meeting between Norton and Malton town councils, NYCC officers and CC Keane Duncan allowed members to express their frustrations at the lack of action on traffic congestion in both towns and the slow delivery of the Malton and Norton Infrastructure Plan, but has resulted in no further action from the county. The town council continues to support the '20's Plenty' campaign to reduce speed. Another VAS is to be installed in Norton shortly, thanks to NY Councillor Keane Duncan's locality budget, meaning we have signs on each of the major roads in and out of the town.

After a three year break we were finally able to reintroduce the Seniors Party in January 2023, which was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

Sadly, we lost our deputy clerk, Tim Hicks, to Malton town council in 2022, but are delighted to have new assistant clerk, Claire Eade, who joined the council in March 2023. Claire has made a great start in her new role and is keen to get to know the town, the work of the council and our community better. We continue to develop work in collaboration with Malton town council which is of benefit to both communities.

North Yorkshire Council came into existence on April 1st 2023, but as yet the town council knows very little of what it might be encouraged to look at in terms of running additional facilities in the town as part of the devolution process. As a council we can perhaps look forward to managing new and existing facilities and projects, but should we choose to do so if these are devolved to us, councillors agree that they should be accompanied by sufficient budget from NYC rather than placing an extra burden on Norton taxpayers.

I would like to thank the clerk and deputy clerk for all their work for the council and the residents of Norton.

And finally I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their work and commitment during the last year – I am sure that we will face further challenges in this next civic year, but with a spirit of collaboration and civility I am sure we will continue to do our best for local residents.

3. REPORTS FROM THE NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr L Burr MBE as the elected councillor for North Yorkshire Council representing Malton was disappointed that Cllr K Duncan was not present at the Norton Town Meeting, especially as he is the Executive Member for Highways it would have been helpful for him to brief this council.

If Cllr K Duncan cannot attend monthly council meetings, she suggested that he should at least attend the annual town meeting to update members and the public.

Cllr K Duncan was absent from this meeting.

4. PRESENTATIONS

The Mayor and Councillors thanked the representatives of Ryedale Community Transport, 1st Norton Scouts and Ryedale Foodbank for their presentations and for the great insight into the work that goes into each group and organisation.

Town Meeting ended at 7.55pm

_____ (Chairman)