



PATELEY BRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
The Council Chamber, King Street
Pateley Bridge, HG3 5LE

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**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 29TH APRIL 2021
at 7.15pm**

Present: Councillor M Holt (Chair), Councillor Brackley, Councillor Jefferson, Councillor Leggett, Councillor Lumley, Councillor Skaife, Councillor C Thompson, Councillor N Thompson, Pete Brosnan (Walkers are Welcome) and Pete Couldwell (Nidderdale High School)

In attendance: Laura Jowett, Town Clerk

1 Welcome and Mayor's Report by Councillor Mike Holt, Pateley Bridge Town Council

The Mayor welcomed attendees to the meeting and gave a report. The Mayor's report is attached to the Minutes.

2 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th April 2019

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 16th April 2019 were approved.

3 County Matters, Councillor Stan Lumley

Councillor Lumley's report is attached to the Minutes.

4 District Matters, Councillor Stan Lumley

Councillor Lumley's report is attached to the Minutes.

5 Presentations by invited guests:

Nidderdale High School

Mr Pete Couldwell gave a presentation on behalf of Nidderdale High School who had received £250 from The Mayor's Fund towards increasing outdoor education provision. The presentation focused on current outdoor education provision and plans to expand this in the future. It explained the benefits of outdoor education to local young people

and that the grant had been spent on items for a bike repairs workshop. Mr Couldwell thanked the Mayor's Fund for the grant.

Pateley Bridge Walkers Are Welcome

Mr Pete Brosnan attended the meeting on behalf of Pateley Bridge Walkers are Welcome who had received a grant of £50 from the Mayor's Fund to cover the cost of registration with the national organisation. He explained about the Walkers are Welcome group and its involvement with path projects. He thanked the Mayors Fund for the grant and explained that the local Walkers are Welcome group require the support of the local council.

Attendees commented on their interactions with walkers in the area which were mostly positive.

6 Open forum

No attendees wished to raise any issues.

7 To close the meeting

Councillor Holt thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.06pm

3/2020-2021

Mayors Report - 2021 Annual Town Meeting

Good evening everyone and thank you for attending this, the Annual Town meeting for the Parish of High and Low Bishopside. My name is Mike Holt, and I am the Chairman of Pateley Bridge Town Council, and as part of that role I am also the Mayor of Pateley Bridge.

It is a great privilege to hold the position of Mayor and fortunately I have fulfilled this role before in the 2014 / 2015 Civic Year, and as such the comparisons I have been able to make has put me in a unique position to appreciate how much has changed during the past 12 months due to the CV-19 pandemic. Many people have been badly affected over this period, and I and the Council are very conscious of this, but we are also aware of how brilliantly the community pulled together as teams and individuals to make the best of what we had, and to extend help to those within the area who required support. It has been truly humbling, and the Council extends its gratitude to every one of you.

Although there has only been a handful of Civic events for the Mayor to attend and represent the Town this year, the work of the Council has continued remotely. There have been many issues to deal with, not least being the need to co-opt two new Councillors at the beginning of the Civic year, and also to recruit a new Town Clerk. All now successfully achieved although again, made much more difficult due to COVID-19. I am though, delighted with the team we have in place, and on a personal note I would like to thank everyone on the Council for their support over the past year.

Another thing that has been compromised this year is the Mayors Fund, which is a fund that the Council raises money for, and which local organisations can request financial assistance from. Throughout the year there have been two fund raising initiatives for the Mayors fund, firstly a 'Just Giving' campaign which raised over £300 and a Christmas raffle, organised by Pat and Andrew Waite of the Sandwich Box in Pateley Bridge which raised a really impressive £1000. These donations have been a tremendous help, they have literally kept the Mayors Fund afloat this year. The Community, together with the Council pulled together to raise an incredible amount of money to help improve the Christmas lights display, which were again stunning. This yet again proves what a community spirited population we have in the Parish and beyond.

I do want to take this opportunity to mention the local Parish elections which will take place at the beginning of May next year. I know it is 12 months away but at this meeting next year it is going to leave very little time to publicise the event. Local Parish Councils are at the very heart of local Government, local people having the means to best look after the area they live or work in. If anyone has an interest in becoming a Councillor, this coming year will give them plenty of opportunities to attend Council meetings, speak to current Councillors and hopefully be in a position in 12 months' time to make a conscious decision as whether to stand at the elections. As in any walk of life, competition is a good thing and to have more people standing than there are seats available, is the epitome of good local government in practice.

4/2020-2021

Being a Town Councillor can be hard work and sometimes quite frustrating but it is also by far the best way to put something back into the community, and to be in a position to help to improve the future of the area in which we live.

Thank you.

Cllr. Mike Holt.
29/04/2021.

NYCC – County Report by Councillor Stan Lumley

Firstly thank you to my fellow councillors and clerks for all the support over the past year.

Great privilege to serve my community at parish, district and count council.

I thank parishioners for putting trust in me to represent them and to speak up for our local needs and the counties aspirations and goals.

The planned NYCC elections this May has been cancelled due to LGR meaning the disillusionment of both NYCC & HBC next year to form a new single tier council, the geography of the new council is dependent on the final decision by Central Government, with elections to the new council in 2022.

- This has been a most difficult year for the Council, and we should be both pleased and proud of the way our staff have stepped up to the challenge of trying to deliver services in unprecedented conditions. Not one has refused to adopt new ways of working.
- Over 3k now work from home, this was a huge effort from our IT people to facilitate this.
- We have worked well with a range of partners, other local govt people from parishes, districts, national parks, blue light services, NHS, the Army, businesses and especially our great volunteers.
- We have organised 25 formal Community Support Organisations, and helped hundreds of smaller more informal groups. All with the same aim of helping those who need it.
- Our Public Health teams have been very very busy managing outbreaks wherever they occur and leading on helping set up test and trace activity.
- Our social services team went to a temporary 7/7 working model, which we are now consulting staff on continuing with as good practice
- We have supported the 235 care settings in the County by being in daily contact with them, and have set up Infection Prevention and Control teams, and helped them access PPE and mobile testing

- We continue to implement our flagship Extra Care Housing – 2 schemes opened this year in Great Ayton and Scarborough, with 3 on course for next year Skipton, Bentham and Filey
- Our childrens services have been rated as Outstanding by Ofsted, the first council in the country to get this rating
- We are transforming our Healthy Child programme to make it work even better, working very closely with Health
- 82% of our children attend a good or outstanding school
- We have seen a decrease in fixed term and permanent exclusions
- We have supported our schools throughout the difficult and challenging times of Covid
- We have invested heavily in an area of under achievement on the Coast
- We rolled out a scheme of supermarket vouchers for families in need over Christmas and this will be extended for now, supported by govt cash and CC cash
- The music service has changed to online and does over 1000 lessons a week this way
- We have managed record investment into road repairs this year – sadly there will always be more to do as we manage the largest road network in England.
- We have spent money on modernising the rail line from York to Harrogate to Leeds, increasing the frequency of trains per hour, so taking more cars off the road
- We have continued to pay bus operators even when services haven't been running to make sure they are still there when normal running resumes
- We continue to invest heavily in broadband provision, edging ever nearer to 100% coverage – this year should see us achieve 97%. However we know the final 3 % will be the most difficult, and we are determined not to leave them behind. We are also supporting increased provision of mobile phone coverage , trying to get from 60% to more than 90% of the county`s geography
- We are striving to keep CT as low as possible, 1.99% increase this year, and an ASC levy of 1.5%. This represents an increase of c. £50 pa for an average sized property. We don't like increasing CT at all, after all we are all CT payers ourselves, but we have experienced extra spending this year of £75m on Covid activities alone.

- The govt have supported us but with all the pressures they are facing, we could not expect 100% reimbursement
- NYCC Locality grant scheme offers £10k per year to support good causes at the discretion of the elected member; I have been able to support many local venture and projects.
- GH bus shelter renovation
- Several VAS
- Lofthouse school playground improvements.
- Nidd+ voluntary transport scheme and emergency hub.
- Pateley Playhouse modification for COVID and disabled access.
- Musical instruments Schools.
- Nidderdale 'Men's Shed' charity start-up fund to bring buildings given by NYCC up to standard.
- Darley community hall, safe off road parking scheme.
- Pateley Bowling club, recovery from flood damage and new grass cutter.
- Bewerley PC notice board.
- Road safety cycle signs for Dacre PC.
- Land drainage scheme for the allotment society.
- Dales bus charity Nidderdale weekend services.

Harrogate Borough Council – District Report from Councillor Stan Lumley

- The new civic centre in Harrogate is proving to be an excellent decision and investment, it continues to make savings to the tax payer of circa £1M per annum that is reinvested into council services, and it also significantly reduces our carbon footprint and provides a much more efficient and practical space for employees to work.
- Ripon, multi-million pound investment and construction of new swimming pool with renovation and improvements of the leisure centre on target for opening later this year.
- Turkish Baths, significant financial investment renovating and opening up mothballed space to increase potential for more treatments and facilities to further increase our customer experience and increase profitable income, to reinvest in to council services.
- Convention Centre, multi-million pound investment to modify and adjust the complex to better meet today's operations and needs. The Centre currently generates circa £30M per year into the local economy.

7/2020-2021

- New hostel constructed in Starbeck to support homeless people, 19 rooms with professional staff available 24/7. The building was constructed by our in-house housing team with significant savings.
- Social Housing, high demand, the same in-house team have built 20 new houses in the district available for local families, we have also purchased 20 houses from the open market to further increase our social housing stock.
- Covid Crisis, HBC had managed on behalf of Gov the distribution of £70M to over 5000 businesses helping them through the lockdowns. HBC one of the top 10% performers of this essential support.
- Council officers and staff have really stepped up to ensure essential services continued through the crisis, switching roles, innovative ideas and volunteering, as well as supporting vulnerable residents with day to day needs.

HBC will cease to exist next May as will NYCC. I am very proud to serve on both councils, and proud of our achievement over many years. The efficient and prudent management of both councils left us in a position to deal with the financial burden that Covid 19 presented, far better than many other councils in the UK.

I look forward to single tier local government and I welcome a new unitary council for NY whichever model is chosen by Gov, and once established I very much hope that we will then be able to achieve devolution, with an elected Mayor for NY. This will attract significant money and the ability to prioritise projects important to our communities and spend where and when local people decide it is needed and deserved.