



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 17TH MAY 2022 AT
6.30pm**

Present: Councillor M Holt (Chair), Councillor Anson, Councillor Brackley, Councillor Jefferson, Councillor Lumley, Councillor Marshall, Councillor Skaife, Councillor C Thompson, Mel Welch (Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields Association), Ann Kent (Nidderdale Art Trail) and Christine Carroll (Nidderdale Community Choir)

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 29th April 2021

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 29th April 2021 were approved.

3 County Matters

Councillor Lumley, the outgoing County Councillor gave a report of the key achievements of North Yorkshire County Council including:

- The excellent response to the pandemic and support to volunteers
- Bewerley Park review and business plan
- Massive investment in converting to LED streetlights
- Vehicle activated signs and 20mph speed limits around schools
- Waste reduction, Allerton Park and recycling rates
- Bringing highways back in house
- Kex Gill
- Childrens services
- Care and independence

County Councillor Murday gave a report. The report is attached to the Minutes

4 District Matters, Councillor Stan Lumley

Councillor Lumley gave a report on the key achievements of Harrogate Borough Council.

5 Presentations by invited guests:

Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields Association

Mel Welch gave a presentation on behalf of Dacre and Hartwith Playing Fields Association who had received £250 from The Mayor's Fund towards the cost of a defibrillator. He spoke of the history of the organisation and the current use of the playing fields and thanked the Mayor's Fund for the grant.

Nidderdale Art Trail

Ann Kent attended the meeting on behalf of Nidderdale Art Trail who had received a grant of £200 from the Mayor's Fund to contribute towards the costs of publicising the trail in 2021. She explained that the Art Trail was established in 2010 and actively promotes artistic talents in Nidderdale. Nidderdale Art Trail is not for profit responded to the pandemic by embracing technology and providing an online exhibition gallery. Ann thanked the Mayors Fund for the grant and advised of the plan for the event in 2022.

Nidderdale Community Choir

Christine Carroll gave a presentation on behalf of Nidderdale Community Choir who had received a grant of £250 for sheet music. Nidderdale Community Choir is a totally inclusive and supportive choir which began in 2013. Christine reported on some of the highlights of the choir which included performing at the Mayor's Civic Service, Ripon Cathedral, and in 2018 the choir sang at Durham Cathedral. The Choir has events planned for 2022 including performing on the bandstand in the summer and a Christmas event. Christine thanked the Mayor's Fund for the grant.

6 Open forum

Councillor Brackley thanked people for attending and for giving presentations.

7 To close the meeting

Councillor Holt thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.15pm

Appendix

1.

Outgoing Mayors Report, May 2022

It goes without saying that it has been a great privilege to once again represent Pateley Bridge as its Mayor. This has been my third term of office and potentially the most trying. It has been a very difficult couple of years for everyone and I believe it is still all very confusing. In my opinion during lock down everybody knew exactly where they stood, but now it seems that without regulation a lot of organisations are worried about doing the 'wrong' thing and causing further problems. Certainly, I was expecting this year to be back to normal, but that has not been the case.

However, Janet and I have thoroughly enjoyed representing the Town at several events over this last twelve months, which have included charity fund raisers in Ripon, Harrogate and Darlington. Highlights were afternoon tea with the hilarious Gervaise Phinn and two well attended concerts in Darlington. Civic services and receptions have been thin on the ground this year, we have only been invited to the Harrogate Mayor making dinner and their separate Civic service, however Pateley Bridge Town Council did have a Civic service and luncheon at St. Cuthbert's Church and the Harefield Hall Hotel respectively which everybody thoroughly enjoyed. We were very honoured that the Dean of Ripon Cathedral, the Very Reverend John Dobson agreed to preach during the service and he and his wife Nicola joined us for the usual superb lunch afterwards. Harefield Hall as always looked after us very well and although not planned as a 'fund raiser' the day culminated in a £500 donation to the mayor's fund.

It is impossible to fulfil this role without becoming a part of the Ripon Cathedral family, in fact there have been times when we felt we should keep a camp bed there, and this year has not been any different. Thankfully the Cathedral has been very proactive in opening after the pandemic and we have been invited to many events there, including delayed from last year the service to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the Plough Sunday and Candlemas services. Along with many other occasions spent at the Cathedral during this Civic year, there was a service celebrating marriage where Janet and I found ourselves renewing our wedding vows! It was a privilege to be invited to the preview event celebrating the 1350th anniversary of Ripon Cathedral, which is the oldest continuous place of worship in the British Isles. There are events occurring throughout the year, and I hope that Ian and Christine enjoy what will be a spectacular series of varied celebrations during their term of office.

Continuing the religious theme, one thing that I did want to do was interact with the Church in the Dale, who collectively do so much for all our communities, and it was a real pleasure to officially attend services in Dacre Banks, Wilsill, Pateley Bridge Methodist Church, St. Cuthbert's, Wath, How Stean church (the Church in the Gorge), Greenhow and Bewerley. It was a revelation meeting so many Parishioners in their own environment, they were genuinely delighted that we had made the effort to join them, and we had some interesting conversations and discussions covering many different subjects. Of course, the downside is a collection plate at each event, but I prefer to consider it as a Councillors surgery on speed!

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I have been a member of the British American Committee (BAC) for several years now and last year, again something that was put on hold by twelve months was the 60th anniversary of the base at Menwith Hill. The Base tries very hard to work with its neighbours and I was delighted that RAF Menwith Hill agreed to partner us with a volunteer group to help maintain the Millennium Green. This is part of a much bigger project where the Americans put back something into the local community, for example they rebuilt a small footbridge in Darley which reinstated a footpath. All this is good stuff, but my vision was to create a lasting working relationship with the Base that would continue to grow, and benefit the Millennium Green, and I do think in principle this has worked. In doing so we have also partnered with the AONB, initially for advice as what to do but it has become obvious that the AONB and their connections with local schools and organisations are really wanting to help as well. So, to date we have had two working days, one willow training day and a very productive school day. I hope this will continue, as soul trustees of the Millennium Green I feel we should work with our partners to make it a better place, not only for our Parishioners but for everybody who visits Pateley Bridge.

So, what else has gone on? The MG rally on the Show Field returned this year and it was good to open that event for them, we were enthusiastically welcomed by the organisers, and once they realised that I had a little bit of 'Vintage Car' racing history everybody wanted to talk to us. At the end of February, through my connection with Menwith Hill we hosted a Ghost Walk through Pateley Bridge which was extremely well attended, our American friends were delighted that the 'Mayor' had got involved. We also planted the final tree of seven, in the recreation ground to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee, and I have also been involved with helping to arrange the June jubilee celebrations.

It has been a privilege to work with Laura (our Town Clerk) during this Civic year, I know I am not exaggerating when I say that we have had more than one meeting a week throughout the year, and I genuinely believe this Town Council is in a much better, democratic position than at the beginning of the civic year. We have set up the Policies Working Group and as a Council are on the cusp of being able to apply for a Local Councils Award Scheme (LCAS). I'm afraid this accolade doesn't come with any cash rewards, but if awarded it proves that the Town Council is being run legally, efficiently and effectively, with all the correct procedures in place; in my opinion these are the minimum requirements our parishioners deserve. I do hope Ian will see this through and I look forward to us all celebrating this great achievement.

Finally, I would like to mention Glasshouses May Day, of course there is no discrimination here but as a Glasshouses resident of 35 years I want to congratulate everybody involved on what can only be described as a superb event. I am sure more people attended than usual, it was the first May Day celebration for three years and it has always been a fantastic village occasion. What I would like to say though is that it was obvious that many of our new neighbours from the Glasshouses Mill community did join in with the stuff we did on the day, it was fantastic to see them engaging with and supporting the village and its traditions. My thanks do extend to them, and I hope they continue to integrate with our great community.

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So, to finalise I do believe that I am leaving this Town Council in a better position than it was when I picked up this chalice 24 months ago, and I hope that the new leadership team will continue to develop the Council's role within our community. Furthermore, I must personally thank the Sandwich Box, Chandler Retail Ltd, Guyson International and the Dales Market as my main financial supporters this year, there are many other people and companies who have helped us throughout the year, but to name everyone would really take us into tomorrow morning!

Thank you one and all,

Mike.

Cllr. Mike Holt.
Mayor of Pateley Bridge.

3. County Report

NYCC report to Pateley Bridge Town Council
17th May 2022

I attended my first meeting of the full council last Wednesday at which there were briefings on how the council operates from the various departmental directors. As well as running services a major job for the council this year is to plan the devolution (or double devolution) process.

The current proposal is to maintain hubs in each of the borough and district centres. Councillors will sit on area committees which will be aligned with parliamentary constituencies. This presents a problem for the Ripon and Pateley Bridge area as the councillors will sit on an area committee which is within the Skipton/Craven axis but probably receive services from the Harrogate hub.

'Double devolution' describes the proposal to have an elected regional mayor. This may cover both the North Yorkshire Council and the City of York Council. Negotiations are ongoing. The mayoralty brings £30m of devolved funding annually.

The process of devolving services to parish and town councils is unlikely to begin until 2024. But that does not mean that preparations should not be started.

Locally there is a major issue with both wireless and broadband connectivity. I am discussing this with various organisations.

I am holding my first councillor's surgery this Friday morning in the Pateley Bridge and Beverley Memorial Hall.

Cllr Andrew Murday