

**Town Clerk  
Mrs G Bell**

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6 May 2025

Dear Councillor

Selby Town Council,  
The Town Hall,  
York Street  
Selby YO8 4AJ  
Tel: 01757 708449  
Email:  
[admin@selbytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@selbytowncouncil.gov.uk)

### **Annual Town Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting on **WEDNESDAY 14 May 2025**, commencing at **6.00 pm at the TOWN HALL, YORK STREET, SELBY.**

Prior to the meeting the Town Hall will be open from 5:00pm to give residents the opportunity to drop off any donations for the Foodbank. There will also be the opportunity to speak with the Mayor, the Clerk and the Foodbank manager.

Yours sincerely

*F Matthews*

Mayor of Selby

To: All Town Councillor residents in Selby Town

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## **AGENDA**

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **2 MINUTES**

To **approve** the minutes of the Town meeting held on 15 May 2024 (Pages 3 to 6 attached).

### **3 MAYORS REPORT**

To **receive** Councillor Fred Matthews report. (Pages 7 to 8 attached).

### **4 FOODBANK PRESENTATION**

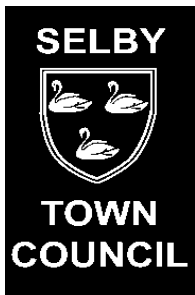
The Foodbank Manager will provide an update on the Selby & District Foodbank.

### **5 TOWN RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS**

To **consider** any questions from residents of Selby Town.

### **6 GRANTS PRESENTATION**

The Mayor will **present** the successful applicants with their Grants.



## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2024 AT THE TOWN HALL, YORK STREET, SELBY.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs K Franks, M Dyson, M Davis, F Matthews, T Beharrell and J Proud.

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **2 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Town meeting held on 22 May 2023 were considered.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 22 May 2023 were approved as a correct record.

### **3 MAYORS REPORT**

Councillor Keith Franks report was received.

I would like to start this note to firstly thank all town councillors for allowing me the opportunity to fulfil the prestigious appointment of town Mayor, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time conducting this role and the opportunities that it has offered. My wife Janet and I have attended many exciting events during my time as Town Mayor, but I have tried to capture some highlights below.

A very memorable event early in my role was the attendance of the Rotherham Yorkshire Day, this was fantastic, hosted superbly and provided me the chance to meet with many other Mayors and Mayoresses from across Yorkshire. This was followed by the opening of the '*Motorist*' restaurant and events venue at Sherburn in Elmet which really showcased an exciting visionary business which provides a brilliant meeting place for car enthusiasts.

I have been utterly impressed this year with charity work that is undertaken within our community, I have been fortunate enough to play a small part, the MP Keir Mather and I attended a '*Sing yourself happy*' concert at the Methodist Church to support the important charities Alzheimer UK and Parkinson's disease. Further to this I assisted Wakefield City Mayoress fundraising for the Mental Health charity *Andy's Man Club*.

It was great to judge on the King Coronation schools painting competition, the artwork was brilliant and very difficult to pick year group winners with such good young talent. As a keen gardener myself I really enjoyed judging the Selby in Bloom and allotments competition, there were some fantastic hidden gardens, and well organised and well-kept allotments.

It was exciting to understand the Methodist church's approach to greener energy with their new roof solar cell panels, this afforded me the opportunity to talk on the council's policy on the town approach to greener energy and our progress to the governments Net Zero 50 targets. This was followed by the local MP and I planting a tree in the Methodist church garden, part of the church's green initiative. A further planting of an Oak tree was also conducted at Selby Cemetery on behalf of Selby Soroptimist International.

Another good night was the Bonfire Celebration, a well-attended event, even though the weather was miserable. A big thank you to the team that make this event such a success.

The Sheffield Cathedral Miners Memorial service was another great event, very close to my heart and well supported. The Selby War Graves remembrance service was a very poignant service, supported brilliantly by six Selby schools and local armed forces veterans. Having the service adjacent to the war graves provided a real sense of the sacrifice given by our local men and women.

I have enjoyed a busy period supporting Selby Abbey this year, Remembrance Sunday was extremely memorable with a great service fully supported by the community, which saw the Abbey full. The hymns were beautifully sung by the Abbey choir, I also enjoyed hearing my Granddaughter Charlotte do a reading alongside my son Capt Paul Franks, MP Keir Mather and Cllr Ian Lawton who all supported the service. Activity at the Abbey remained busy throughout December with the carol service, followed by a further service of 9-Lessons by candlelight. This was followed by Christmas fun activity with me assuming the cameo role of Selby Town Mayor in the Panto '*Dick Whittington*' which took place at the Methodist church Christmas dinner event in support again of the Alzheimer and Parkinson disease charities.

The town Christmas lights was another nice event, well supported by the community with many local vendors providing great Christmas market stalls and entertainment. The town looked fantastic with all the Christmas lights, and shop windows looking festive. MP Keir Mather and I judged and announced the winners of the best festive window display. The final lights to be turned on was the town Hall '*Tree of Light*' in support of Yorkshire cancer research.

The Holocaust memorial service held at Selby Abbey in the new year was another poignant event, though very sad, it was nice to see schools involved and participating remembering the tragic history, but equally showing their

thoughts and respect. I was invited to the Maundy service and was asked to deputise as Selby Abbey *Pittancer* which involved me inspecting the Abbey Drains, supplying Canon John Weetman with eggs and cheese for the Benedictine monks and a pound contribution towards annual postage. *“He did say that this should have gone up with inflation after 950 years”*.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Cannon John Weetman and Bishop (Dr) John Thompson for the excellent work and contribution to the Abbey and our community. I wish Bishop John a healthy and happy retirement.

For St Georges Day I attended a lovely church service. All the different ages scouts, brownie's, rainbows, beavers and guides had a great time singing, playing games and saying there promise oath followed by the parade through town with a Pipe band, it was really enjoyable.

I would also like to express my thanks to Selby Carentan twinning for the invitations to two of their events, a fund-raising event and the gala dinner meeting the deputy mayor and president of the Carentan committee and visitors.

To all North Yorkshire Mayors and Mayoresses of whom invited me to their respective events and civic services I would like to extend my thanks for your kindness and hospitality.

A final thanks to Gill, Carolyn, Stacey, Julie, Chris, Emma and Tony & Team for the support and guidance throughout my time as Town Mayor, I do not underestimate the efforts you make in the background to ensure all events run smoothy, and for this I am very grateful.

Council and members of the public showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

#### **4 NATURE RECOVERY PLAN**

The Clerk provided an update on the newly adopted Nature Recovery Plan.

The members of public present were invited to show their support by applying for a nature recovery sticker or by joining a 'friends of' group.

#### **5 TOWN RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS**

There was one question from a Town Resident.

They asked how they can prevent the wildflowers around the Coultish Centre being cut by North Yorkshire Council.

A member of Council asked the resident to send photographs of the area they wanted to grow the wildflowers, and send them to the Clerk. The Clerk and

Councillor will then make contact with North Yorkshire Council to request that this area is left out of the cutting schedule.

## **6 GRANTS PRESENTATION**

The Mayor presented the following successful applicants with their Grants:

Vale of York Athletic Community  
Coulthush Community Centre  
Selby & District Beekeepers  
North Yorkshire Citizens Advice  
Selby & District Family History Group  
Selby Abbey  
Selby Civic Society  
Selby & District Rail Users Group  
Spirit of Christmas

The Mayor thanked them for the work that they do to support the community and also for taking time to set up a display showcasing the work they do prior to the meeting.

The Mayor then thanked the public for their attendance and closed the meeting.

During the course of the 2024 / 2025 year, my **Mayoral Duties** mean that I've been invited to attend, officiate, do readings and do judging at many varied events in and around Selby.

All these events have been incredibly interesting and thought provoking; and I'd like to thank all the organisations and individuals who have invited the Mayor of Selby to participate. It is heartening to know that there are so many people and organisations who have a strong sense of community and public service.

I'd especially like to thank the Town Council Staff who have helped keep the arrangements on track and thanks also to the Deputy Mayor, Jack Proud, for stepping in when I couldn't make it.

But rather than list each event I'd like to share with you my thoughts on some of **Selby Town Council's Achievements** over the last year (in no particular order):

**Budgeting, Policy Review & Risk Management** may not be the most exciting of activities, but they lay the foundations for what we achieve. We've continued to manage our budget, policies and risks to keep Selby Town Council viable – both for the present and for the future.

We continue to manage **Allotments**. We have continued to split larger vacant plots into smaller “starter” plots – to encourage people who might be daunted by a large plot. We have embarked on a plan to clean up some of the plots that had been left untidy and introduced a new “app” to help with inspections.

As well as managing burials and general maintenance at **Selby Cemetery**, we have encouraged wild-flowers and wildlife by extending the “No-Mow-May” into the summer with some wonderful results. However, August 2024 brought Storm Lilian – resulting in several fallen trees. Whilst no-one was hurt and no gravestones were damaged, the apiary was destroyed, and Selby Beekeepers have now decided to locate their hives elsewhere.

On behalf of **Selby Community Trust**, we manage **Scott Road Community Centre** where many organisations and groups make use of the rooms. We have also experimented with a new method of managing the reedbed in the **Scott Road Pond** and have started some heavy maintenance of the **Bondgate Community Woodland**.

There have been episodes of vandalism at some of our **Play Areas** which means we've sometimes had to close the play areas until repairs have been completed.

We have recently completed fire risk assessments on our **Public Buildings**, and we've completed the external repairs to the **1811 Building**.

The **Town Hall** (available for hire, including **weddings**) is also the venue for **live performances** of music, comedy and theatre, as well as screenings of National Theatre Live. Despite changes in post-pandemic ticket-buying patterns, we continue to provide the high-quality performances that attract audiences from Selby and the surrounding areas.

Most **Streetlights** are the responsibility of North Yorkshire Council, and we continue to highlight the unacceptably high number of street lighting faults and the fact that North Yorkshire Council don't inspect their lights for faults but rely on the public to report them. In terms of Selby Town

Council's streetlights, we converted most of our lights to LED some years ago and are now looking at converting the remaining ones.

Whilst Selby Town Council doesn't make decisions on **Planning Applications**, we are consulted by North Yorkshire Council. We make sure our local knowledge is fed into North Yorkshire Council - often explaining our concerns about **Highways** issues and **Traffic** generation of new developments (especially the creeping incremental effects).

We recognise how local charities and community organisations make a vital contribution to the people of Selby and agreed to award over £35,000 in this year's round of **Community Grants**.

We have always tried to take our environmental responsibilities seriously (e.g. solar panels, tree planting, no-mow-May etc), and we have recently established a new **Environmental Committee** to take a more holistic view. As well as developing a nature recovery strategy, we are working with the University of York's Sustainability Clinics. We are adapting the focus of **Selby In Bloom** so that entrants will be judged on environmental and nature recovery criteria. We are also setting up community action days to encourage local residents to become involved.

Across the UK, **Markets** have struggled because people's shopping habits have changed. But despite this major challenge, we have continued to keep the weekly Monday market and Bank Holiday Markets going, and we continue to stimulate interest through farmer's markets and twilight markets etc.

We continue to run our traditional and regular events such as **Family Fun Day**, the **Beer Festival**, the **Food & Drink Festival**, the **Bonfire & Fireworks and Christmas Lights Switch On / Market**. We have recently introduced a "Community Engagement" stand at some of these events, to publicise what we do and to get feedback from people attending. We have also introduced new events such as Oktoberfest, the Bunny Hop and Picnic In The Park – with the hope that, one day, these will also be seen as "traditional and regular" events.

We are justifiably proud of the **Remembrance Services** that we run in conjunction with the Royal British Legion and Selby Abbey. A lot of hard work went in to securing a marching band for the 2024 Remembrance Parade, and the service was attended by a significant number of current and former service personnel. The service in Selby Cemetery, attended by many local school children, was an equally touching and emotional event.

I'd like to thank all the Councillors on Selby Town Council, who voluntarily give up their time, energy, enthusiasm and knowledge – which are all vital to making Selby Town Council such a success.

But, of course, none of this would be possible without our team of dedicated staff. So, I'd like to thank them all for what they have achieved throughout the year on our behalf.

Fred Matthews

Mayor of Selby (May 2024 to May 2025)