



## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025 AT THE TOWN HALL, YORK STREET, SELBY.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs F Matthews, M Davis, M Dyson, T Beharrell, R Harrison and S Andrew.

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs S Shaw-Wright, K Franks, M Lawton and Inspire Youth Yorkshire.

### **2 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Town meeting held on 15 May 2024 were considered.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 15 May 2024 were approved as a correct record.

### **3 MAYORS REPORT**

Councillor Fred Matthews report was received.

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.

#### **4      FOODBANK PRESENTATION**

The Foodbank Manager provided an update on the Selby & District Foodbank.

The Foodbank Manager thanked Selby Town Council for their kindness and generosity towards the Foodbank.

The move to the 1811 building that Selby Town Council own, has changed the service that they have been able to provide.

When people attend to collect a food parcel it doesn't stop there. There are a team of volunteers ready to have a chat, make them a cup of tea and a biscuit.

There is also a Citizens Advice worker, which is funded by the Selby and District Foodbank (with assistance from Trussell), available as part of their Financial Inclusion Project.

The Financial Inclusion Project emerged out of a realisation that foodbanks could not end hardship in the UK by simply giving out tinned food. Food is just a stepping stone. The only way to end hardship in the UK is to help people requiring food support access free, impartial advice on other matters: employment, housing, debts, benefits, or immigration issues.

The Financial Inclusion project has proven to be a phenomenal success. The project, in its first two years has made £1.8 million of financial gains to the local community and prevented over 100 people from becoming homeless.

The Foodbank is still as busy as ever. And they are working tirelessly every day to ensure that there is food available – but they need help and donations from the public.

They will also be fundraising in the near future to fund the Citizens Advice worker for another three years. Whatever help the residents and businesses of Selby can offer will really make a difference.

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

There was one question from a Town Resident.

They raised the issue of the bus service on Leeds Road being cancelled.

The Mayor advised that this is not something that the Town Council can influence. But that it can be added to the next Council agenda for Council to write to Arriva and for the North Yorkshire Councillors who are also Town Councillors to raise at the North Yorkshire Council Meeting

A member of council suggested that the public could also write to Arriva to ask for the service to be re-instated as this would show public support for it.

## **6 GRANTS PRESENTATION**

The Mayor presented the following successful applicants with their Grants:

Coultish Centre  
Groundwork Yorkshire  
North Yorkshire Citizens Advice

Alfies Cat Rescue  
Selby and District Family History Group  
The Clothing Bank  
Selby District Vision  
Selby and District Rail Users Group  
Vale of York Athletics  
Carers Resource

The Mayor thanked them for the work that they do for the community.

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