



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at St Johns Methodist Hall,  
Settle on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 6:00 pm.**

**Present:** Town Cllrs Rymer (Chair), Lord, Kilbourne, Taylor, Rose, White

**Clerk:** Katie Lee Jeffreys **Assistant Clerk:** Katie Dugdale

**Public:** 37 members of the public attended.

**Chairman** - Councillor Rymer welcomed all present and declared the meeting open.

- 1. Apologies** - Town Cllrs Maitland, Cotton, Hogg.
- 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 were approved.**

**3. North Yorkshire Police & Fire Service Report**

Paul Evans from North Yorkshire Police gave a detailed report on the services provided in Settle, noting that there had been 784 incidents between 1/4/22 and 23/4/23. Following a number of burglaries, concluding with an arrest made in the North West, emphasis was made on home security and for residents to make use of the Community Messenger service to receive updates on the local area.

Our local Police provide a monthly report which is shared at Full Town Council meetings.

Please contact the Police direct via their website to report on non-emergency matters.  
<https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/> or ring 101

Robert Fox from Settle Fire Station provided an update on the provision in the area and that there is a requirement to recruit additional fire fighters. There are drop-in sessions running at the station for advice and for anyone interested in becoming a retained fire fighter.

A pilot scheme is being carried out in North Yorkshire with Public Safety Officers who have a combination of roles, this is an additional scheme to provide support for vulnerable residents.

**4. Mayors Report**

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting of Settle Town Council.

As the chair I have the honour of presenting the Mayor's annual report for 2022-23.

This annual report to the electors provides the opportunity to summarise the work of the Town Council over the last year.

The council is fortunate to have excellent members of staff who have continued to support the work of the council daily, and I would like to thank them for their commitment over the last year.

This annual report to the electors provides the opportunity to summarize the work of the Town Council over the last year.

Settle Town Council currently has 10 Councillors who bring a valuable mix of skills and knowledge.

The Council is fortunate to have a great team of staff who continue to support the work of the Council; the Council has also recently made some staffing changes and would like to welcome Mike our Market Officer, Chris our Handyperson, Andrew our cleaner and Katie our new Town Clerk to the team.



The Full Town Council meet on the first Monday of the month in the Town Hall.

Our committees are Allotments, Administration, Finance and Staffing, Market and Services and Recreation and Environment.

In addition, the Council have sub committees and working parties which include Castlebergh Crag, Devolution, Christmas Lights and Climate & Biodiversity.

Settle Town Council maintained a balanced budget for 2022-23

Opening balance 1st April 2022	£37,030
Receipts 2022-23	£325,929
Payments 2022-23	£316,74
Precept income	£114,298
Other income	£211,631

(From the market rents, allotment rents, cemetery fees, VAT refund, grant funding, Christmas lights sponsorship/donations).

Closing balance 31st March 2023 £46,210

If you would like any further information regarding the budget, please contact the office or visit our website.

The Town Council continues to manage, repair, and maintain the following assets in Settle:

3 Play Areas - Town Head, Commercial Street & Bond Lane.

The Pump Track.

The Town Council will also be taking ownership of the play area on Falcon Park soon once the necessary land transfer has been completed.

Settle Community Cemetery and Garden of Rest.

Millennium Gardens, The Pinfold and The Green community areas.

The Council continues to successfully manage the cleaning contract for Whitefriars Public conveniences

Street Lighting - The Town Council continues with their programme of repairing their 167 streetlights across Settle.

In addition, the Council have an ongoing programme to improve the lighting stock. A third of the Town Council's lights are now LED and the Council are looking into ways of reducing their carbon footprint to eventually have all LED's.

The Pump Track was officially opened on a lovely sunny day last July. Tom Wilson, an Orange Factory Racing Team Rider, was in attendance to demonstrate and inspire the next generation of riders.

Competitions were held including the slowest lap challenge & the most laps completed.

The event was well attended, and we received lots of positive comments about the new facility.

We have recently installed a viewing shelter, planted a hedge and the lighting connection has been ordered.

### **Settle Market**

Settle Market continues to attract a wide range of regular stall holders. We have recently appointed Mike, our new Market Officer who is keen to develop the market further.

If you are interested in having a stall do pop along on a Tuesday to have a chat with him.

Market advertising in publications including Coach Tours, Yorkshire Life and Northern Life continue to attract visitors to the Town.

Please continue to support your local market traders because the market income helps reduce the demand on Council tax.

### **Christmas Lights and Switch On 2023**



In November 2022 Settle Town Council arranged another successful Christmas Market, lights switch on and fireworks display which was extremely well attended and enjoyed by all who visited.

The large Christmas tree received lots of positive comments and looked lovely lit up on the Market Place. I would like to thank Settle Town Council staff, all volunteers, sponsors, and the community for supporting us to successfully deliver this much welcomed annual event.

Settle Town Council will once again be organising this event on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The council now own the lights for the displays on the Town Hall, Shambles and the large tree and will once again be arranging their installation.

The Council also hope to organise a Christmas market and are looking for sponsorship from local businesses and for volunteers from the Settle community to assist with the planning and the running of the event.

The 2023 event cannot go ahead without sponsorship and the assistance of volunteers. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this community event, or can help on the day, please do get in touch.

### **Other news**

Two New "Welcome to Settle" boundary signs have been fitted this year.

Extensive walling repairs have been carried out at the Pinfold Picnic area.

In July last year a Jubilee tree and plaque was planted in Millennium Gardens to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth.

The Flagpole snapped due to bad weather earlier on in the year. Unfortunately, the Council's insurance company wouldn't fund the cost of a new one. We are pleased to announce that Dry Rigg Quarry – Tarmac have agreed to fund the cost of a new flagpole. This has now been ordered and we are awaiting delivery and installation.

The large Council meeting room is available for hire. Please contact the office for more information.

### **Allotments**

Our Allotment sites at Dog Meadow and Cammock Lane have continued to be in full use during 2022-23 and continue to be of benefit to our community.

Anyone living in Settle and Giggleswick over 18 years of age can apply for an allotment and the application form is on our website.

All plots have been fully tenanted during the year and as plots become vacant they will be let to the next person on the waiting list in line with the allocations policy.

Allotments are self-funding. Rental income from the plots pays for the lease of the land and maintenance of the sites. Projects completed this year include drainage, wall repairs and tree works. The community run plots provide a valuable place to meet and garden together.

### **Conclusion**

If you have anything you wish to raise with the council, you are welcome to attend any meeting.

Full council meetings are the first Monday of each month and agendas are posted on the Council notice board, our website and Facebook page.

You will also find some useful information, contact details and up to date news via these sources.

The council currently has one vacancy and would welcome applications from anyone who wishes to make a positive contribution to our local community.



**Settle**  
TOWN COUNCIL

I am happy to have an informal chat with anyone who has any local concerns or would like to find out more about becoming a councillor, please contact the office to arrange this.

clerk@settle town council.gov.uk  
01729 823617

## 5. Strategic Plan

Cllr White gave an overview of Settle Town Council's Strategic plan, if you would like a copy of this please email [clerk@settle town council.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@settle town council.gov.uk).

## 6. North Yorkshire Councillor David Staveley Annual Report

Councillor David Staveley was invited to all the Town Council and Committee meetings throughout the year but has unfortunately not attended. To date Settle Town Council have not received any reports or information to share with Settle parishioners. If you would like to contact Councillor Staveley, please email [cllr.david.staveley@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.david.staveley@northyorks.gov.uk) or call (01729) 825698.

## 7. Community Organisations Reports

### Chris Leech – General Manager Settle to Carlisle Railway Development

Chris emphasised the social value of the railway and the intention to increase economic growth. There are plans to encourage young people to get involved with the railway and to raise awareness of railways crime. A railway safety badge has been created for scout groups. A dementia programme has been developed which involves visits and travel for carers and patients. As part of the promotion of the line, Chris has invited Channel 5 to film a documentary on the railway, this would also include coverage on the community in Settle.

### Caitlin Greenwood – The Folly

Caitlin provided an update on the current activities at The Folly, and reminded residents that entry to the museum is free of charge with the exhibitions updated regularly. The historical Settle District Chain will soon be displayed at The Folly.

### Pamela Jordan - North Craven Heritage Trust

Pamela gave a brief update on the activities of the trust, noting that small grants are available to historic buildings.

### Lynn Northrop - Craven Community Land Trust

Lynn explained that the mission of the trust is to provide and maintain genuinely affordable housing for those living in, working in, or connected to the Craven area, who would otherwise be unable to afford to live or stay in the area. The trust has been searching for areas of land to build affordable homes; however, this is not available in the area. It was noted that additional members are required, please see the website for further information.

<https://cravenclt.co.uk/>

### Chris Hirst – Settle Area Swimming Pool

Chris provided details on the activities at the pool and the progress with refurbishment. There is a requirement for further volunteers, specifically in the café and new fitness room. It was noted that a request was made for funding from the precept following increasing energy costs.

### Hazel – Settle Community Library

Hazel gave an update on sessions that are currently being run, or are planned, in the library, these include community groups, a quiet room, warm spaces, a Lego club. Costs have increased and as such, there is a requirement for people to join the Friends of Settle Community Library scheme at £10.00 a year.

### Jonathan Kerr - The Place / AGE UK / Townhead Patient Group

The Place provides health and well-being support, further details can be found on the website.

<https://www.theplaceinsettle.org.uk/>

Jonathan gave a brief update on the activities of AGE UK in Settle, including free advice and clubs that are currently running. It was noted that any funds generated by the local shop stayed within Settle and were not transferred elsewhere.

The Townhead Patient Group is concentrating on improvements at Townhead surgery, including making it more accessible.

#### **8. HSBC Bank Closure in Settle**

Settle Town Council have contacted HSBC to raise concerns on behalf of residents, however, it is confirmed that the branch will be closing on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **9. Ashfield / Whitefriars Toilet Update**

Settle Town Council have the cleaning contract only for this facility.

#### **10. Open Forum**

A resident raised concerns over the lack of support for youth in the area and the possibility for a youth forum or other provisions in Settle.

An enquiry was raised into the availability of trusts or grants in the area.

There was a complaint about the state of the road at Duke Street. Cllr Rymer suggested that the resident raise this with the highways department.

Concerns were noted regarding the development company at Anley Crag roundabout, specifically hoarding.

An enquiry was made into the funds for improving signage around Settle, this is currently being dealt with.

Residents commented that they were dissatisfied with the lack of reports and attendance by Cllr Staveley. They were advised to contact Cllr Staveley directly to resolve the issue. Katie Jeffreys, the new Clerk will make contact to introduce herself and extend an invitation to the next council meeting.

A resident raised concerns regarding the lack of affordable housing and any developments for young people to work and live in Settle, and that it is required to prevent young people from having to leave the area. It was mentioned that North Yorkshire Council should be contacted to find out what they are planning in the area and what is planned for any assets.

It was noted that Quakers Land in Settle is an important asset to the community and should not be lost.

Residents were made aware of Andy's Man Club, a support group for mental health in males over 18, that is held at Settle Primary School.

Residents extended thanks to councillors for their efforts.

The meeting closed at 19:51p.m.