

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at St Johns Methodist Hall,
Settle on Monday 2nd April 2025 at 6:00 pm.**

Present: Town Mayor Cllrs Rymer, Lord, Kilbourne, Taylor, Rose, White, Cotton, Marsden

Clerk: Katie Dugdale **Assistant Clerk:** Emma Rayner

Public: 33 members of the public attended.

Police: 2

1. Introduction. Chair Councillor Rymer welcomed all present and declared the meeting open.

2. North Yorkshire Police & Fire report

Robbie Kirkbride from Public safety officer from North Yorkshire Police gave a detailed report on the services provided in Settle, stating that overall, in the last 12 months there has been a reduction in crime.

Annual Report – Settle – 21.04.24 & 30.03.25 – 713 reported incidents

Annual Report - Settle - 24.04.23 & 20.04.24 - 957 reported incidents

251 - Reports include – General Admin from other Police force, General Admin from other agencies, Safeguarding, Sudden Death, Civil dispute & lost & found property

261 - Abandon calls/ hoax

15 - Burglaries – properties/garages/sheds

80 - Concern for safety/welfare – checks carried out by police, ambulance, family & friends, Missing persons.

32 - Crime Violence/domestic/sexual/harassment/stalking/dog bite

22 – ASB Nuisance/personal/neighbour dispute

6 – Criminal Damage – vehicles/graffiti

13 – Theft/Auto Theft – shop/vehicles/trailer/tools

24 - Road Traffic collisions/Road Related offence/Highways – manner all over road, medical, suspect drink, drug driving, speed

9 – Suspect circumstances – vehicles/persons/fraud – banking / online

The figures for the Annual Police report were noted.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 22nd April 2024 were approved.

4. Mayors Report

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting of Settle Town Council. As the Chair of the Council, I have the honour of presenting the Mayor's annual report for 2024 – 25. This annual report to the electors provides the opportunity to summarise the work of the Town Council over the last year.

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

The Council is fortunate to have a great team of staff who support the work of the Council on a daily basis and I would like to thank them for their commitment over the last year.

The Full Town Council meet on the first Monday of the month in the Town Hall. If you have anything you wish to raise with the Council, you are welcome to attend any meeting.

Our Committees meet when required during the year and these are:-

- Allotments
- Administration, Finance and Staffing
- Market and Services
- Recreation and Environment

The Council have sub committees and working parties which include: -

- Castlebergh Crag
- Devolution
- Christmas Lights
- Climate & Biodiversity

Settle Town Council maintained a balanced budget for 2023-2024. 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:-

Four Play Areas - Town Head, Commercial Street, Falcon Park and Bond Lane

The Pump Track

Settle Community Cemetery and Garden of Rest

War Memorial

Millennium Gardens, The Pinfold and The Green community areas

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

Allotments sites at Dog Meadow & Cammock Lane. We also have three community run plots which are managed by local organisations and provide people the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and gardening

Street Lighting - The Town Council owns 163 streetlights across Settle which are repaired and maintained by North Yorkshire Council.

The Council are currently in the process of applying for funding to upgrade a selection of the lights to LED – helping to reduce the carbon footprint and aid the dark skies initiative.

Room Hire – The Council has a large room which is hired out for meetings.

Market - Market report from David Bullock the Market Manager.

It's an honour to oversee the Historic Market at Settle. Markets throughout the Country are facing challenging times with massive changes in the way we shop and that's no different at Settle. Trying to recruit new traders is extremely difficult and, in some locations, established Markets have succumbed to the challenges and have closed completely or reduced their trading days. To encourage new Traders to attend Settle Market we have revised our Stall fee structure, and I believe our fees are now far more competitive. We also introduced a retainer fee that is designed to encourage better attendance. Early signs are positive with an uptake in stall lettings compared to last year.

Much more needs to be done to improve the Tuesday Market and further tweaks to the fees and charges will be introduced later this year. We also intend to try to increase the Markets social media exposure to try to encourage more Local usage of the Market whilst at the same time tapping into the Tourism sector to increase the visitor numbers and day trippers. Please continue to support your Local Market. USE IT OR LOSE IT

Review of work undertaken in 2024-25 included:

- 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 Council organised the D-day 80th Anniversary event. Including the lighting of the beacon.
- Remembrance Sunday memorial including organising the road closure on the day.

Twinning

In 2022 a group of residents resurrected the twinning association with Banyuls-sur-Mer in France. They enjoyed a successful visit there and returned with a painting to present to the Council from the town.

This year they will be hosting a return visit and requested a gift from the Council to present. We asked for photographs of Settle from residents and will be presenting a framed picture of Settle to the visitors in May.

The Council have also requested a Flowerpot display commemorating the twinning association from the Flowerpot team so keep an eye out on the bench outside the Town Hall this summer

North Yorkshire Council responsibilities

Residents often share their concerns with Settle Town Council about issues that we cannot assist with as they fall under the remit of North Yorkshire Council.

The most common concerns are roads, gritting, pavements, potholes, drains, planning concerns, refuse collections and some lighting faults. These issues can be reported direct to North Yorkshire via their website

www.northyorks.gov.uk

cllr david.staveley@northyorks.gov.uk Tel:(01729) 825698

The Council have another busy year ahead. They are gifting a small piece of land to the Scouts to enable the creation of disabled access to the Drill Hall. We are planning the D-Day event, Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Lights switch on event. Ongoing improvements works are also planned including wall repairs, upgrading streetlights and playground improvements and maintenance.

The Council currently has one vacancy for a Councillor. If you would like to contribute to making Settle a better place to live and work, then please contact any Councillor for a chat about what the role involves.

I am happy to talk with anyone who has any local concerns or would like to find out more about what the Council does, please contact the office to arrange this.

clerk@settletowncouncil.gov.uk
01729 823617

Community Organisations Reports – The following local organisations / charities provided information report on the work that they are doing in the community, the services available to residents and the benefits to Settle.

Paul Kelly & Paul Cochrane – ACE

Yvonne Fortune – Tourist Information Centre

Carol Taylor – Age UK

Steve Amphlet - Vibrant Settle

Caitlin - North Craven Building Preservation

Lynn Northrop - Craven Community Land Trust

Pamela Jordan - North Craven Heritage Trust

Carole Ogilvie - Trustee 1st Castleberg (Settle) Scout Group

Chris Hirst – Settle Swimming Pool

Settle Town Council – volunteers

The Town Council recognise that Settle is full of enthusiastic people who give freely of their time to help Settle be a better place to live and work.

The Council would like to thank all those who contribute. Special thanks to Cliff who has worked hard removing ivy and assisting with painting. Thank you also to members of Andys Man Club who have been doing a great job assisting with the upkeep of Millennium Garden.

Can you help us?

If you've never volunteered before and are keen to find out more, please do get in touch. We do need assistance this year with –

- General Gardening
- Bench repairs and repainting,
- Castleberg – (encouraging wildlife, tree work and planting)
- Christmas Lights switch on event

Open Forum for questions and comments

Members of the public were invited to ask questions.

A resident stated their disappointment that North Yorkshire Council, Councillor Staveley had not provided a report or attended the Annual Parish meeting.

A resident asked about a road closure at the Christmas lights switch on event. The Council confirmed that the road closure is being carried out by a Traffic Management Company at a significant cost.

Meeting closed at 19:52