



Skipton Town Council

NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING

PARISH OF SKIPTON

**Thursday 11th April 2024 18:30pm
Concert Hall, Skipton Town Hall**

Present:

Councillor S Bentley (Chairman)

Mrs L Close (Chief Officer)

Mrs J Dean (Deputy Clerk)

14 Members of the Public and one member of the press

1. The minutes of the Town Meeting 18th May 2023 were proposed and approved.

2. Town Mayor's report and comments for 2023/2024.

Cllr Sheila Bentley, the Town Mayor, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

She thanked everyone who had helped her during her year as Mayor and commented on the number and variety of event she had attended.

3. Town Council's Strategic Plan for 2024-2028

Mrs Lousie Close gave an overview on the Town Council's Strategic Plan which has been adopted by the Council. Copies were available, and the plan is also available on the Town Council website. Mrs Close also updated the meeting on the Town Council's Community Fund which will be launched in May.

Mrs Close invited any questions on the plan, none were received.

4. Presentations from invited community groups and the Neighbourhood Police Team

Police

Sgt Paul Evans gave an update on the work of the Police. He updated the meeting on the recent burglaries and attempted break

ins. Footage from systems such as Ring doorbells has been helping police. He suggested that everybody to lock their doors, and be vigilant of their home security.

Despite these incidents the safest place in the country is still Craven and the incidents must be put it into context. Craven is top of the list in North Yorkshire, and Skipton is safest in Craven.

There had been 519 incidents of anti-social behaviour in Skipton over the last year with many of these disputes between neighbours that police tried to resolve.

One member of the public asked if there had been an increase in incidents of hate crime. Sgt Evans reported that there had been 60 reports of hate crimes in the town, and that this was not an increase in the number.

Friends Raikes Road Burial Ground

Jean Robinson provided the meeting with an overview of the work of the Friends of Raikes Road Burial Ground, and the importance of the site both from a historical perspective and a wildlife perspective.

Friends of the Wilderness

Jenny Dean gave an update on the work of the Friends of the Wilderness to manage the area and maintain it as an area for wildlife. Recent volunteer days have seen new bird boxes and bug hotels installed. The Friends will have a table at the Rotary Club Eco Day on the 27th April for those who want to find out more about the group and the area.

5. Public Forum

Members of the public were invited to ask questions.

A member of the public asked if the Town Council still endorsed Skipton being a Fairtrade Town. – This will be raised at a Town Council Meeting.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding road safety in the High Street relating to cars turning right into Jerry Croft, and signage required to advise drivers on Otley Road of the approaching 30mph zone when travelling towards town. This had been discussed by the Town Council's Audit, Scrutiny and

Planning Committee, however North Yorkshire Council Highways department had not been able to resolve the concerns raised.

A question had been submitted from a member of the public in advance of the meeting:

Will the Town Council be supportive of my bid to obtain funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to bring the former Barclays Bank building into Community Ownership?

The funding is made available to communities to purchase assets at risk of loss, such as empty high street shops.

The intention of this bid is to safeguard and expand on the community services already taking place on the upper floors of the building and to ensure the ground floor retail area remains open for business, and the High Street remains vibrant.

The Chief Officer will contact the member of the public and discuss the most appropriate Town Council meeting to discuss this at.

With no further questions the meeting closed at 19:10pm