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## **MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING**

### **PARISH OF SKIPTON**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 17:30pm  
Belle Vue Square**

#### **Present:**

**Councillor C Nash (Chairman)**

**Mrs L Close (Chief Officer)**

**Mrs J Dean (Deputy Clerk)**

**22 Members of the Public and one member of the press**

1. The minutes of the Town Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were proposed and approved.
2. **Town Mayor's report and comments for 2024/2025.**

Cllr Claire Nash, the Town Mayor, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Cllr Nash made the below statement.

During my year as mayor I welcomed a lively group of young people from our twin town of Simbach who wanted to know about our town's chains. These belonged to Skipton Urban District Council until 1974 when it was abolished and Skipton Town Council was formed. 2024/25 was therefore our 50th year as a town council. Each year since 1974 the town has bought an expensive golden shield to add to the chain with the mayor's name engraved. We agreed in November to cease buying shields and to buy an honours board instead.

I have worn the chains more often than I had expected and have also attended many community events without them. A list of formal mayoral engagements is given at each Full Council meeting. At each event I have been amazed at how much effort volunteers and local business people put into making Skipton a better place to live, work and visit. My profound thanks to all hard-working volunteers and local businesses.

The council is a member of Mayors for Peace. War and peace have been in our minds this year. I laid three wreaths at the war memorial on behalf of our Town. Our twin towns also sent wreaths. Some of my final engagements were to celebrate the peace in Europe that followed VE Day. We must remember those who have struggled, suffered or died to achieve peace for others.

A big thank you to the hard-working council staff who strive so successfully to deliver services for the community on behalf of councillors whilst keeping our precept down. I raised £187 during the year at two events for my mayoral charity Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice. My deputy Cllr Winston Feather stood in for me several times and accompanied me to events when my consort Chris Nash was unavailable. My thanks to both for their loyal support. A final reminder that there is a request form on the Town Council website for the mayor to attend your event and I wish the new mayor who will attend them a year that is as rewarding as mine has been.

### **3. Dyneley House Surgery**

Mark Bennett, the Business Manager, from Dyneley House Surgery presented plans the surgery have for expanding the size of the surgery building to accommodate increasing patient numbers.

The plans will shortly be submitted for to North Yorkshire Council for planning permission.

### **4. Presentations from organisations that have been recipients of a Town Council Community Grant.**

Information was received from Craven Gymnastics and Share Skipton regarding how they have spent their grant funding, and how both their members and the wider community have benefited.

### **5. Public Forum**

Members of the public were invited to ask questions.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding road safety in the High Street relating to cars turning right into Jerry Croft. This had been discussed by the Town Council's Audit, Scrutiny and Planning Committee, however North Yorkshire Council Highways department have still not been able to resolve the concerns raised. It was requested that enquiries be made as to whether the CCTV on the High Street could be used to ascertain how many cars turn

right from the High Street into Jerry Croft. This would be raised at the next Community Safety Working Group Meeting.

The same member of the public asked if the public footpath by the railway bridge from Airedale Avenue to Otley Road be reopened. This has been closed off by the developers who are building the new houses off Airedale Avenue. Can the path be designated a public right of way? Cllr Heseltine was present and confirmed that he had received several enquiries about this, and was working on this in his capacity as North Yorkshire Councillor.

A member of the public enquired what the position was relating to the Petyt Library. The Town Council Chief Officer reported that as the required documentation was not completed in 1974 when the Town Council was formed, the Petyt Library is the responsibility of North Yorkshire Council until they complete the relevant paperwork to pass the responsibility to the Town Council. The Town Council is waiting on North Yorkshire for this to be completed. The library remain in the care of York University.

**6. To present Mr Roger Ingham MBE with his certificate to for the title of Honorary Freeman of Skipton, given to him by Skipton Town Council on the 20th March 2025**

The Mayor presented Mr Roger Ingham MBE with a certificate to confirm the title of Honorary Freeman of Skipton. This was granted in recognition of the valuable and eminent services rendered by him to the community of Skipton.

With no further questions the meeting closed at 18:29pm