

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Town Hall,
Settle on Monday, 26th April 2021 at 6:00 pm.**

Present: Town Cllrs Balsamini (Chair), Taylor, Bellfield, Harrison, Oliver, Rymer & Yates and District Cllr Hull

Clerk: Rebecca Hill **Assistant Clerk:** Katie Dugdale

Public: 10

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

- 1. Apologies** - Town Cllrs Catherwood, Rockcliffe, Linley & Lord.
- 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 29TH April 2019 were approved.**

3. Mayors Report 2020-21

Chairman Dan Balsamini

In what will be my twelfth year of being a Settle Town Councillor, I take pleasure in presenting the Mayor's Annual Report for 2020-21

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

2020-21 represented a year of great change for Settle Town Council.

Through co-option this year membership of the Town Council now stands at 11 councillors and represents a good mix of experience in local politics and newcomers with fresh ideas and enthusiasm to bring to the council.

We also gained 3 new members of staff.

Assistant Clerk in Katie Dugdale who joins us and brings a wealth of knowledge and business experience and IT skills to the town council which I'm sure will come in useful in years to come.

Two new cleaners Ian Perrow and Julie Blackburn who have continued to work safely throughout Covid maintaining Settle's only public conveniences, which proved invaluable to key workers.

COVID-19

- The Country went into lockdown on 23rd March 2020 and is only just starting to gradually come out of lockdown.
- The Council quickly responded by setting up virtual meetings so that members could continue to provide services and MOPS could still join meetings.
- We suspended office hours during covid-19. However hopefully once restrictions are lifted if parishioners would like to speak to the clerk regarding council business please ring or email for an appointment.
- You may find some useful information and up to date news items on the Council website and Facebook page.
- www.settletowncouncil.gov.uk
- facebook.com/Settletowncouncil

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MEETINGS

During 2020-21 the Full Town Council have met 13 times.

Each of the Committees

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

Have met 4 times in the fiscal year 2020-21 Council and Committee meetings totalled 27 times.

Castlebergh Crag, Skate Park and Climate Change Biodiversity Steering groups and other smaller working parties have also met to progress Council initiatives.

MANAGING ASSETS

- The Town Council continues to manage, repair and maintain assets in Settle.
- 3 Play Areas - Town Head, Commercial Street & Bond Lane

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
- The Pinfold, Mitchell Lane
- Millennium Gardens
- In November 2019 the Council took over the Cleaning contract for Whitefriars Public conveniences
- 2 new members of staff Ian Perrow and Julie Blackburn compliments rather than complaints
- Street Lighting - The Town Council continues with their programme of repairing or replacing their 169 streetlights across Settle. This is a longstanding project and will continue for some time. 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.

ALLOTMENTS

Both Allotment sites at Dog Meadow and Cammock Lane have continued to be in full use during 2020-21 and were a welcome break for tenants during the lockdown periods.

- 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.
- A new booklet providing details of policy and guidance has been produced for all tenants and is on our website.
- Anyone living in Settle over 18 years of age can apply for an allotment and the application form is on our website.
- Any rental income from the plots pays for the lease of the land and any surplus goes back into the maintenance of the sites.

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SETTLE TUESDAY MARKET

- Despite difficult circumstances where only 'essential food stalls' were allowed for most of the year Settle Market is now back to full strength
- The Council introduced cashless tills using a Card reader which has saved time and money and has reduced the risk of collecting cash.
- Throughout the year covid safety measures have been in place with hand sanitising stations, social distancing signage and the vigilance of our Market Superintendent, Steve, who has ensured everyone had a safe space to queue.
- The Council had a significant reduction in stall income.
- £5,400 income received for 2020-21 projected income was £19,000.
- The precept was set at £108,873 an increase of less than 1%, the Council reserves were reduced to facilitate this.

PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS DECEMBER 2020

The results of Settle Town Council's public survey enabled the Council to investigate further and progress projects of interest to Settle Residents.

- A majority of those who answered supported the restoration of the Fountain on the Market Place as a water bottle filling station.
- The Council have a better understanding of how people use the Market Place and supported the part pedestrianisation.
- Electric Charging points on the Market Place were not supported however most thought it would be more appropriate to install them in the Craven District Council car parks.
- A one-way system round the Market Square was supported this is a longer-term endeavour and last estimate the Council received from NYCC Highways dept was in the region of £20k.
- Widening of the road near the co-op on the corner of the Market Place was not supported.
- The Castlebergh Masterplan and its improvements was strongly supported.
- Settle Area swimming pool funding was also supported.
- Settle Skate/Cycle park in Millennium Garden was supported.

4. District Councillor's reports

District Councillor Hull reported that essential services had continued during the pandemic and 1.4 million bins had been emptied. Revenue and Benefits had distributed £40 million and supported 2,500 businesses. Environmental Health advised businesses about the guidance and safe practice throughout the year.

£50,000 has been allocated to Craven to provide funding to Settle, Bentham, Skipton, Crosshills & Ingleton to provide the Return to the High Street - Welcome Back Fund initiative set by the Government. Skipton's Outdoor Cinema was funded this scheme.

Local development at Langcliffe depot has been rapid to provide units for small business development. Craven DC have provided a £100,000 to Settle Area Swimming pool.

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Craven joined forces with 5 other District Councils to provide an alternative bid to the North Yorkshire Re organisation to become a Unitary authority. Ashfield Toilets development will go out to public consultation when a definite scheme has been developed.

Work still continues to pursue a bigger, better surgery for Settle and its surroundings parishes.

5. North Yorkshire Police Report

The monthly report of incidents was shared at the meeting via the PowerPoint presentation.

6. Castlebergh Crag: Masterplan

Several big projects have had their progress slowed down somewhat due to Coronavirus....

This January we took delivery of the Castlebergh Crag Directional Signage which is already in place.

- 5 Interpretation Panels providing information about the heritage, geology, flora and fauna on the site and a panoramic viewpoint will add to visitor experience.
- The panoramic panel ready to be installed on the top of Castlebergh shows the roof top view and buildings of interest. The Council secured £10,000 from Stories in Stone and The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to complete this work.
- We would like to thank North Craven Heritage Trust and Roots for providing the content.
- The next phase includes groundworks, wall and path structure and health and safety signage.
- Images of the panels were shared on the power point presentation. This will be available on the Council's website along with the recording.

7. Skate Park

- The skate park project, having secured £120,000 in funding required to start the build. The Town Council are pleased to announce that Millennium garden is the new location after disappointing news that North Yorkshire County Council were not able to provide a 7-year lease for the land in front of the swimming pool.
- After the latest consultation with the young people thanks to the support of the schools. Bendcrete have provided a remodelled skate park /pump track in Millennium garden.
- In addition, 2 other pump track companies have provided the steering group with alternative designs. Planning permission will still be required for the lighting scheme and are the Council will be working towards a completion date by the end of 2021. A massive thank you to all the volunteers who have worked hard over the past 16 years to bring the project to life.

8. Climate Change and Biodiversity Policy and Plan

Settle Town Council Climate Change and Biodiversity Policy was adopted on 1st March 2021. The Council will be launching the policy at the Settle Ace Green Café on Saturday 8th May 2021.

- **Everyone can do their bit by**

- Ringing their electricity supplier over the next 24 hours and see if you can switch to green energy.
- Try to buy local seasonal produce as much as possible, starting with at least two meals a week.
- Educate yourself about the science and impacts of climate change.
- Contact my MP and my friends to make these pledges too.
- Walk, cycle, or use public transport to work or regular journey when possible and practical.
- Work out my own carbon footprint using one of the many easy to use carbon calculators e.g., <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk>
- Do a 'home energy check' to find out how I can save energy in my home. <https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk> . Energy Saving Trust 0800512012.
- Turn the thermostat down or use a thermometer to reach the lowest possible comfortable temperature, typically between 18-21°C& think about putting on a jumper instead.
- Reduce your holiday airmiles by 50%
- Research driving in a greener way through the internet or a lesson on eco-drive ideas.

9. Volunteers and Staff

- The Town Council are aware that Settle is full of enthusiastic people who give freely of their time to help Settle be a better place to live and work.
- We would like to thank all those who contributethere are too many to name individually but you know who you are and a massive Thank You.
- If you are interested in volunteering and becoming involved in any of the Town Council projects, please contact the clerk, Rebecca Hill clerk@settletowncouncil.gov.uk
- I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the hard work the councils staff do on our behalf of the town council as well as the people of Settle, who continue to make Settle a great place to work and live.

10. Open Forum

A resident raised concerns over members of the public using her domestic recycling bin for dog waste bags and the lack of bins in Settle. This will be added to the next Council meeting agenda for investigation.

Another member of the public asked if there would be public consultation and Cllr Hull responded that there would be once the plans had been finalised.

Road surfacing and potholes behind the Shambles were reported – the Town Council had reported to North Yorkshire County Council on several occasions.

This will be added to the next Town Council meeting

A query regarding the installation of electric charging points was raised and Craven district Council have plans to implement in Ashfield Car Park after trialling in Skipton.

A member of the public asked if anyone knew who owned Watershed Mill.

The Chairman suggested they conduct a search of the Land registry at a cost of approx. £6.

The meeting was closed at 6:32 p.m.