



BEDALE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting

DATE: Tuesday 7th June 2022
TIME: 7.00pm
LOCATION: Drawing Room, Bedale Hall
PRESENT: Cllr Amanda Coates, Mayor of Bedale (Chairing), Nick Reed (Town Clerk), Judith Cockburn (Assistant Clerk, minutes) and 18 others

1) Welcome

Cllr Coates welcomed parishioners to the meeting

2) Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th October 2021 were **AGREED** as a true record of the meeting.

3) Annual Report

The Mayor of Bedale, Cllr Amanda Coates, thanked Cllr Andrew Hallett for his contribution to the annual report, and for his four years' service as Mayor which concluded this month. She then delivered her report on the business of the town, and Bedale Town Council, for the year 2021-22, which is attached.

4) Bedale Community Awards

Community Awards were presented to Mr Martyn Coombs, Mr Adrian Grayson, and Mr Jonathan Poole. The citations, which were read out by Cllr Pam Macklewain-Hallett, Mr Martyn Coombs, and Cllr John Howe respectively, are attached to these minutes. The Mayor presented the citation and a certificate to each of the recipients and thanked them for all their hard work and commitment to Bedale over the years.



5) Questions and comments from parishioners

The Mayor thanked the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk and the Deputy Mayor for their continued hard work over the last year.

Mr Coombs thanked the Town Council for all their efforts on behalf of the residents of Bedale.

The Clerk noted that there was currently an ordinary vacancy for a Town Councillor, and that anyone interested in the position should contact any Councillor or the Clerk for information about the role and responsibilities.

The Meeting Closed at 7.30pm, with refreshments served afterwards.



Chair's Report 2021-22

Good evening and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting for 2022.

After having to delay last year's meeting, holding it in October rather than the traditional May, we are starting to get back on track.

We may have hoped that we could have left Covid 19 behind us, but sadly it is still with us, though thankfully to a much lesser extent. Some of the measures put in place to overcome difficulties are still in place. Some shops are still offering free home deliveries and St Gregory's Church is still providing on-line access to its services, this is a comfort to those that are unable to attend the Church in person.

After the disappointment of some events which were due to be held in Bedale Park being cancelled, we have been able, this year to host a Fun Fair and a Circus as a welcome diversion and provide traditional family entertainment. We were also able to stage the annual bonfire and fireworks display which once again demonstrated that Bedale leads the way when it comes to these events.

The plans outlined for improvements to play equipment in Bedale Park have been carried out. The accessible swing and roundabout have been installed and other equipment in the enclosed play area has been replaced and upgraded. The play area has had many favourable comments with some people coming to Bedale especially for their children to be able to use the new equipment. The Park setting is also well received by adults. Band concerts in the Bandstand have already started again and are planned to be a regular feature.

This past year has seen an increase in the number of previously empty shops being taken over and new businesses moving in. It is good to see the old SPAR shop being taken over by NISA. By its very size, this large property, by remaining empty, had a negative affect on the look of the Market Place.

This development, along with the other new businesses, with their sensitive Heritage exteriors, have given the Market Place a lift. It has often been remarked by visitors that one of Bedale's plus points is the number of independent shops that it has and the diversity of the good on offer. Hopefully, this upward trend will continue and encourage more visitors to come to Bedale.

It would not be an Annual Parish Report without mentioning Bedale Litter Busters and their continuing contribution to keeping the Town looking clean, tidy, and attractive to visitors and residents alike. The recent Big Town Tidy was once again an immense



success with planters refreshed or replaced and additional ones placed outside of shops and businesses. This year the addition of the Fairy Door and Duck Trails is attracting a lot of interest through social media, with people coming to find where, in the Town or Park, they have been hidden.

Also appearing on social media and attracting a lot of interest from visitors is possibly the first Telephone Box to display fairy themed dioramas. These were created by local children and are to be found in the Telephone Box by the Post Office.

The celebrations, in collaboration with the Benefice of Bedale, St Gregory's Church, to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee started off on Thursday evening with a pipe playing from the top of St Gregory's Church tower, followed by a bugle call. The climax of this was the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon timed to coincide with other beacons being lit around the country. Fortunately, the weather was kind to the crowd that turned out to witness the start of the celebration and the drizzle only started once the beacon had been lit.

The Civic Service of Thanksgiving and reception held at St Gregory's Church was well attended.

To finish off the Jubilee Celebrations, the Picnic in the Park with fun fair, live music and entertainment for the children was a tremendous success and a fitting end to the Town's celebrations.

Later this year, in August, we are planning to present an Illuminated Address to RAF Leeming. This is in recognition of the close ties and long association that Bedale has with RAF Leeming and is the equivalent of granting the Freedom of Bedale with all its rights and privileges. We can look forward to a parade and military band, though the hoped-for flypast is at the moment unlikely.

Bedale may have once been perceived as being in decline, but with the number of new businesses starting up and the visitor attractions, the outlook is positive, things are getting better. There is much to look forward to.

Thank you.

Cllr Amanda Coates (Mayor)



Community Award

CITATION

Bedale Town Council wishes to acknowledge the valuable contribution made to the community of Bedale by:

Mr Martyn Coombs

Martyn has long been known for his desire to serve the Bedale community and he has done this wholeheartedly for many years.

Professionally, he taught at Bedale High School for 40 years, becoming Head of PE and setting up a Business Studies Department to benefit the students, after undertaking a Diploma in Management Studies to be able to achieve this. He organised work placements and linked many of his charges with career opportunities post-school life. He has done youth work in Bedale for 25 years.

Martyn cared about his colleagues also, and became NASUWT School Representative in June 2006, helping teachers in difficulty and negotiating the best possible outcomes for them, undergoing all necessary training in order to carry out this function. In September 2015 he also took on responsibility as Secretary for the local Branch, which had become moribund following the resignation of the previous incumbent. He has had huge success in motivating and encouraging members to become involved, totally revitalising the organisation and benefitting the teachers at our local schools.

Martyn gives 100% of his dedication and energy to any voluntary activity he undertakes, and there are many.

He has been a member of various committees in Bedale and North Yorkshire, organising fixtures and events and has been involved in North Yorkshire school sports for 20 years. He has also been involved with North Yorkshire Business and



Enterprise Partnership. He has been refereeing since 1974 and has refereed in the current league since 1977, is still refereeing in the Hambleton Combination and has also run courses to train young referees.

Other voluntary activities entail being involved with BASA since 1977, including playing for Bedale FC and being football club secretary. He has in recent years become Chairman and Treasurer of the Club too.

In 2010, he became Chairman of the Association, having raised sums of money, and accessed many grants to fund the upkeep and improvements to the facilities at BASA. He has also organised and participated in fund raising charity events there, including some for Prostate Cancer UK. He took part in three two-day cycle events organised by them to Amsterdam. The team Martyn belongs to, Team Garby, has raised almost £200,000 for the Charity.

Martyn organised a local cycle riding event prior to the Tour de Yorkshire passing through Bedale.

He will be a Yorkshire and the Humber region baton bearer for the Commonwealth Games baton relay in July. The criteria set for selection were very high, including being willing to take on a challenge, having made a meaningful contribution to one or more fields including sport and charity, being inspirational, positively challenging others to do their best, and having taken on a challenge or cause and making a positive impact within their community. Martyn has fulfilled all of these.

Martyn, we recognise and acknowledge your service to the Bedale Community and have the greatest pleasure in presenting this award.



Community Award

CITATION

Bedale Town Council wishes to acknowledge the valuable contribution made to the community of Bedale by:

Mr Adrian Grayson

Adrian Grayson has dedicated more than 50 years to developing sport in and around Bedale.

Known as “Mr Cricket” to many in North Yorkshire, he has coached youngsters since the 1960s. He has been team manager for Hambleton and Richmond Schools cricket for 48 years, and despite retiring as a teacher 16 years ago still manages North Yorkshire sides at every level from under-11 to under-15!

Adrian has been involved with Bedale Cricket Club since 1974, serving as club coach to the present day. He was also Club Secretary for 10 years, has served as Captain and is currently Chair – a total of 36 years of participation. He is also secretary of Wath Junior Cricket League and a member of the York and District Senior Cricket League Hall of Fame.

In 1972 Adrian was a founder member of the Bedale Athletic and Sports Association, and he has remained involved to the present day. It was his vision of a single site serving a number of sports which drove the formation of the present organisation. Adrian has been actively involved over decades in fundraising to build and install new facilities on the BASA site and has overseen many successful facility improvement projects. He became Secretary in 1988 and has held the post for the 34 years since then, also continuing to be active in various unsung capacities, from unlocking and locking the changing rooms to serving behind the bar.



Adrian has a great ability to share his love of sport with everyone he comes into contact with – including of course his two sons. Paul played first class cricket for Yorkshire and was head coach at Essex and England, while Simon played professional football for 18 years before managing Leeds United, Bradford City and Sunderland, among others. Adrian’s grandson Joe now plays football for Barrow in Division 2.

Adrian was recently awarded for the ITV Pride of Britain “Feelgood Factor Award” for the Tyne Tees region and will represent the region in the national finals at London’s Grosvenor Hotel on Monday 8th November, the award recognises outstanding individuals who support and enable others to change their lives for the better. He has also won the Sky Sports award for outstanding cricket coaching, recognised with a dinner at Lord’s, and the Hambleton Services to Sport Award in 2010. He won the Sir Bobby Robson award at the Northern Echo Local Heroes awards in the same year and was elected chair of the English Schools Cricket Association in 2012.

He received the 2010 Hambleton Sports Council ‘service to sport’ award after dedicating more than 30 years to sport.

Mark Jarvis, Chair of the Active Hambleton (Community Sport Network) says: *“This award is well deserved: Adrian has devoted his life to sport. His enthusiasm for sport is unsurpassed and he has the ability to instil this enthusiasm into everyone he comes into contact with.”*



Community Award

CITATION

Bedale Town Council wishes to acknowledge the valuable contribution made to the community of Bedale by:

Mr Jonathan Poole

Jonathan started scouting in 1984 in one of the first Beaver colonies in Nottingham, then moved up to cubs and scouts. In 1994 he moved to North Yorkshire and joined the Bedale Scout troop, progressing to Venture scouting in his late teens.

Whilst away at University from 1996 to 2000, Jonathan helped at Bedale Scouts and started helping with the county scout activities team with activities including climbing throughout the county.

Jonathan officially started as an Assistant Scout Leader within Bedale Scout Group on 20th June 2002, and over the next few years he worked with Bedale Scouts and with the North Yorkshire Activities/Event Support teams, running regular meetings, camps, hikes and climbing sessions, and also fundraising at the annual festival and car boot sales. Jonathan also supports climbing activities around North Yorkshire, and larger county-based camps for Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers around the North of England.

In 2007 he was part of the North Yorkshire Scout Activities team that went down to the World Jamboree “splash site” water activity site near Ipswich for three weeks, providing water activities to over 30,000 young people in 8 days.



In 2013 Bedale Scouts and Guides finished the build of their brand-new HQ after years of fundraising through festival events, car boots, tombola's and much more, for most of which Jonathan organised, attended, and supported. Since then, he has been part of the committee looking after the building to ensure it is available for users.

In 2018 Jonathan became the Assistant Group Scout Leader for Bedale Scout Group – which now includes the scouting sections on RAF Leeming. In this role he assists with managing scout leaders; leaders' training, compliance with Scouting policies, and running all scouting sections in the group.

Jonathan volunteered for Bedale Community Minibus for 15 years as a driver, helping on the market runs to Northallerton, Dales Care, and other important journeys. He still volunteers for the minibus on occasion. Jonathan also works on the Christmas festival at Bedale Hall, and over the last few years has supported the festival with equipment, tables, tombola drums, and lighting and electrical equipment.

Jonathan has for many years volunteered on the Bedale Bonfire working group. He has been a stalwart member of this group, working his electrical magic year after year. Nothing is ever too much trouble for Jonathan, whose invaluable experience and time are a key contribution to making Bedale's Bonfire event the best in the North East.

Jonathan has contributed enormously to many parts of the Bedale community, and richly deserves this recognition.