

DATE: Monday 9th June 2025
TIME: 7.00pm
LOCATION: The Ballroom, Bedale Hall
PRESENT: Cllrs Christine Mollard, (Chair), Mike Barningham, Amanda Coates, Dawn Culver, John Howe, David Ingram, Andy Hallett, Craig Hoyland (after item 25.30) Pam Macklewain-Hallett
STAFF: Nick Reed (Clerk), Christine Brown (minutes)
IN ATTENDANCE: 34 members of the public (MoP)

25.26	Declarations of interest in agenda items and requests for dispensation There were none.
25.27	Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Emma Wells.
25.28	Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on 12 th May 2025 The Council RESOLVED to approve these as a true record of the meeting, and they were signed as such by the Chair.
25.29	Minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting held on 12 th May 2025 The Council RESOLVED to approve these as a true record of the meeting, and they were signed as such by the Chair.
25.30	Casual vacancy Noting that the principal authority had not received sufficient requests to trigger a by-election following the resignation of John Noone, the Council RESOLVED to co-opt Craig Hoyland to the vacant seat. Cllr Hoyland signed the acceptance of office and duly took his seat for the remainder of the meeting.
25.31 25.311	Updates from minutes (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) Play area renovation: The Council heard that the works to the younger children's play area in Bedale Park, agreed as agenda item 25.27 in May, had been completed, with positive comments received from the public.
25.32 25.321 25.322	Reports of recent activity Reports of activity from external body meetings attended by Councillors: There was no relevant activity to report. Report from North Yorkshire Council representative: NYC Cllr David Webster reported that a recent meeting had overturned a decision regarding home to school transport. The Council also heard that North Yorkshire Council has

25.323	<p>launched a public consultation on the local plan to guide local decision making on planning applications. Finally, Cllr Webster noted that he had a declarable interest in the matter of the possible development at Lord’s Lane Farm, and has therefore passed responsibility for NYC liaison on this matter to Cllr Tom Jones.</p> <p>Report from North Yorkshire Police</p> <p><i>N.B. This item was taken after item 25.30 to minimise inconvenience to the Police.</i></p> <p>PCSO Heather Lees discussed the April and May police reports previously circulated, and noted that there had been no developments regarding the burning of the Council’s picnic bench at Beckside.</p>
25.33	<p>Financial statement and approvals for payment</p> <p>The Council noted the financial statement and RESOLVED to approve the following payments: staff salaries and PAYE; Streetscape Ltd £3,960+VAT (repair of play equipment at Bedale Park and bin store area); Zurich Municipal £3,134.59 (insurance 2025-26); Bedale Hall CIO £2,220 (office rent and meeting room hire); Morgan’s £1,700 (grass cutting and grounds maintenance); Arborlutions £600 (tree surgery at Beckside and stump grinding at Southfields); W Braithwaite & Sons £441.67+VAT (Market Place planting); Limitless Event Productions £235+VAT (technical support for VE Day 80 event); The Cherry Tones £200 (entertainment for VE Day 80 event); The Yorkshire Society £200 (membership); TWC Group £42.90 +VAT (hand tissue for Bedale Park toilets); and B&M £3.75+VAT (sundries). The Council noted and approved a credit card payment to: Adobe Ltd (£130.74+VAT, Acrobat subscription).</p> <p>Receipts were noted of: £960 (Market stall rentals); £650 (car boot sale fees); £1,200 Aiskew and Leeming Bar Parish Council (contribution to 2025 fireworks); and £985 (car boot sale catering).</p> <p>The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £52,609.11.</p>
25.34	<p>Planning Matters</p> <p><i>N.B. This first item was taken earlier after item 25.323 for the convenience of many MoP who had attended specifically for it.</i></p> <p>Regarding ZB25/00872/SCR, a screening application to decide whether an Environmental Impact Assessment [EIA] is needed to accompany a potential full application for a solar farm at Lord’s Lane, the Council heard from various MoP. A representative of the group opposing the development of the solar farm stated that the proposed farm meets the criteria for an Environmental Impact Assessment on the basis that development falls under Part 3 (a) of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, with the site substantially exceeding the size threshold of 0.5 ha for that category. The Council was asked to consider the following material planning considerations which would indicate the need for an EIA: grid connection and the risk of disruption to land; access between two divided fields; flooding and potentially outdated mapping; wildlife and biodiversity risks; peatland and soil damage; and</p>

	<p>visual and heritage harm. The Council also heard from the Chief Commercial Officer for Enviromena Ltd, the potential developers, who reported that the solar farm would power iro 14,000 homes and save the equivalent of 7,000 tons of carbon per year. The Council heard that it is uncommon to have an EIA requirement for solar developments given their temporary nature and non-change use of the land unless the project is sited within a national designation, such as National Park etc. Additionally, none of the statutory consultees to date have recommended an EIA.</p> <p>Following further comments from MoP and questions from Councillors, the Council RESOLVED to comment on the screening application as follows: an Environmental Impact Assessment should indeed be submitted in this case. Given the size and nature of the proposed development, it seems, prima facie, that an EIA would be helpful to ensure that full and clear information about the project and its potential impacts are available. The Council strongly believes that an EIA would enable it to discuss any full application with a better understanding of all the issues involved, and that this clarity of information would be a benefit to the town and the area.</p> <p><i>Returning to the agenda as scheduled</i> and regarding ZB25/00970/ADV, for a canopy sign and an external sign, both non-illuminated, at Bedale Leisure Centre, Firby Road, the Council RESOLVED that it has no objection to this application.</p> <p>The Council NOTED the circulation of ZB25/00868/CAMP, temporary holiday site at Bedale Caravan & Camping Park for 40 units from 22nd-31st May; and ZB25/00868/CAMP, temporary holiday site at the same venue for 100 units from 2026 2nd-9th June 2026.</p>
25.35	<p>Bedale 10k</p> <p>The Council noted plans by Bedale and Aiskew Runners to organise a 10-kilometre run, and shorter children’s event, on a Sunday in May/June 2026. This would involve a closure of the Market Place to traffic between (at the longest) 8am–1pm and would have no financial implication for the Council. The Council RESOLVED to approve the principle of this activity as a benefit for townspeople, both those taking part and businesses benefiting from trade from runners and spectators.</p>
25.36	<p>Correspondence (background papers provided)</p>

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: