

**DATE:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
**TIME:** 7.00pm  
**LOCATION:** Drawing Room, Bedale Hall  
**PRESENT:** Cllrs Christine Mollard, (Chair), Mike Barningham, Amanda Coates, Dawn Culver, Andy Hallett, Craig Hoyland, David Ingram, Pam Macklewain-Hallett, and Emma Wells,  
**STAFF:** Nick Reed (Clerk), Christine Brown (minutes)  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Two members of the public

25.93	<b>Declarations of interest in agenda items</b> There were none
25.94	<b>Apologies</b> There were none, all Councillors being present.
25.95	<b>Minutes</b> of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve these as a true record of the meeting, and they were signed as such by the Chair.
24.96	<b>Casual vacancy</b> The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to fill the vacant Council seat created by the resignation of John Howe by co-opting David Emison. The Council then re-allocated Cllr Howe's internal and external roles as follows: Cllrs Coates and Wells are added to the Christmas Lights Working Group; Cllr Hallett will join the Emergency Planning Working Group; Cllr Ingram will join the Litterbusters; the second voting representative at Yorkshire Local Councils Associations will be the Clerk; the second representative to the Bedale Hall CIO trustees will be Cllr Culver; and the representative to Bedale Tourist Information Centre will be Cllr Barningham.
25.97 25.971  25.972	<b>Updates from minutes (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)</b> <b>VJ Day memorial bench:</b> The Council noted that a bespoke VJ Day memorial bench would cost over £1,800 and <b>RESOLVED</b> to revise the resolution made under agenda item 25.55 such that purchase is bow of a teak bench with a memorial plaque. <b>Interpretation boards:</b> The Council noted and welcomed the offer by North Yorkshire Council to replace the interpretation boards around town on a like-for-like basis.
25.98 25.9891	<b>Reports of recent activity</b> <b>25.971 Reports of activity from external body meetings attended by Councillors:</b> Cllrs Barningham and Ingram reported that Bedale Hall CIO had reviewed a range of projects which have been completed within the building, including the replacement of heating and guttering in the library and LED lights in all communal areas. The Council heard that the arrangement to transfer the lease to the Bedale Hall CIO, would be subject to a condition survey.

25.982	Report from North Yorkshire Council representative: NYC Cllr David Webster reported that November's full Council meeting discussed taxi licensing, the home to school transport review, Government funding of SEND, prostate cancer screening, and dualling of the A64. The county's 2026-27 budget will be delivered on 13 <sup>th</sup> January, with a reserve date on 23 <sup>rd</sup> January if needed.
<b>25.99</b>	<p><b>Financial statement and approvals for payment</b></p> <p>The Council noted the financial statement and <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the following payments: staff salaries and PAYE; Generation (UK) Ltd £459.99+VAT (fencing for fireworks); W. Braithwaite &amp; Sons £290+VAT (winter planting); Ohana Marquees £3827.04+VAT (marquee for Christmas Festival); JT Atkinson £26.66+VAT (sundries for Christmas Festival)</p> <p>There were no credit card payments to approve.</p> <p>Receipts were noted of: £299 (market stall rentals); £800 (Bedale Park rental); £7,582.98 (fireworks donations and novelty sales); and £340.00 (Bedale Masonic Lodge donation re fireworks).</p> <p>The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £51,080.38.</p>
<b>25.100</b>	<p><b>Planning Matters</b></p> <p>Regarding ZB25/01951/MPN for the change of use from agriculture to commercial class E at Floodbridge Farm, the Council <b>RESOLVED</b> that it has no objection to this application.</p> <p>Regarding ZB25/02054/CAT for the felling of two cypress trees in a conservation area at "Holly Trees", Wycar, the Council <b>RESOLVED</b> that it has no objection to this application.</p> <p>The Council NOTED the granting by North Yorkshire Council of: ZB25/01715/ADV and ZB25/01716/LBC, permission and listed building consent for the installation of non-illuminated signage and related external work at The Three Coopers, 2 Emgate; and ZB25/01831/FUL for a single storey rear extension at 32 Brookside Close.</p>
<b>25.101</b>	<p><b>Bedale Town Improvement Plan</b></p> <p>This item was taken after item 25.95. The Council received a presentation by Lisa Wilson, Locality Lead for North Yorkshire Council, about setting the terms of engagement for the Town Improvement Plan over the next 5-10 years. This will be led by a small steering group to include BTC councillor/s and clerk, as well as stakeholders including Bedale and Villages Community Forum, NYC Cllr Webster, and Aiskew and Leeming Bar Parish Council. The Council agreed that 1<sup>st</sup> February – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 would be a suitable consultation period, with a survey (paper and online versions), three community drop-in sessions (daytime / evening / weekend), and one to one/group conversations with key stakeholders.</p>
<b>25.102</b>	<p><b>Vibrant High Streets</b></p> <p>The Council noted that the application process is open for round 3 of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Vibrant High Streets fund, and <b>RESOLVED</b> to lead a consortium application for up to £100,000, with partners including the Community Forum, Bedale Museum, Bedale Tourist Information Centre, and town centre businesses, with the aim of improving public spaces, increase dwell and spend times, and deliver town centre events including the Fireworks display and Christmas Festival. Noting the</p>

	short lead time involved, and the amount of information / evidence required, the Council further <b>RESOLVED</b> to employ a consultant / fundraiser for four days' work to research and collaborate on the application, at a cost of £750.
<b>25.103</b>	<b>Sunday Markets</b> The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to allow Real Markets Yorkshire to run monthly Sunday markets on the town centre cobbles from April 2026, under the Market Charter.
<b>26.104</b>	<b>Christmas Lights switch-on</b> The Council heard that this event had gone smoothly, with an attendance much higher than expected given the unpleasant weather. Members of the public were delighted to see Santa arrive in style, and the Council <b>THANKED</b> both Santa his chauffeur for their contribution to the event.
<b>26.105</b>	<b>Correspondence (background papers provided)</b>

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

**SIGNED:** (Chair)

**DATE:**