



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIPON

**ANNUAL MEETING & MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY
WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY 2024 at 6PM**

**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE TOWN HALL,
RIPON, HG4 1DD**

Present

- Cllr S Hawke
- Cllr B Brodigan
- Cllr J Martin-Long
- Cllr A Williams
- Cllr P Horton
- Cllr P McHardy
- Cllr T Duncan
- Cllr S Flatley
- Cllr J Crozier

In Attendance

- Paula Benson – Chief Officer
- Leah Crawford – Administrator
- Anzhelika Kumurzhy – Senior Administrator

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Canon Michael Gisbourne said prayers.

Cllr Williams

PH, SF 3 in favour, 5 against.

Cllr Horton

AW, SF all in favour.

- 40/24** The Council to elect The Right Worshipful The Mayor.
That Cllr Hawke be elected as Mayor for the 2024-25 Civic Year.

Proposed – Cllr Williams	Seconded – Cllr Horton
4 in favour, 4 against. RESOLVED by Cllr Horton’s casting vote	

- 41/24** The Proposer and Seconder to make the Customary Search for the Mayor Elect, who is then conducted to the Council Chamber.

- 42/24** The Mayor to make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as required by Local Elections (Declaration of Acceptance of Office) Order 2012 (SI 2012 No 1465), take the Oath of Allegiance; take the Ancient Oath of the Mayor of Ripon; signing accordingly in each case and then to sign The Ancient Roll.

- 43/24** The Right Worshipful The Mayor to take the Chair.

- 44/24** The Right Worshipful The Mayor to return thanks for his election.
The Mayor gave thanks to the members of the council, armed forces and Dean John and JC. Linda and family and staff.

45/24 The Council to elect the Deputy Mayor to hold office until immediately after the election of the Mayor at the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Proposed – Cllr Hawke	Seconded – Cllr Williams
RESOLVED by a vote of 5 for, 4 against.	

46/24 The Deputy Mayor to Make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Crozier undertook the duty above.

47/24 The Mayor to notify the Appointment of his Chaplain.

That Dean John become the Mayor's Chaplain.

48/24 To request any disclosure of an interest in relation to any matter under consideration at this meeting (financial or otherwise) & to consider any written requests for dispensation.

None

49/24 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr Bate and Cllr Parkin

50/24 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th April 2024.

Proposed – Cllr Williams	Seconded – Cllr Horton
3 abstentions	

51/24 To agree the dates of future Meetings of Full Council up to the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

10th June, 8th July, 9th September, 7th October, 11th November, 9th December 2024, 13th January, 3rd February, 3rd March, 7th April 2025.

Proposed – Cllr Crozier	Seconded – Cllr Williams
RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands.	

52/24 To review and approve the Standing Orders and Committee Terms of Reference detailed below.

Proposed – Cllr Horton	Seconded – Cllr Williams
RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands.	

53/24 To note that all other matters identified in Standing Order 5j which are not the subject of this agenda shall be returned to the meeting of Full Council on 10th June 2024 for consideration.

Proposed – Cllr Williams	Seconded – Cllr Crozier
RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands.	

54/24 To appoint Committees of the Council, nominate members to those committees and delegate powers and duties to such committees for the ensuing year in accordance with the Terms of Reference as agreed by Council.

- i. Hugh Ripley Hall Committee;
- ii. Events Committee;



iii. Alderman T F Spence Committee.

Propose that members be reappointed as this year.

Proposed – Cllr Horton	Seconded – Cllr Martin Long
1 against	

Signed: [Redacted Signature]

Chairman

Dated: 11/2/2025

Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 1DD
01765 604097

History of the Mayor

The post of Mayor is relatively young as it only dates back to the 1604 Charter of King James I which created the role from that of the Wakeman.

The Wakeman was the oldest post stretching back to the early Middle Ages, and is not to be confused with the Hornblower which was always a separate function and person, always a male.

The rules for the Wakeman were fortunately written down in the 'Ripon Towne Book' of 1598 and it is quite clear that "The Wakeman is to arrange for the horn blowing in the market place and for setting the watch until 3 or 4am during which time he is responsible for guarding premises from burglary and shall pay compensation to those who suffer loss".

Failure to do any of the tasks set out in the Towne Book resulted in a large fine, and this is alluded to in today's Mayor making ceremony each year when the Mayor elect is 'dragged' into the Council Chamber to be made the Mayor.

The fines were specific: - £20 for not providing a supper for fellow Aldermen and their wives between 10th June and 31st August; 20/- for using the common seal of Ripon without the consent of 4 Aldermen; £4 for failing to serve as Wakeman and another expensive fine of £20 was "The Wakeman is not to leave the town in his year of office except because of plague". The plague referred to is bubonic plague and was prevalent in the Middle Ages after 1347 and into the 17th century as the King's Court left London when there was an attack of the plague. Clearly a Wakeman must have left the town at some stage prior to 1598 for this rule to have been written down.