



**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF RIPON**

**ANNUAL MEETING & MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY
WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 2025 at 6:00PM**

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

To Members of the Council.

You are summoned to attend a meeting of Ripon City Council for the purposes of determining the agenda items listed below.

P M Benson
Chief Officer
29th April 2025

**Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting prayers will be said
by the Mayor's Chaplain**

- 56/25** The Council to elect The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Ripon.
- 57/25** The Proposer and Seconder to make the Customary Search for the Mayor Elect, who is then conducted to the Council Chamber.
- 58/25** 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.
- 59/25** The Right Worshipful The Mayor to take the Chair.
- 60/25** The Right Worshipful The Mayor to return thanks for her election and to give thanks to Cllr Hawke for his service as Mayor.
- 61/25** The Council to elect the Deputy Mayor.
- 62/25** The Deputy Mayor to Make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 63/25** The Mayor to notify the Appointment of her Chaplain.
- 64/25** 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.
- 65/25** To receive apologies for absence.
- 66/25** To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th April 2025.

- 67/25** To agree the dates of future Meetings of Full Council up to the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Council.
- 68/25** 2nd June, 7th July, 8th September, 6th October, 10th November, 8th December, 19th January, 9th February, 9th March, 13th April.
- 69/25** To receive and approve the Standing Orders and Committee Terms of Reference detailed below in 71/25.
- 70/25** 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 2nd June 2025 for consideration.
- 71/25** 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.

Ripon City Council
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.