



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

Date: 7th September 2026

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Town Hall, Market Place South, Ripon, HG4 1DD

Present:

Cllr A Williams (Mayor)

Cllr S Flatley

Cllr S Hunt

Cllr T Duncan

Cllr Hardisty

Cllr P Horton

Cllr J Martin-Long

Cllr J Crozier

Cllr S Hawke

In Attendance

Canon Michael Gisbourne

Chief Officer

Deputy Chief Officer

10 Public

1 Press

MINUTES

**Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting prayers will be
said by The Mayors Chaplain**

	Housekeeping note: • Please ensure any mobiles are put on silent • There are no planned fire drills, if the alarm does sound please make your way down the stairs and out of the building to the Market Place, please DO NOT USE THE LIFT
153/26	1. To receive apologies <i>Apologies were received from Cllrs Brodigan, Camplejohn and McHardy</i> 2. To approve reasons for absence <i>Reasons for absence were approved for Cllrs Camplejohn and McHardy</i> <i>Reason for absence was not approved for Cllr Brodigan</i>
154/26	To request any disclosure of an interest in relation to any matter under consideration at this meeting (financial or otherwise) and to consider any written requests for dispensation. <i>Cllr Williams declared an interest in anything that may come before them as a member of NYC's area planning committee and NYC generally.</i>

155/26	Members of the public are invited to question, seek clarification or make representation to members of the Council on any Agenda item. <i>A member of the public spoke to justify item 172/26.</i> <i>A member of the public spoke in support of item 169/26.</i> <i>A member of the public spoke in support of item 171/26.</i>
156/26	To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held: Monday 13th July 2026 (PAGES 5-9 of <i>councillors agenda pack</i>) as a true and accurate record of proceedings held. RESOLVED
157/26	Financial Matters 1. To receive the Income and Expenditure Report for the period 1st July 2026 to 31st August 2026. (PAGES 10-14) RECEIVED 2. To receive the list of payments for the period 1st June 2026 to 31st August 2026. (PAGES 15-18) RECEIVED 3. To note that the bank reconciliations to 31st July 2026 have been signed in accordance with Financial Regulations. NOTED 4. To consider and appoint a back up for Signing Bank Reconciliations, currently assigned to only one councillor. Cllr Hunt was nominated and appointed as the secondary signatory for bank reconciliation - RESOLVED
158/26	AGAR (Annual Governance and Accounting Review) 1. To receive the Final External Auditor Report and Certificate for 2025/26 which has successfully concluded for the last financial year (PAGE 19) RECEIVED 2. To review limits on FR 5.6 - Tender amount for contracts over £5k. In light of the amount of work taking place on behalf of the council this low threshold is creating further work on tenders rather than achieving the same end through a robust RFQ process. From our Internal Auditor in his interim and final reports "<i>I recommend that the authorisation levels are reviewed and the same figure included in each document for clarity</i>" The Council RESOLVED to increase the level at which Officers need to go out to tender to £15k and that the financial regulations are updated accordingly.
159/26	HSBC 1. To approve movement of Ripon City Council Funds from HSBC current account (now dormant) to Unity Bank Instant access (to accrue interest) (PAGES 20-21) - RESOLVED 2. To consider and approve opening of an investment account with Unity Trust on behalf of Alderman TF Spence and moving the amount in HSBC to Unity Trust to accrue a better interest rate. - RESOLVED

160/26	Policies 1. To review and agree the Reserves policy (PAGES 22-24) RESOLVED 2. To review and agree the Investment Policy (PAGES 25-29) RESOLVED
161/26	Former RAF Linton on Ouse To consider HM Government proposals to house asylum seekers at the former base and to agree any representations that the council may wish to make. <i>The council RESOLVED to write to the home secretary supporting the objections of Linton on Ouse Parish Council, North Yorkshire Council and the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. Noting that Linton on Ouse Parish Council receive the letter sent and urging other local Parish Councils to do the same.</i>
162/26	Planning Matters To consider planning matters as detailed on page 30 of agenda pack NO OBJECTIONS RAISED
163/26	Update from Cttee Chairs. [please note that this item does not allow for the introduction of new matters]: 1. Alderman TF Spence <i>(please note no other Cttee meetings have taken place)</i> <i>Cllr Martin-Long delivered a verbal update outlining that demolition of the hut is due later this month now that water and electricity services are fully disconnected.</i>
164/26	Town Hall, Double Devolution and Community Asset Transfers 1. Double Devolution and Community Asset Transfers To receive a verbal update from the Deputy Chief Officer on the Council's ongoing Double Devolution and Community Asset Transfer programme. - RECEIVED 2. Ripon Town Hall – Phase One: Façade Works To receive a verbal update from the Deputy Chief Officer on Phase One conservation works to the Town Hall façade, including the procurement and appointment of the conservation contractor, Listed Building Consent, programme and anticipated timescales for commencement and completion. - RECEIVED 3. Ripon Town Hall – Phase One: Funding To receive an update on funding for the Phase One façade works, including the Heritage at Risk funding application and associated project costs. - RECEIVED 4. Ripon Town Hall – Phase Two (main project): Feasibility, Options and Public Engagement (PAGES 31-39) To consider the indicative officer-produced options paper as potential starting points for the next phase of the Town Hall project, with no potentially viable future use excluded at this stage; and to consider and approve: 1. procuring appropriate professional support to undertake feasibility studies and an independent options appraisal, including targeted

	community engagement works, architectural, quantity surveying and other specialist input as required; - APPROVED II. the early draw-down of £15,000 of the feasibility funding earmarked by North Yorkshire Council, ahead of completion of the Town Hall lease, to fund 4 i, above; and - APPROVED III. To note that the above work is intended to progress the project through RIBA Stages 0–1, together with such preliminary Stage 2 concept, test-fit and indicative costing work as may be appropriate, enabling a future Full Council to consider developed and publicly tested options before determining a preferred direction for the Town Hall. - NOTED
165/26	Vehicle Activated Signage (VAS) To discuss writing to North Yorkshire Council to increase the provision of speed activated warning signs within parish limits above the current limit of two. RESOLVED
166/26	Christmas Lights 1. To consider and approve the cost of potential Christmas Installations (PAGE 40) <i>It was noted that there was a possible funding stream for this installation but this would not be confirmed in time to meet manufacture dates so we need a resolution from Council to move forward and if required fund from the Christmas Lights EMR.</i> RESOLVED
167/26	Outdoor Gym Equipment 1. To receive a verbal update on Funding from the Chief Officer RECIEVED 2. To agree the preferred option for equipment type (PAGES 41-42) Council RESOLVED to a mix of the two equipment types including wheelchair accessible equipment guided by NYC.
168/26	Environment To receive a verbal update from the Deputy Chief Officer on the car in the River Ure <i>It was noted that the car has now been removed from the River Ure under a joint removal between North Yorkshire Council and The Environment Agency.</i>
169/26	Notice of Motion: Yorkshire Water This council calls upon Yorkshire Water to cease the practice of discharging sewage into our local rivers. This council believes that local children when water levels permit should be able to paddle safely in our rivers free from pee and poo. This council invites the Chief Executive to come to a future meeting of this council and explain why Yorkshire Water think this practice is acceptable and outline what measures Yorkshire Water will be implementing to ensure that this practice ceases.

	Proposed by: Cllr Jackie Crozier Seconded by: Cllr Andrew Williams MOTION CARRIED
170/26	Hugh Ripley 1. To consider options for the boundary at Hugh Ripley Hall (PAGE 43) Council RESOLVED to look into the ownership of area adjacent to Hugh Ripley Hall currently covered in brambles. 2. To receive a verbal update from the Deputy Chief Officer on initial energy options for Hugh Ripley Hall and consider the scope of investment: whole-building energy (including heating), solar and battery for current use, or solar and battery for future demand. Council RESOLVED to scope for future demand.
171/26	Notice of motion: Formation of Working Group To approve the establishment of a Climate, Food and Community Cohesion Working Group. (PAGES 44-45) Proposed by: Cllr J. Martin-Long Seconded by: Cllr P. McHardy MOTION NOT CARRIED
172/26	Small Grants Scheme To consider a small grants application from Ripon Concerts (PAGES 46-51) RESOLVED
173/26	Penny Press To approve the designs for the Penny Press machine (PAGE 52) RESOLVED
174/26	To receive the following verbal reports: 1. Reports from North Yorkshire Councillors if appropriate – for information only. – An update was received re Highway maintenance within Ripon. 2. Reports from members and/or the Chief Officer on external organisations.- CiLCA training has started for the Chief Officer. 3. Report from Ripon Together. – an update was given on the summer fun fest which was very positive. A further update is to come on the Historical Atlas following the next meeting. The Green Fair is to be held mid October and 4. Report from Ripon Bid. – New term of Bid started on 1st September following rebalot and Mark Lancaster has replaced Rick Compton as the new chair. The Council RESOLVED to write to Rick Compton to express our thanks for his efforts over the last 5 years. 5. Mayoral Announcements/Engagements. (inc Police engagement) The Mayor outlined the various events that has been attended, gave an update on the Police Engagement, advised that the paddling pool opening will extended until Sunday 27th September and confirmation was made that NYC have made a permanent fix to the Clock in the clock tower. Thanks were made to the council staff for the for the excellent events

throughout the summer and opening of the Town Hall to the public for the hidden tours.

Thanks were given to Cllr Hunt and ladies outside the Council for help with the Mayor's Charity Appeal with the first event being Friday 18th September.

Cllr A Williams

Date

5/10/21