



# Skipton Town Council

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
6.30 pm

### **Present**

Councillor K McIntyre (Chairman)  
Mrs L Close (Chief Officer)  
Mrs J Dean (Deputy)  
Mrs H Marshall (Finance Manager)  
Miss H Corrigan (Events Manager)

15 members of the public and 1 member of press were in attendance.

### **1. REPORT BY THE MAYOR FOR 2021 - 2022**

Reminder that not a council meeting but the Town meeting for any resident of Skipton

I was elected Town Mayor of Skipton during Lockdown on Zoom in October 2020; I remember my girls waiting to see if their mum was now mayor and it all is feeling a little surreal.

I didn't see the robes or chain or any events for many months as lockdown continued.

I remember doing a video a few days before armistice day to be aired on social media on the Sunday.

I also remember chairing the first actual meeting and looking round at everyone wearing masks all felt very different and intimidating.

I've been very proud of our town and how people came forward to help each other and show kindness and resilience in a very scary time. Especially the volunteers who manned the vaccine sites at various sites in Skipton

I was also very proud of Skipton Market and how it adapted first of all with the food stalls and then the closure of the high street to reopen the market fully and the music and vibrant atmosphere were a welcome sign that things were returning to normal after the covid pandemic.

Once able to tentatively get out and about again I've built up relationships with many group such as Skipton Rotary, Royal British Legion, all churches in Skipton, Local Schools, Skipton Soroptimist's, Craven District Council and North Yorkshire County council and always been as happy to be in the kitchen washing up as well as standing at the front in the mayoral robes.

I've also re-established Links with Menwith Hill and Skipton's community partners.

I'm also pleased to report both Skipton Sheep Day and Skipton Gala are happening this year thanks to our Town centre management and events team.

My highlight has been the Santa fun run and Christmas light switch on with Luke Mortimer a busy but unforgettable day.

Also fundraising for Martin House at Yarndale and light up a life concert.

I've also enjoyed getting out and about clearing the garden for Selfa along with other Cllrs and allotment clear ups and site visits

Thanks to our ground's maintenance team, volunteers, Cllrs past and present and of course the nursery children who loved the stomping at the recent Wildflower meadows project and look forward to seeing how these come along in the coming months.

We've also now updated our sustainability goals and got an electric van for the ground's maintenance team

I'd like to thank the Thank all the town council Staff team who go over and above to deliver a good service for the residents of Skipton

Also, to thank all former Cllrs for their four years' service to the town and welcome all new Cllrs and look forward to working with you over the next five years for the benefit of Skipton and its residents.

I now declare the meeting open to questions from the public present.

If we can't answer the question or if it's not Skipton Town Council, we will make sure your signposted to the relevant authority.

## **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

Members of the public were invited to ask questions.

A resident at the meeting advised that Skipton is a fair-trade town but there is a lack of signs to display this. She added that it would be a fitting tribute to the late Councillor A Hickman who lived and breathed social justice to have fair trade signs at each entry point of the town. She further confirmed that the Fair-trade group would contribute 50% towards the signs.

It was confirmed this would be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

A resident asked what the Council plans were to celebrate 40 years of twinning with Simbach in September this year.

A resident advised that they had attended the recent Town Council event where an Honorary Freeman was awarded, they asked if this could be an annual event.

A resident advised that the plight of Dairy farmers needed highlighting and the Merchant Navy is a very important service to be remembered and recognition of this service also needs to be a future agenda item.

A resident asked why the Waterways festival was cancelled and the reason that the organisers cancelled this event was explained in full along with discussions of why a gateway along the high street had also been painted in conjunction with the Heritage Action Zone project.

**The meeting closed at 18.49 pm.**