



# Skipton Town Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting of Skipton Town Council held by a remote platform on Thursday 14th January 2021 at 7.00pm

### Those Present:

Chairman: Councillor K McIntyre (Mayor)  
Councillors: Councillor T Barrett, Councillor G Bell, Councillor J Dawson, Councillor W Feather, Councillor R Heseltine, Councillor A Hickman, Councillor E Jaquin, Councillor R Mahmood, Councillor K McIntyre, Councillor C Nash, Councillor D Painter & Councillor A Solloway.  
Officers: Mrs L Close (Acting Chief Officer)

Five Members of the Public were also in attendance.

**2021/049**

### ITEM 1 – Mayors remarks

Councillor K McIntyre welcomed everybody to the meeting and wished to formally recognise, during this new lockdown, all the Volunteers, Carers, NHS Staff and people of Skipton who are putting in massive efforts to look after everybody. We would like to thank the people for that effort.

**2021/050**

### ITEM 2 – To accept apologies for absence

None

**2021/051**

### ITEM 3 – Disclosures of Interest

None declared

**2021/052**

### ITEM 4 – Dispensations Requests

None received

**2021/053**

### ITEM 5- Representations from the public

Councillor E Jaquin advised that he would seek clarification from Craven District Council regarding Item 11 on the agenda. He will then report back at future meeting.

Councillor D Shaw left the meeting at this point due to a work commitment.

**2021/054**

### ITEM 6- Minute of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by Councillor D Painter

Seconded by Councillor T Barrett

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full council meeting held on 19th November 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

*(Unanimous)*

2021/055

**ITEM 7- Minutes from Committees**

Proposed by Councillor D Painter

Seconded by Councillor P Madeley

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held on 29th October 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record. *(Unanimous)*

2021/056

**ITEM 8- Finance**

The Budget Documents for the 2021/2022 Financial year were discussed. The Chief Officer addressed questions raised by Councillor Barratt.

Proposed by Councillor A Hickman

Seconded by Councillor J Dawson

**RESOLVED** that they precept for the 2021/2022 Financial year be at £519,491.00 *(Unanimous)*

2021/057

**ITEM 9- Planning Committee Budget**

Councillor E Jaquin asked the meeting to consider giving the Planning Committee a budget to be used for the commissioning of road safety reports that can then be utilised with Craven District Council, and assist with providing evidence where it is felt there is a need for road safety improvements. Councillor T Barrett advised that he would suggest that any spend for such reports are not from the Planning Committee but from Full Council, this would ensure that we are not duplicating any work that Craven District Council or North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department may already be undertaking.

Councillor P Madeley advised that he did not believe this was an option for the Town Council to consider but that NYCC has the responsibility to conduct such reports.

Councillor J Dawson advised that he agreed with the above comments and felt that the Town Council had a role to make recommendations, but it should not cost STC.

Councillor C Nash spoke in favour of the Councillor Jaquin's suggestion, and advised that the cost of surveys required may be small, and could provide evidence to NYCC that further investigation from them was required.

Proposed by Councillor T Barrett

Seconded by Councillor E Jaquin

**RESOLVED** that a budget provision would be made available however any spend would need to be agreed by Full Council before implementing.

*(11 in favour)*

2021/058

**ITEM 10- The Governance of Skipton Town Council**

A statement was discussed to release to the press and on Social Media Channels, including the Town Council Website and the Town Council Facebook Page.

Proposed by Councillor Peter Madeley

Seconded by Councillor Winston Feather

**RESOLVED** that the following statement would be issued:

***This has been a difficult year for Skipton and Skipton Town Council, not only due to coronavirus, but due in part to council and councillors' failings.***

***It is important to note that there have been external investigations into the Town Council, including one by the Police Force, and all Councillor's accept there is no evidence whatsoever of corruption or fraudulent activity. However, the same investigations did reveal a level of Governance below that which should be expected.***

***Whilst Town Councillors are unpaid public servants, the public is entitled to expect both competence and good governance; in both those areas we have failed.***

***When trying to correct for past mistakes and errors, the first step is to acknowledge those mistakes and errors, those we freely admit, and will not repeat.***

***The next step is how to ensure, as far as possible, that there is no repetition of those, or similar, matters.***

***To that end there are new systems being put in place, systems which will lead, as swiftly as time allows, to better councillors, a better council, and a speedy return for Skipton to normality from the impact of coronavirus.***

- ***All Councillors will receive training, this is essential to improve our ability as councillors, and will be undertaken.***
- ***New key staff will be appointed as soon as practically possible.***
- ***Staff and councillors will work, as they should, together, with only one aim, the present and future good of Skipton.***
- ***The people of Skipton will be encouraged to take an active part in council work at such as at council meetings.***

***Full Council Meetings and Committee Meetings are open for Members of the public to attend, including Zoom Meetings on request. Minutes from Council Meetings are available on the Council Website or by contacting the Council Office.***

***If there is any more you feel we, as your council and councillors, can do, then please let us know. We have the honour to serve you and our town, and we are determined to live up to that honour and trust.***

(Unanimous)

2021/059

**ITEM 11- Report into Election Irregularities**

The report into election irregularities was circulated prior to the meeting and discussed. The Chief officer advised this document was to receive and note as Skipton Town Council does not have any powers to take any action. Councillor P Madeley advised that he felt the report should be discussed, as it was in the public interest. Councillor J Dawson stated that the item regarding register of interests was inaccurate, and the relevant documentation have always been available on the Craven District Council website.

Councillor T Barrett requested that a full discussion on the report should take place in public.

Councillor K McIntyre advised that she did not want the item discussing at length during this meeting. The Chief Officer confirmed she would, after reading the full report and recommendation, circulate her comments and feedback to all Members for consideration.

2021/060

**ITEM 12- Craven Museum Trust**

Councillor E Jaquin advised the meeting that the Craven Museum Trust may be disbanded, and replaced with a Trust for the Town Hall. Skipton Town Council would need to consider if they would request a position on any newly formed Trust. All Councillors agreed that further information was required, and that Councillor S Meyers should be invited to a meeting to discuss this in more detail.

At this point Councillor A Hickman left the meeting.

2021/061

**ITEM 13- Mayoral Chains Case**

To approve the cost of a purchase of a case for the Mayoral Chains, details of quotes received were circulated prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor C Nash

Seconded by Councillor J Dawson

**RESOLVED** to move forward with the quotation provided by Fattorinis, and purchase a secure case for the Mayor Chains.

2021/062

**ITEM 14- Sustainability Goals**

To resolve to adopt the motion put forward by the Sustainability Working Group.

Proposed by Councillor T Barrett

Seconded by Councillor J Dawson

**RESOLVED** to adopt the following motion:

*"The Council notes that in 2019 the United Nations agreed Sustainable Development Goals and called for councils to participate in obtaining local and global sustainability. The goals are designed to highlight the links between differing needs in our locality and also the link between Skipton and the wider world. They focus on what is within the Council's control such as our management of our estate, of events and our involvement in the local economy and communities. A request was also made for Skipton Town Council to declare a climate emergency, following the declaration by Craven District Council. Skipton Town Council set up a Sustainability Working Group which considered the*

*climate emergency and the goals, and on the recommendation of the Working Group, Skipton Town Council adopts the following four UN goals to guide it when developing its policies:*

*Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*

*Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*

*Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

*Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*

*and agrees that the Council will incorporate these goals into its Strategy and activities as a matter of urgency, given the climate emergency.”*

*(Unanimous)*

**2021/063**

**ITEM 15- Reports from Committees and Sub Committees**

Councillor Barrett advised the meeting that the procedure established by the Planning Committee was working well, with applications being circulated via the Staff in the Office and comments from Members of the Planning Committee being collated prior to submitting to Craven District Council's Planning Department.

**2021/064**

**ITEM 16- Reports on virtual meetings attended as a Town Council Representative.**

None received.

**2021/065**

**ITEM 17- Notification of Business for a Future Agenda**

The Clerk should be given seven clear days' notice of items for the Agenda of the next meeting although the absolute statutory minimum notice period is three clear days.

**The next meeting of the Full Council is on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

With no further business discussed the meeting closed at 20:04pm.