



**Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of
Northallerton Town Council held at 7.00pm on
Monday 17th November 2025 in the Town Hall, Upper Hall.**

Present: Cllr P Cornfoot; Cllr P Atkin; Cllr S Barber; Cllr S Bell; Cllr D Calvert; Cllr A Eames, Cllr P Eames; Cllr M Holmes; Cllr C Hutson; Cllr J Hutson and Cllr G Ramsden.

Also Present: Cllr C Dickinson, North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Ward Councillor; Flt Sgt Oli Blumer, Mayor's Cadet; two representatives from The Living Rooms and Alexandra Robson, Clerk.

25/084 Apologies

It was resolved that apologies for absence be received and accepted from Cllr A Hugill

Cllr S Watson, NYC had also offered apologies for this meeting.

25/085 To Note any Declarations of Interest

Cllr J Hutson declared a non pecuniary interest in items relating to Northallerton BID.

25/086 Public Participation

Members of the Public who wish to speak regarding items within the remit of the Town Council may do so. Time will be restricted to 10 minutes maximum, unless the council decides otherwise.

25/087 The Living Rooms

Two representatives from The Living Rooms shared details of their work and future aspirations with councillors. The Living Rooms, now in its sixth year and originally funded by five local churches, provides a safe, comfortable community space open Monday–Friday, 10am–1pm, offering free refreshments and compassionate support for people in need. This need can come in many forms including experiencing loneliness, trauma, mental-health challenges, dementia, neurodiversity, or addiction. The organisation is faith-based but not faith-biased.

Children's sessions are run on Mondays and Wednesdays (3:30–5pm), there is a session to support family wellbeing and a monthly shared community meal is hosted.

With around 40 volunteers contributing the equivalent of £82,000 of time annually, the service offers a friendly, non-clinical environment and signposts visitors to partner organisations where specialist help is needed.

Centre Manager, Chloe Hickford, leads the Living Rooms and Paula Taylor, a Development Officer who looks at finding grant funding. All volunteers receive Safeguarding Training and then follow a pathway of training for a year.

A recent consultation of more than 70 respondents has shaped The Living Rooms priorities for the next five years, highlighting ambitions to grow while sustaining the current offer. Key areas include expanding provision for young people, developing a transitional programme from primary to secondary school, increasing holiday support, and exploring options such as a "chill box," Saturday and evening sessions, and a mobile or outreach unit. Strengthening partnerships with groups such as Mind, Samaritans, Men's Shed and Andy's Man Club will also form an important part of future development.

Running costs are approximately £4,500 per month, with no statutory funding. The team relies on grants, individual giving and regular support from some churches and donors and continues to seek further funding opportunities. They would be appreciative if the Town Council can help raise awareness of their work, keep them in mind for future funding and note they are currently seeking premises for Andy's Man Club. Residents and Councillors are encouraged to visit or become "Friends of The Living Rooms."

Thanks were offered to the staff for attending and sharing their update and the Council will discuss possibilities for them to support the Living Rooms at an upcoming committee meeting.

25/088 Minutes

It was resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 20th October 2025 be approved



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25/089 Exclusion of the Press and Public by virtue of Public (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960
It was resolved that it was not necessary to exclude members of the press and public

25/090 North Yorkshire Police

A report from North Yorkshire Police had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
Positive feedback was received about the organisation of the Bonfire event.

25/091 To receive reports from Ward Councillors

Cllr Dickinson had sent a report and highlighted the Let's Talk Money consultation.
She has pledged £500 towards the cost of the CCTV for Incredible Edible.
She gave a short verbal update on school transport and banking hubs around the constituency, which had been raised at the Area Committee Meeting. Discussion also took place about the Community Health Hub in Catterick, which will provide dentistry and maternity services amongst other things and may benefit the Northallerton area.

25/092 To receive the Mayor's Statement

A statement had been shared. Cllr Cornfoot highlighted that 4 councillors had attended the BID rejuvenation day and reported that it had been useful and made a visible impact. He added that the school visit had been excellent and noticeable improvements were being made. Councillors hope the Head continues to make positive progress.

25/093 Community Facilities

Frustration was shared that the county town has no museum to commemorate its history. Thirsk has a good small museum and 48 other towns and communities across North Yorkshire have one but Northallerton doesn't.

It was resolved that the Clerk will contact the Heritage Hub and this will be considered further at the next Community Facilities Committee meeting

25/094 Engagement and Events

- Planning Applications received were considered.
ZB25/01628/ADV Signage at Aldi
Councillors consider that this is a main gateway into the town and lit signs will impact on local residents, be distracting for road users and cause significant light pollution. They would prefer to see more modest signage in this area and for the illumination to be shut off between 2200 and 0800

1. It was resolved that Northallerton Town Council wish to object to this application

ZB25/01909/FUL Former Civic Centre - Stone Cross

Councillors expressed concern regarding the proposed works adjacent to the school, noting the potential for significant disruption at a time when school places are already limited and additional educational space may be required. Members questioned the rationale for the demolition of the existing building. It was further observed that the local population, including residents over the age of 65, continues to grow, placing increased pressure on health-care services. Ongoing difficulties in accessing dentistry, GP services, and education within the town, were highlighted and it was noted that service list sizes have not increased in proportion to recent housing development.

2. It was resolved that the Clerk & Cllr Cornfoot will write a submission raising these concerns

- A report from Northallerton BID had been circulated in advance.
- Progress of the Town Investment Plan was discussed. Consultation is ongoing and a further meeting is due on 26th Nov. All councillors were urged to complete individual consultation forms. The Town Council has shared all its strategic and transport planning information to inform this project.
- A food festival stakeholders meeting took place today. It was agreed that a survey will be circulated to residents and visitors regarding events generally in the town to inform the next steps.
- The NYC draft Pavement Licence Policy was considered. Councillors felt it to be sensible and concluded that a response is not required.



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25/095 Environment and Open Spaces

Councillors were updated on the Incredible Edible appeal to fund a CCTV camera. The Clerk is arranging for this to be actioned whilst their organiser is away.

25/096 Finance

- 1. It was resolved payments be approved and receipts noted**
- 2. It was resolved that bank account balances be noted as below and bank reconciliations signed.**
HSBC £259,568.57 Unity £ 31,370.89

Draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th November 2025 were noted.

25/097 Staffing

Draft minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th November 2025 were noted.

24/098 To receive late correspondence

Emails for information have been circulated between meetings and require no further action.

25/099 To receive items for inclusion in the agenda for the next meeting

Items to be added to the next agenda should be notified to the Clerk by midday on Monday 8th December.

25/100 Date of Next Meeting

It was resolved that the time and date of the next meeting will be Monday 15th December at 19:00.

The meeting closed at 20:17