



**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting
held at 19:00 on Monday 11th May 2026
in Northallerton Town Hall Upper Hall**

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

Also present: Cllr C Dickinson, North Yorkshire Council (NYC); twenty two members of the public; three Town Council Staff and representatives from the following groups:

Climate Action Northallerton	Community Safety Partnership
Hambleton Community Action	Harbus
Incredible Edible	Mencap
Northallerton Air Cadets	Northallerton Tourist Information Centre
North Yorkshire Police	One Northallerton One Planet
Rotary Club Northallerton	The Living Rooms

APM26/01 Welcome

Cllr Andrew Hugill, Mayor welcomed all attendees and shared his review of the last year. He reflected on his first year in office and the continued delivery of the Town Council's strategic plan.

He highlighted the strong community spirit within the town, thanking the many groups and volunteers who work tirelessly for our town. The Mayor also emphasised the Council's close relationship with RAF Leeming, the introduction of the first Mayor's Cadet and his visits to local schools and youth organisations.

Progress on key projects was noted, including the new allotments at the Sports Village, improvements at Bankhead Park and the well-used Springwell Lane footpath. Northallerton Town Council (NTC) continues to work with developers, NYC and the York & North Yorkshire Mayoral Authority (YNYMA) on improved access to green spaces and enhanced walking and cycling routes and awaits the outcome of a major funding bid.

Town events such as the Bonfire, Remembrance Day and Christmas celebrations again attracted large crowds and new BID-supported events are planned for the coming year.

The Mayor also reported strong partnership working with organisations including NYC, Northallerton BID, the Tourist Information Centre and Hambleton Community Action. He stressed the importance of financial resilience, noting that the Council has managed budgets responsibly and is committed to maintaining a strong position for the future .

He closed by thanking Council staff for their hard work and reaffirming that Northallerton continues to be a better place to live, work and visit.

APM26/02 Minutes of the previous meeting held 12th May 2025

Minutes of the previous meeting held 12th May 2025 were noted and circulated to attendees.



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APM26/03 Questions, comments or suggestions from residents of Northallerton

A number of matters were discussed as follows:

Q: Can residents influence improvements to active travel patrols?

A: Yes. Significant consultation has already taken place across NTC, NYC and the YNYMA and resident input continues to be welcomed.

Q: Will Northallerton get a SEND school?

A: Whilst NTC is not the education authority, it is actively encouraging NYC to progress plans to develop the former Grammar School site into a SEND facility.

Cllr Caroline Dickinson confirmed she is aware of the strong local need and will pass the resident's details to the NYC Executive.

Q: What is happening with the ACV application for the land off Springwell Lane?

A: Feedback indicated that more substantial evidence is required to demonstrate community value before an ACV application can be considered. NTC has written to the Planning Policy Manager regarding the land's future. Their response stated that any future planning applications would be judged on their merits, but if NTC believes the land requires protection, it should consider including it within a Neighbourhood Plan.

Q: Why are there no Northern Line trains connecting Northallerton to the wider network?

A: Services are operated by LNER and limited platform capacity at Northallerton Station restricts additional services. NTC has made representations to the YNYMA and relevant government departments to explore solutions.

Q: How does NTC represent residents on planning matters and how does it support objections?

A: NTC is a statutory consultee and the Council's role is to secure the best outcomes for the town, such as improved bus provision, cycle routes and sustainable development. This is one reason NTC is considering developing a Neighbourhood Plan, which would give the community a stronger voice.

Q: Will Public Toilet opening hours be extended to support events and Sunday trading?

A: The toilets are already open for events and, from last weekend, Sunday opening hours have been extended to 10:00–14:00.

APM26/04 Consider the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Northallerton

Cllr Hugill gave an explanation of the reasons NTC is exploring a Neighbourhood Plan, explaining that it would give the community much stronger influence over how the town develops in the years ahead. It provides a clear, locally driven framework for the type, scale and location of new homes, employment space, green areas and infrastructure. Importantly, it becomes a legally binding planning document with the same weight as a Local Plan, meaning it can shape and guide planning decisions rather than simply comment on them. At a time when the existing Local Plan is ageing and a new county-wide plan is still several years away, a Neighbourhood Plan offers stability and helps reduce the risk of speculative development.



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There are also practical benefits for the town. A completed plan increases the Town Council's share of the Community Infrastructure Levy from 15% to 25%, bringing in significantly more funding to support local improvements and services. It also allows Northallerton to set out its priorities clearly, building on work such as the Strategic Plan and the Town Investment Plan and to influence NYC future planning decisions in a positive, proactive way.

Overall, the aim is to ensure that growth is well planned, infrastructure keeps pace and development genuinely reflects the needs and ambitions of the community.

Attendees were encouraged to give feedback on this proposal and further opportunities will be made available for residents to input further into the consideration.

APM26/05 The date of the next Annual Town Meeting was confirmed as Monday 10th May 2027

APM26/06 Open discussion and refreshments followed and the meeting closed at 20:15