

# Hedon Town Council

## Annual Town Meeting

Held in the Town Hall, St Augustine's Gate, Hedon

30 April 2026

Present: Cllr P Hinch (in the Chair)  
Chairmen of Town Council Committees: Cllrs Billany, Gallant and Wright  
Town Clerk: Miss Caroline Addy

Members of the public signed the Attendance Sheet (attached)

1. Welcome by the Mayor  
The Mayor, Cllr Hinch, welcomed all those present to the meeting.
2. To agree and adopt the minutes of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting  
The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2025 were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings thereat.
3. To consider any matters arising from the minutes  
None
4. To receive Town Mayor's Annual Report  
Cllr Hinch gave a report on the Mayoral year 2025/2026; the report is attached to the Minutes.
5. To receive Annual Reports from the Chairmen of Committees  
Cllr C Billany, Chairman of the Planning Committee, gave a report on the activities of that Committee from 2025/2026.  
Cllr S Wright, Chairman of the Property Committee, gave a report on the activities of that Committee during 2025/2026.  
Cllr S Gallant gave a report on the activities of the Finance and General Purposes Committee during 2025/2026.  
The reports from the Committee Chairs are attached to the Minutes.
6. To receive a verbal report from Humberside Police  
PC Stothard was in attendance and gave a report on the crime figures for the area, which included Hedon as well as Preston, Paull and Thorngumbald.
7. Open Forum – to receive Written Questions  
There had been now written questions received and the Mayor opened the meeting to verbal questions from the public.

A question was asked with regards to the use of the old track near the old station by youths on bikes and antisocial behaviour. **The police reiterated that any issues should be reported to the police in person or via the 101 number.** The statistics then highlight a particular area or a particular type of crime that is flagged up for action by the police.

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There were inherent difficulties in dealing with people of bikes as they are able to use pathways that the police were unable to in vehicles; however, the police were looking at ways to counter this.

A question was asked about what could be done about a homeless person who spent time in the centre of the town drinking in an area that was covered by a PSPO Order. The police were aware but enforcement of the PSPO Order area would be carried out by ERYC – who were also aware of the problem. The police are able to remove open cans/bottles of alcohol but do not have powers to move her on. Again, reporting the issue to both the police and ERYC Antisocial Behaviour Team as and when issues occur is the only way to deal with such a problem. PC Stobbard made notes of what was being said at the meeting, and he would pass on the information. The Town Clerk also confirmed that anything reported to the Town Hall was also passed on.

It was hoped that police surgeries could happen again; PC Stothard was aware that on occasion the police had not been able to attend surgeries, if they were called to a situation, and they would have no way of informing residents. Unfortunately, when this happens residents are disappointed and there is a knock-on effect of residents then not attending.

The Mayor was pleased to note that Hedon is a very safe place to live compared to the city and most surrounding areas.

PC Stothard noted that crimes discussed on social media, such as Facebook, did not generate a police crime report and residents should always report any crimes or concerns to the police themselves. Any action taken by the police would be driven by statistics of the number of reports received and she urged residents to report all cases of crime or anti-social behaviour. If residents felt unsafe in their homes, or the area around their homes, they should contact the police who can arrange an appointment to visit and give tips on how to make homes more secure.

The Mayor thanked those that had attended the meeting, the Chairmen of the Committees for their reports, the questions that had been raised and PC Stobbard for the information he had shared.

Chairman

CJA/ATM/30.04.2026

## HEDON TOWN COUNCIL

### F&GP Report 2025-26

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

My report this evening covers the last 12 months of the 2025/26 Budget and the Budget we have set for the year ahead. But I would like to give a bit of background context first.

When I was first elected to chair the Finance Committee we had only around £40,000 in reserves, which is only a couple of months expenditure and was a major concern. So we agreed a strategic objective of meeting all our annual budget needs but also restoring our reserves over the next few years.

This is very much in line with what our external auditor recommends – town councils should aim to build reserves of around 50% of their annual budget. Over the next 7 years we gradually built up our reserves to £221,000 by April 2022 including £57k of earmarked reserves for Hedfest, new Cemetery land and the restoration of assets..

We do try and budget for a years anticipated spend, but the reserves are there to meet any unforeseen expenses and we have had number of these in the last few years –not least the ceiling above the stairs falling in or Alexandra Hall’s plumbing problems and this year we had to buy a new tractor which was £16,000 we hadn’t expected. We have been able to meet all these costs from reserves without having to increase the precept for residents.

And from 2022, the Russian War in Ukraine set off an inflation cycle that reached 11% and heating bills we’re all still suffering from. So for 3 years we agreed to meet any shortfall in income from reserves and only increased the precept by 3% over three years. This meant our reserves were reduced by £38,000 by 2024.

Other Councils which had not built reserves were not in a position to do this. We have seen Preston and Cottingham for example have to raise their precepts by over 25% and Beverley by 53% over the last three years !

The Auditor has commented that the Accounts have been maintained to a very high standard and that the financial control within the Council is excellent. After many years of good management we perhaps take it for granted, but we really must not do so..

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Moving on to the 2025/26 Budget and Precept – In 2024/25 after three years we had to raise the precept in order to cover our costs driven by continuing inflation and increased staff costs, which are 59% of our overall expenditure. But costs continued to rise, so we delayed some projects but completed the pictures restoration and added to the reserve.

In January 2025 when setting the budget for this last year we were aware that while inflation had fallen costs were continuing to rise. So we increased the budget provision for staffing, energy, fuel etc. We also added £4000 to the cemetery reserve and £4000 for a recent byelection.

So we agreed a 10% increase in the precept, which actually equates to just 97p a month for an average Band D property. While no one welcomes increased council tax I hope residents do appreciate that we make every effort to get value for money while fulfilling our obligations to maintain the town and its assets to a very high standard.

Aside from all the overheads of running the council we have had several major areas of expenditure :- £12k on repairs and upgrade of the Farbank play area; over £10,000 of treeworks; the tractor at £16,500 and over £10,000 on town hall maintenance. And we installed more solar lighting and funded the Xmas lights and VE Day celebrations.

Overall we spent nearly £309,000, coming in just £1226 under budget. On the income side we generated £326,000, nearly £10k over budget – due to our high interest investments and VAT returns, so we have added £11,000 to our reserves by year end.

### **Budget 2026/27 –**

In January this year when we set the budget for the year ahead we had to make provision for several more major projects.

We have created an earmarked reserve of £10,000 to host Yorkshire Day in 2027 and added £4k to our elections reserve. We have undertaken to get all the headstones in the cemetery checked and provided funds to create a memorial garden in the cemetery. We have also increased the Town Hall maintenance budget to repaint the Town Hall before Yorkshire Day. And we have increased the Hedfest budget which will now be on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July next year.

## **Planning 2025/26**

To the Mayor, my fellow councillors and residents of Hedon. Here is the report for the Planning Committee for the period covering 2025/26.

This year has been another quiet year for planning, possibly down to the new planning regulations. There have been only five applications for single storey extensions, three for conservatory, garage extension and garden outbuilding, and twelve applications for tree works which was passed onto the tree officer. The council has also discussed replacement of fences and gates and listed building consent. Also a tea room has been approved after it requested a change of use from a care home.

The council has refused one application due to the plans blocking a right of way, East Riding Council agreed with the council and refused the application.

The planning committee also covers industrial planning applications. The applications this year have come from established companies that want to extend their premisses within their grounds, and new ventures that are exploring using land around Hedon. These are in green energy with two applications for solar farms. One to the northwest of Preston and one to the south of Hedon. The latter the council has had some discussion with the company on how it might affect or benefit the town. There had been some concern about the loss of agricultural land, but the

## **Planning 2025/26**

council was told that the land would only be used for 40 years, and it would be able to be used for livestock to graze during that time.

As I am coming to the end of my short presentation of the planning committee year. I would like to say that I am always refreshing my knowledge of the planning regulations by going on courses provided by ERNLLCA. There are new courses in June just see Caroline and she will book them for you.

So I will now end my report for the period 2025/26

## **Hedon Town Council Annual Chair of property Meeting Report**

**2025/2026**

### **Welcome**

First, I would like to say that it has been a pleasure acting as chair of the property meetings and that I am honoured to present this report to you all this evening. The property committee is responsible for overseeing the management, maintenance and development of the council's properties for the benefit of the community. This report will outline some of the work completed over the last year and give recommendations for future works.

### **Maintenance and works on the Town Hall**

**Office Damp issues** - At the end of last year it was noted that the ladies in the office had reported that there were some damp issues in the downstairs office. We immediately introduced dehumidifiers in the office and requested that someone come and investigate the damp, so that work could be completed. Quotes were received and one was approved. The work was completed to the office including painting repairs and a new carpet.

**Town hall frontage painting** - The property committee have noted that the front exterior of the Town Hall requires painting and have agreed that this will need to be completed this coming year – before Yorkshire Day 2027. I was agreed in the last meeting that the Town Clerk would seek new quotes for the painting and then a decision would be made on the best time for the work to be completed.

**Roof repair** - It was identified that there was an area on the front of the town hall, where the corbel meets the roof, was dangerous and needed repair. Quotes were sought immediately and this was completed.

**Risk Assessments** - This year, in line with health and safety regulations, the town hall instructed experts to complete both security and fire risk assessments. The security risk assessment highlighted the need for new gates outside the rear of the property, a new window in the kitchen and updates on the alarm system. It was unanimously agreed that the works which had been recommended be completed as soon as possible and the work has started to be completed.

The fire risk assessment has been completed, and we are waiting for recommendations to be made to the council, so that we can act upon them.

**Charters and other historic documents** – Concerns were raised about the condition of the King John Charter and seal, which was in a glass case in the town hall. It was agreed that it would be sent away for work on preserving the charter and for them to create a replica which could be displayed in the council chambers, so that the original could be placed away safely in a protective box. The pieces are almost ready for collection, and it was agreed that the original would be given for safe keeping to the Hedon Museum, as they had storage units which would help keep it safe.

In February, members noted that the King James 1 charter, which was located in the mayor's parlour, needed repair and it was agreed that quotes would be sort for the work to be completed and a replica to be produced. When discussing the quote, it was asked whether a representative

of the arts restoration company could come and visit the other charters and historic documents, so they could be appraised and recommendations could be made. The representative visited the Hedon Museum to look at the documents and was very impressed by the volunteers, but some concerns were raised about the storage of our documents. It was agreed in April's meeting that quotes would be obtained for a temperature-controlled storage box, which would be used to store the original documents at the town hall. This would ensure that the documents were covered by the Town Hall's insurance, and it was suggested that all documents get 2 replicas per document – one for the town hall and one for the Hedon Museum. This will be aimed to be completed going forward.

### **Cemetery**

**War Memorial**– During the Remembrance Day visit to the War memorial, it was noticed that the memorial wasn't in the best condition and that it appeared to be dirty. Quotes were obtained for the clean up of the memorial and surrounding areas. A quote was approved and the memorial has been cleaned and tidied. The contractor has also treated the memorial to reduce the amount of soiling and that he will continue to monitor and deal with as needed for the next 12 months.

**Memorial Garden** – Following council decision that the cemetery was to remain a lawn cemetery and the planting of any kind on plots, would not be permitted. It was agreed that a memorial garden would be considered in the cemetery. Quotes and a design have been produced and approved. The work will commence as soon as possible

**Paths** – During April's meeting, councillors received a report which identified that the paths in the cemetery were in a poor condition and there was an area which needed immediate attention. It was discussed at the meeting that multiple repairs to the paths had been made already, and it was decided that the dangerous area would be cordoned off immediately, signs to be placed warning of dangers, a temporary repair to be made and formal quotes would be sought to replace paths in the cemetery. This work will be completed over a period, with the most urgent areas being completed first.

### **Repairs and Maintenance of land property**

**Horsewell Pond** – A working group has been set up to manage the Horsewell pond, to hopefully ensure that the pond holds water all year round. Investigations have been made and it appears that the clay substructure has failed and the recommendation is that the council purchases a liner which could cost approximately 15k. We did approach Yorkshire water, to ask if they could donate an offcut of one of their liners from a reservoir, but they haven't responded. We will look at contacting them again or possibly look at other funding options.

**Playpark Repairs** – During a routine inspection, it was identified that repairs were needed to the skate park and playpark at Farbank. It is believed that some of the repairs is due to the increase in anti-social behaviour in the area. Installation of CCTV was discussed as a possible deterrent, but the cost of installation would be over 12k plus there would need to be ongoing maintenance costs and active internet connection. It was agreed that repair work recommended by the annual inspection would be completed including a new seesaw, replacement of the playground spring toy and resurfacing as part of essential maintenance.

**Iveson Lane Car Park Repairs** – During April's meeting it was noted that during recent storms, a couple of the fence panels had been taken out. It was noted that there had been some discussions as to whether the fence itself was on council's property, but after discussion, it was decided that we would obtain quotes and replace the panels as the fence is on the council's boundary line.

**Mountain Bike Track/Park** – A young member of the community approached the council with the idea for a mountain bike track/park hopefully to be situated near to skate park at far bank. The council was impressed by the suggestion, especially by someone so young and the young man was asked to bring his ideas to a property meeting. He brought the proposal to the meeting and the idea was discussed. There were some initial concerns about security because of the remote location and history of damage at skate park, but council asked him to come back with more detailed plans. As yet, we haven't heard anything about this again but would like to pay tribute to the young man and confirm that we welcome members of the community bringing ideas to us.

### **Solar Lighting instalments**

Following concerns identified about some unlit areas in Hedon, it was suggested that solar lights would be installed on both Grape Lane and Ivy Lane. Lights were bought and stored until; ERYC could confirm their placement. Their placement was agreed by ERYC, and both solar lights have been installed and are fully working. A special mention should be made for late Cllr David Thompson, as he was very passionate about the installation of these lights and was instrumental in their placement.

### **Trees**

As noted in last years report, there had been some misunderstandings when switching from the previous tree work company to the new tree works company. This led to some confusion and a backlog of tree works costing around 19k. All misunderstandings have now been resolved, and I am pleased to say that we're all caught up. There are no trees in the red zone and going forward we aim to be more proactive in our approach to trees including trees on our properties and as identified in roadside surveys. Any work going forward is to be completed in a timely manner.

### **Property leases and tenancies**

**Scout Hall Lease** – After a long negotiation, the lease has been finalised and signed by both parties.

**Council Leased Equipment Store** – The electrical fault that was identified at the council leased store behind Lloyd's bank, was completed and paid for by ERYC.

### **Conclusion**

It has been a busy year for the property committee, and the upcoming year is also set to be busy, especially with preparing for Yorkshire Day 2027.

I would like to thank all of the committee members for their hard work and attendance at the meetings and once again to the ladies in the Hedon Town Council Office for all their hard work in the office, ensuring that all the work takes place. We couldn't do this without them.

Suzannah Wright

Chairman, Hedon Town Council Property Committee.

**Annual Mayor's Report – Councillor Phil Hinch  
678th Mayor of the Historic Town of Hedon**

It has truly been an honour and a privilege to serve as the 678th Mayor of the historic town of Hedon.

Myself and the Mayoress, Lisa, have had an absolutely amazing and unforgettable life experience throughout this past year. During our term, we have had the pleasure of meeting many varied and exceptional individuals — including dignitaries, Lord Mayors, fellow Mayors, and many others. However, most importantly, we have met everyday people, just like ourselves, whose determination, grit, and spirit have been nothing short of inspiring.

Over the course of the year, I have undertaken 48 mayoral engagements. with the support of Lisa my rock  
I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to my Deputy Mayor, Suzie, who has been fantastic in supporting the role and attending events when I was unavailable.

What has stood out most to me is the incredible support from the people of Hedon. I am truly in awe of how the community has come together, particularly in support of my chosen charity, Macmillan Cancer Support. Thanks to the generosity of so many, we have raised over £6,000 — an outstanding achievement that reflects the kindness and compassion of our town.

There have been many memorable occasions throughout the year. Events such as Yorkshire Day and my Mayor's Bash will certainly stay with me — even if they did cost me more than a bit of cash and quite a lot of hair!

As a town, it was a great honour to unveil the Spotlight on Yorkshire Award and to play a part in the successful bid for Hedon to host Yorkshire Day in 2027. I have no doubt that the town will do itself proud in the only way Hedonians can.

Throughout the year, I have witnessed firsthand the generosity and warmth of our community. Wherever we have gone, Lisa and I have been made to feel incredibly welcome.

I was also proud to present two Hedon Shields to individuals who have supported me greatly during my mayoral year, particularly with events and fundraising efforts. My sincere thanks go to them both.

I would like to extend my gratitude to my fellow councillors, the office team, the Mace Bearer, and the grounds staff for their support throughout the year. The kind words and encouragement shown to both myself and Lisa have not gone unnoticed and are deeply appreciated.

Finally, I would like to say that this has been an unforgettable year for both Lisa and myself. I am honoured and proud to have served the community of Hedon, and I sincerely hope I have done so well.

Thank you.

Phil Hinch