

Minutes of a meeting of Yarm Town Council held  
at  
Challoner House, Challoner Road, Yarm TS15 9DS  
**on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 6pm**  
Members of the public were invited to  
attend the meeting  
**SIGNED: Stephen Dodds Councillor**

Yarm Town Council  
Town Hall  
High Street  
Yarm  
TS15 9AH

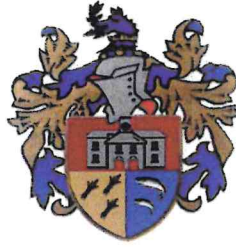
### Yarm Town Council Precept 2026/27 meeting minutes

2026/1	<p><b>Notice of Meeting</b></p> <p>It was confirmed that public notice of the meeting was given in accordance with schedule 12, paragraph 10 (2) of the LGA 1972.</p>
2026/2	<p><b>Recording of Meeting</b></p> <p>In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is permitted; the Chair will notify those present of this at the start of the meeting and ask whether they agree to be filmed, recorded or photograph.</p> <p>There were no objections raised</p>
2026/3	<p><b>Public attendance:</b></p> <p>With the exception of any item identified as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 – section 100A (4), members of the public (other than those prohibited from doing so) are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda</p>
2026/4	<p><b>To appoint a Chair in the absence of the Chair or Chair of Finance and Governance.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair and Chair of finance were both in attendance.</li></ul>

SIGNED AS AN ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD

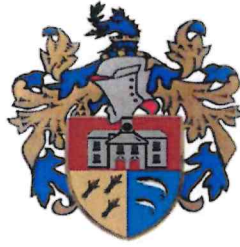
DATE OF SIGNATURE

10/2/26

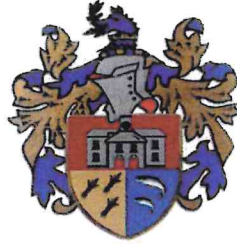


<p>2026/5</p>	<p><b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b></p> <p>Councillor Hazel Best Councillor Marje Blair Councillor Elaine Dodds Councillor Stephen Dodds (Minute taker) Councillor Stephen Nealon Councillor Christopher Neil Councillor Yvonne Pybus Councillor Malcolm Palmer Councillor Jake Taylor</p> <p>Borough Councillor John Coulson Borough Councillor Andrew Sherris.</p> <p><b>Members' apologies received</b></p> <p>Councillor Aiden Pybus Councillor Yvonne Wallace (illness) Pamela Danks (Illness)</p>
<p>2026/6</p>	<p><b>Code of Conduct   Declaration of Interest   Dispensation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No declarations of interest from members of any item were discussed.</li></ul>

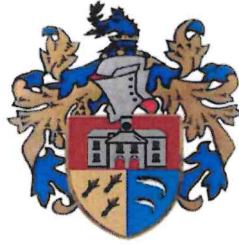
10/2/26



<p><b>2026/7</b></p>	<p><b>Council spending review of 2025/26: Cllr Malcolm Palmer</b></p> <p>MP stated YTC had no visibility/access to the account until 3 weeks ago. PD had been covering account on behalf of YTC. Access to the bank account in YTC name and invoices are now being paid via YTC/MP.</p> <p>JT advised that in the next 14 days any payments will require 2 signatures by Finance Committee Members.</p> <p>MP advised that currently the balance in the bank was £87,135.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Invoices to pay amounted to £7884.00</li><li>- Proposed Balance - £79,251.00</li><li>- Outstanding (historic) EDF bill of £ 3263.00 to be paid on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026, before action by bailiffs, which ED had already managed to avert previously. Once EDF bill paid remaining Balance - £75,988.00</li></ul> <p>As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025 - £53,000.00 in the Bank. Precept issued by SBC amounted to almost £148,000.00. So YTC had approximately £201,000.00 at the start of the Financial Year. After 9 months YTC had expended approx. £114,000.00. Approx. £34,000.00 remaining of the Precept (excl. £50,000.00 reserve) for remaining 3 months. MP reported YTC within Budget.</p> <p>However, MP also noted that YTC had not incurred full time Town Clerk salary, of which £20,000.00 had been saved. So YTC precept balance would have been approx. £13,000.00 if YTC had a full time Clerk.</p> <p>Major outgoings from this financial year included £30,000.00 for the Election (of which £20,000.00 had been originally budgeted to cover this event).</p> <p>Boss Events relating to The Fair, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Lights Switch-On. The £30,000.00 budgeted salary for the Town Clerk should have come out of approx. £50,000.00 CCLA Investment account.</p>
<p><b>2026/8</b></p>	<p><b>Council budget 2026/27: Cllr Malcolm Palmer</b></p> <p>MP advised that the draft Budget Sheets/Information had been kindly prepared by PD for tonight's meeting.</p> <p>Proposed budget figure taken from last years (2025-26) application (£147,824.00) with 4.99% increase resulting in a proposed figure of £154,893.98. YTC will submit a total figure for the Precept application to SBC (not the breakdown).</p> <p>MP to review precept Code Figures.</p> <p><b>4003</b> – Additional section of £10,000.00 budgeted for Community Grants this year</p>



- 4007** - JT stated Mayors Fund of £500.00 (precept Code 4007) will not be used by JT while JT is Mayor and that these monies can be used elsewhere within the budget.
- 4011** - Agreed no music to be played in the Town Hall/ Heritage Centre and as such a license will not be required.
- 4012** - Social media / Marketing – proposed figure of £1500.00 considered too low and to be increased to £10200.00/annum based on current contract. To be renewed/reviewed after 6 months.
- 4013** – SN requested that legal advice would be required regarding The Fair and Travelers legal obligations and this should be included within the Budget.  
Noted that the recent allotment eviction appeal proceedings have been resolved, so no further legal costs will be incurred in that area.
- 4017** - MP reported that £7000.00 paid this year but expects premiums to increase next year due to recent various claims. Renewal is due February 2026 and as such the budgeted figure should increase from £7000.00 to £9000.00.
- 4018** – Photocopier – agreed it is financially better to lease than buy out right. Current contract/lease runs out in September 2026. ED advised that the current photocopier is not fit for requirements of the Town Council, in terms of printing demands etc.
- 4020** – Agreed to increase budget to £41,000.00 to cover required hours, wage increases etc.
- 4022** – YP queried need for mobile phone when land line available within the Town Hall. ED advised that YTC had not received a bill for telephone suggesting no landline. **(Post Meeting Note – No landline provision within the Town Hall).**
- 4023** – Agreed to leave figure as proposed as Town Clerk recruitment is on-going.
- 4024** – Volunteer Expenses to be retained to cover DBS checks (£21 basic check and £45 for more detailed) required for future Heritage Centre Volunteers.
- 4031** – Electricity to Worsall Road?
- 4053** – Fellowship Hall – JT advised YTC are responsible for the maintenance of the external shell of the building as part of the contract which is in place until 2035.
- 4054** - YFH have requested £2000 contribution for the refurbishment of the internal bifold doors. JT to request copy of YFH accounts (via FOI if necessary) as YFH responsible for internal maintenance.
- Planning & Environment** – SD advised only one quote received to date for grounds maintenance contract. Figures noted in budget under various headings should be sufficient to cover actual cost.
- Council to consider moving £16,000.00 Election Budget amount into CCLA or at minimum to ensure no invoices associated with precept code 4004.
- YP requested a potential contribution for Great North Air Ambulance.
  - YP requested that the council consider contributing to a member of public for the storage and refilling of the water bowser used for the High Street hanging baskets.



2026/9	<p><b>Council precept application figure 2026/27: Cllr Malcolm Palmer</b></p> <p>Industrial Tribunal costs have not been allowed within Budget for 2026/27. Solicitor's fees that may not be covered by the Insurance Company but if a payout is required then this element is not covered. Yvonne Wallace to check with insurance solicitor.</p> <p>MP advised approx. £186,000.00 required to meet commitments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- £154,893.98 Requested Precept for 2026/27</li><li>- approx. £31,000.00 will be required from reserves.</li></ul> <p>The indicative tax base for 2026-27 (based on 98.25% collection rate) is £3579.50. The indicative provisional funding allocation is £6,141.</p> <p>Yarm Ward has between 4748-4888 households of which 3467.64 are Band D (equivalent). <math>£154,893.98 \div 3467.64</math> (Band D properties) = £44.67/year/Band D.</p>
2026/10	<p><b>Agree Council reserves 2026/27</b></p> <p>Approx. £60,000.00 remaining in account as reserves by end 2026/27</p> <p>MP reported an estimated £55,000.00 will be left in the CCLA account by the end of the financial year.</p>
2026/11	<p><b>To confirm the date, time and location of the next YTC meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 7pm, Challoner House, Challoner Road, Yarm TS15 9DS</li></ul>

Minutes of this meeting taken by Councillor Stephen Dodds.