



MALTON TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The Town Council takes this opportunity to update you on its activities, what has been achieved, what has changed and how your Council Tax is managed. The Council provides and manages facilities for the benefit of the town, and promotes the town's interests wherever possible at both District and County level.

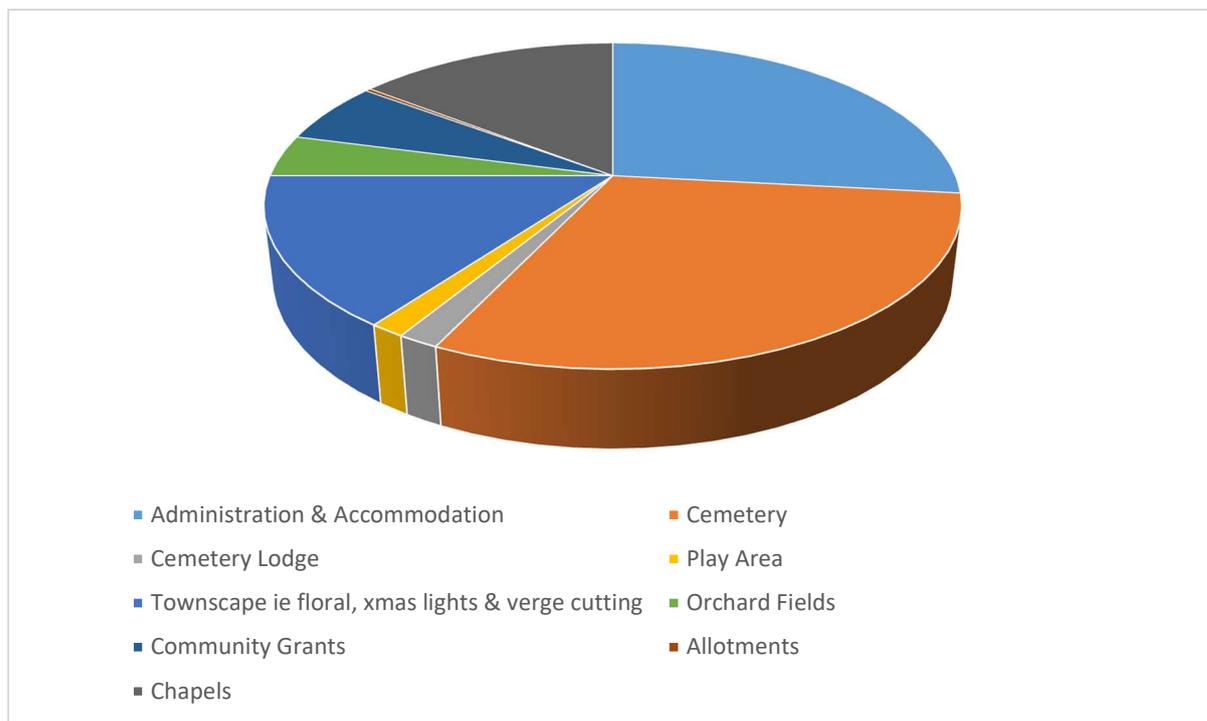
MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council normally meets on the last Wednesday of each month, at 7.15pm in Community House, Wentworth Street. There is no meeting in December. There is a fixed item on every agenda which allows for any Malton resident to ask questions or speak to the Council. The next meeting of the Town Council will be on 31 May 2017. Minutes of Town Council meetings can be viewed on the Council website.

The STATUTORY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING also takes place on the 31 May at 6.00pm in Community House. This is an opportunity as a registered elector to question the Mayor and the Council, and comment upon what it has done or is doing on your behalf.

The Town Council receives the money it needs to provide services via a precept collected by Ryedale District Council from Malton and Old Malton council taxpayers as part of the annual Council Tax account. In 2016-17 the amount received was £116,750. The Council's income is supplemented by cemetery fees and rents from the Cemetery Lodge and the two allotment sites that the Council provides, the cost for which for this year was £34,220.

The actual expenditure of £232,560 for the year is represented as follows:



We have supported the following charities and activities during the year:

Malton Museum	500
Ryedale CAB	1,500
Ryedale Book Festival	300
Woodham Stone Collection	500
Dickens December Event	500
Ryedale DC Chairman's Charity	50
Next Steps	500
Ryedale Youth Theatre	250
Milton Rooms	5,000
Ryedale Mencap	100
Autism Plus	100
Musical Memories	250
Old School House Clock Repair	1,750
Ryedale Food Bank	500
Malton Old People's Party	750
TOTAL	£12,550

While reserves at 31 March 2017 were £50,579, there is committed expenditure unpaid of about £33,750. This includes £5,000 for flood defences, £20,000 to the CCTV network, £3,750 towards our share of the improvements to lights on County Bridge and £5,000 contribution to refurbishment of the War Memorial.

Preparing for the future – the Neighbourhood Plan

Malton and its neighbour, Norton-on-Derwent, are expanding rapidly. By 2027, the combined population of both towns will increase by up to 33% estimated at around 18,000 and will be home to almost a third of the entire population of Ryedale.

Under planning law, Ryedale District Council has had its strategic plan for the next 15 years (*the Ryedale Plan*) approved. A Neighbourhood Plan (*the Plan*) for Malton and Norton provides an additional layer of locally determined policy to guide the implementation of the Ryedale Plan. The next phase of the Plan allows the community to have a real say on how the two Towns are developed in the future.

During February 2016, there was a call for the public to come forward to directly participate in the process for determining the Plan and many people from a wide cross-section of the community have now taken part, either through the Steering Group for the Plan, or by participating in one of the four Focus Groups (community and leisure, the environment, heritage and the forward planning).

The development of these proposals will be subject of extensive consultation with the public in June 2017. If the final proposals are approved in a referendum of voters in the two Towns, Ryedale District Council, in its Planning Authority role will be under a legal duty to recognise the Plan and ensure that it guides the implementation of the Ryedale Plan in the Malton and Norton area.

Cemeteries

The Town Council is the burial authority in the area, and it maintains the cemeteries at Old Malton and at Princess Road in Malton, adjacent to Wentworth Street car park. All enquiries regarding burial matters should be directed to the Town Clerk. During 2016/17, the Town Council facilitated 43 interments. The Town Council seeks to ensure that the cemeteries are well maintained as tranquil green open spaces, whilst respecting their principal purpose and CCTV is in operation to assist in the prevention of anti-social behavior.

Further details concerning the management of cemeteries, including fees, can be found on the Town Council website: <http://www.malton-tc.gov.uk/town-council/cemetery-management/>

Rainbow Lane Play Area

The Council is currently seeking grant aid from developers for repair, restoration and improvements at the play area. The ball court, and the play area generally, remain popular with young people and families in the town. Parents continue to help in encouraging responsible use of the facilities – and this is greatly appreciated. The area should only be used during daylight hours, and in the summer months especially, not after 9pm on any day.

Residents are respectfully reminded that the play area, and the Cemeteries are designated as alcohol restricted, and dog free areas. The Police will continue to take action against anyone that abuses these restrictions.

Orchard Fields

The lease of Orchard Fields has now been taken from Fitzwilliam Malton Estate to Malton Town Council.

Environment and Street scene

The Council has entered into the Small Town – Grow Your Community of the Yorkshire in Bloom competition. Malton in Bloom has obtained over £6,000 in contributions to the floral displays which will be exhibited in Malton this year, in addition to the annual displays of hanging baskets, War Memorial and planted areas in the Market Place. Together with Norton Town Council it also provides planters on County Bridge across the River Derwent.

Malton has a growing number of volunteers who work extremely hard litter picking and planting and to ensure the town looks its best. If anyone is interested in joining the volunteer group please contact Email: pottingshed@maltoninbloom.co.cuk

The Town Council is responsible for roadside verge maintenance in Malton and cuts of approximately 25,000 square metres of roadside verges within the Town on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council. Residents and visitors to Malton can continue to assist this work by ensuring that vehicles are not parked on the grass verges.

Litter and dog waste bins are sited at appropriate locations within the Town. The Council takes careful consideration of the concerns of residents about their location. Whilst the Town Council provides these, Ryedale District Council is responsible for the removal of waste from these bins.

The Town Council provides and maintains public seats and is always grateful to those residents who gift seats to the Town in memory of family and friends. Please contact the Town Clerk if you are interested in gifting a seat to the Town.

On behalf of all the residents and businesses in the town, Malton Town Council would like to thank the Malton and Norton Tidy Group for the work it undertakes, typically each weekend. A team of unpaid volunteers helps to clear litter from streets and green open spaces, helping to preserve a tidy, clean environment for the benefit of everyone that lives or works in Malton, and for visitors. The town greatly appreciates the efforts of the Tidy Group.

Priorities for 2017/18

During 2017/18, the Town Council will continue with its remit of caring for the Town and its facilities, to the extent that resources will allow.

Increasingly, services previously undertaken by North Yorkshire County Council or Ryedale District Council are being devolved to the Town Council. The maintenance and enhancement of Orchard Fields is one such example, and the Council is seeking additional funding to undertake this work.

Working with the Malton & Norton Area Partnership, the Town Council is supporting a number of programmes to improve the environment and streetscene in Malton. The Partnership is bringing together a number of agencies to help improve the riverside, adjacent to Lady Spring Wood and more generally, to develop additional proposals for the enhancement of the River Derwent so that it might be enjoyed more fully by residents and

visitors. During the year the Partnership also worked with Royal Mail to secure the re-painting of all the main post boxes in the town, and it is continuing to work with BT and the Town Council on the adoption and restoration of some of the telephone kiosks in Malton, especially where these lie within the designated conservation areas, and which are in a very poor state of repair. It is proposed to fit a defibrillator in at least one of these. The Town Council is also providing support to the group which is seeking to restore the War Memorial site.

The Town Council intends to step up its influence during 2017/18 to secure a greater share of available monies arising from commercial agreements with developers in Malton. Significant funds are available for this purpose and are held by Ryedale District Council. Working with Ryedale, and the Malton and Norton Area Partnership, the Town Council will seek to ensure that these funds are put to good use and that schemes and initiatives can benefit the entire community.

The Council has voted in favour of keeping the Vale of Pickering and the Yorkshire Wolds free from fracking; this includes Malton. During 2017/18 Malton Town Council will work proactively to help improve amenities, to further enhance the streetscene and environment and to conserve the qualities of a fast-expanding market town.

Mike Skehan, the previous Town Clerk has retired and Gail Cook has been appointed to take his place. Members would like to thank Mike for all his hard work over the last 16 years.

Further details about any of the services and activities in the town can be obtained from the official Malton Town Council website: <http://www.malton-tc.gov.uk/>