MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2026 AT THE TOWN HALL, YORK STREET, SELBY.

PRESENT: Cllrs J Proud, S Shaw-Wright, F Matthews, M Davis and R Harrison.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr K Franks and the Community Furniture Store.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the Town meeting held on 14 May 2025 were considered.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 14 May 2025 were approved as a correct record.

3 MAYORS REPORT

Councillor Jack Proud report was received.

Firstly, I would like to thank fellow councillors for giving me the opportunity to serve as Mayor of Selby over the past 12 months. It has been an immense privilege and something I am hugely proud to have undertaken.

It hasn't always been easy, as much of the role did not come naturally to me. The support I have received from Gill, Stacey and Lisa has therefore been invaluable. Between them, they ensured I was always where I needed to be and on time, so thank you all.

Many of the experiences this year have been new to me, and I have thoroughly enjoyed a varied and engaging calendar of events. From travelling to Carentan with the Twinning Group last May as my first official duty, to welcoming our friends from Carentan to Selby at their gala dinner to end the year, it feels like a fitting full circle. I am sure they will feel as welcome here as they made us feel during our visit to them.

I have been especially pleased to share many of these moments with my children, who accompanied me in lighting the bonfire, switching on the Christmas lights, judging the best stall at Fun Day, and attending a cream tea and bingo session at the Coultish Centre with residents.

We are fortunate in Selby to have the Abbey as the setting for our Remembrance and Holocaust Memorial services. These are important dates in the town's calendar, and I have been proud to speak at them and lay a wreath on behalf of the town. This was particularly meaningful to me in remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice or live every day with the effects of their service, including my late grandfather. I am grateful to Gill for including his photograph in the order of service, which featured poems and readings referencing the Navy, in which he served.

Other highlights of the year include attending the Yorkshire Day celebrations in Bradford on 1st August, meeting the Filderstadt group, and judging the Christmas window competition with my wife, Sarah. It was wonderful to see so many local businesses getting involved and helping to make our town festive and vibrant.

Above all, the most significant aspect of this year has been witnessing the strong community spirit that exists across Selby. This has been evident on many occasions, from children from Barwic Parade carol singing in the rain on the Market Place, to the warm welcome we gave Lindsey Burrow and Amy Garcia during their 1,000-mile challenge for Children in Need, to name just a couple.

I would also like to recognise the continued efforts of all councillors in ensuring that Selby Town Council is run in a sensible and effective manner. A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes to deliver a varied and successful calendar of events for our community to enjoy. Serving as Mayor has given me a greater insight into the time, coordination and dedication required to bring these events together, and I am grateful to everyone involved for their commitment to making our town such a great place to live.

As I come to the end of my tenure, I would like to wish everyone across the town who has helped organise events and supported me throughout the year all the very best. I hope that, in handing over to next year's Mayor, they will enjoy the role as much as I have.

4 SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

A representative of the Spirit of Christmas provided an overview of the charity and what they do.

The charity started in 2007 to support families and children at Christmas.
They hold four Christmas Parties every year.
The Banana Box Toy Project, where they receive referrals of families that are unable to provide gifts for their children.
The Selby Town Council grant helps towards running two lego mornings, which brings families together to play games.

The Neurodiversity group held once a month that caters for children up to age. And the Toy Bank where they receive a lot of support from the community with donations.

The Mayor thanked the attendees for their donations.

5 TOWN RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the residents of Selby Town.

6 GRANTS PRESENTATION

The Mayor presented the following successful applicants with their Grants:

Spirit of Christmas
Selby Abbey Primary School
Dementia Forward
Rail Users
War Memorial Hospital
Citizens Advice
Longmans Hill CP School
Selby Town PCN
Family History Group
Beekeepers
Selby District Vision
Civic Society
Our Space Selby
Carers Resource
Vale of York Athletics Community
Selby Abbey

The Mayor then thanked the public for their attendance and closed the meeting.

A representative from Coultish Centre arrived after the meeting closed. The Mayor presented the cheque to them.