



NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING TOWN OF WHITBY

In accordance with Sections 14-22 of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY of the TOWN MEETING of WHITBY** will be held in the **THEATRE OF THE WHITBY COLISEUM** on **WEDNESDAY, 20th APRIL 2022** at 6.30 o'clock in the evening.

Such persons only as are registered as local government electors for the town will be entitled to vote at the meeting, but the meeting is open to the public during the proceedings unless the town assembly, by resolution, otherwise directs.

The following business will be transacted:

1. To confirm, as a correct record, the minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on the 28th of April 2021 (attached).
2. To receive a report from the Town Mayor of Whitby about Whitby Town Council activities.
3. To discuss matters in connection to the town of which written notice has been received.
 - a) "To discuss, debate and potentially influence the measures which could be taken to limit further increase in the current levels of second and holiday homes in the parish of Whitby."

Submitted by sixteen electors of the parish (details supplied).

Dated this 7th day of April 2022¹,

Cllr Linda Wild
Town Mayor.

Please note:

Although members of the public are very welcome to attend the annual town assembly, only those persons whose names are included in the register of electors for the town may speak or vote on any matter. Those wishing to ask questions or make any comment, therefore, are asked to give their name and address when they wish to speak.

1. The 'at least seven clear days' notice for this meeting commence on Friday 8th April, (s243, LGA 1972)

Whitby Town Assembly – 28 April 2021

Present: 15 present; including 9 town councillors
Cllr Linda Wild Whitby Town Mayor, chairing
Cllr Jonathan Harston taking minutes

Cllr Linda Wild, Whitby Town Mayor, opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

1: Minutes of the 2019 town assembly

Minutes of the 2019 town assembly were noted and approved. It was noted that due to Covid there had been no Town Assembly meeting in 2020.

2: Cllr Linda Wild gave her report as Town Mayor.

I would like to start by telling you about Whitby Town Council's achievements over the last 12 months.

I am pleased to inform you that we continue to successfully run all the public conveniences within our parish with no cost to local taxpayers. Our town toilets won one Gold and four Platinum awards in the National Loo of The Year awards. As a Town Council we are very proud of this and will continue to deliver this standard of service in the future.

We have also taken back control of Stakesby Vale Allotment site. This site was previously run by Stakesby Vale Allotment Association, we have made numerous improvements to our allotment sites and will continue to improve them in the future.

We have submitted our planning application for a residents' car park at the old Waste Transfer site at Spital Bridge.

Once again, we delivered a successful Armed Forces Day event at Dock End, where we donated £1000 to SAFFA. Last year's Armistice Day/Remembrance Sunday was particularly special as it marked 100 years since the end of WW1. It was extremely well attended. From this the Out of The Darkness project was developed, where Whitby Town Council and Pannett Art Gallery worked with local schools and community groups. This theme then carried on to our Christmas Festival which started with a fantastic lantern parade. Our Christmas Festival continues to grow each year.

Pannett Art Gallery has had around 28,000 visitors over the past year, 6,000 viewed our Out of The Darkness exhibition. Pannett Art Gallery works closely with local community groups to help and promote health and wellbeing.

We have nearly finished our town's Heritage Trail with only one more story board to be installed, at Battery Parade.

I would like to finish off by letting you know that Whitby had the honour of hosting Yorkshire Day on 1st August last year. The last time Whitby hosted this prestigious event was in 1989. We welcomed around 180 mayors and civic guests from all around Yorkshire to our lovely town. It was a fantastic day.

I would like to thank you all for coming to this evening and your continued support.

It was noted that there were currently three vacancies on the Town Council, and applications for co-option would be welcomed.

3: Honorary Freeman Presentation 2021

Cllr Linda Wild, the Whitby Town Mayor, awarded John Freeman the honour of Freeman of the town.

Citation: From time to time, members of the community demonstrate outstanding commitment and contribution to the wellbeing of the town of Whitby. And it is recognised that their efforts should be acknowledged. The town council does this in special circumstances by awarding to an individual the title of Honorary Freeman of the town of Whitby. This honour is awarded only on rare and exceptional occasions. It is my absolute pleasure to make this the first award under the revised title of Honorary Freeman, following council's decision to formalise its honorary citizen award in line with section 4.9 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Fittingly, John Freeman is our first Honorary Freeman, which is quite a coincidence, but also quite historic for John Freeman.

John has given extensive and eminent service to the town of Whitby and its local community through his past service to the town council and to other voluntary and community groups. His nomination by two residents, Chris Riddolls and Dennis Colins, sets out that John has served as Town Mayor of Whitby three times and was, until 2014, an active councillor over many years. He also continues to serve as Chair of the Whitby and District Tourism Association.

John has been an artist for over 50 years. His works and publications have led many people to visit Whitby. These include a booklet produced in 2009 as part of the centenary of the current swing bridge.

In response, the town council has determined that John Freeman has made 'an outstanding and extraordinary contribution to the town of Whitby'.

It is my absolute privilege to formally make this award.¹

4: Discussion of matters in connection with the town.

Thanks were given to Cllr Wild for her work as town mayor over the year, particularly with the Covid pandemic.

Joyce Stangoe

What is WTC doing about housing development in the town, particularly regarding holiday homes? Could WTC consider what the National Park has done regarding developments?

Cllr Wilson: Housing developments are part of SBC local development plan and government policy. It is difficult to control conversions to holiday homes as it is outside the planning process. The National Park have additional powers, but Whitby is not within the national park, and as a parish council do not have the required powers.

Cllr Wild: Cllr Wild has attended SBC Better Housing consultations about affordable housing. Proposed sites included part of the golf course and Bylands open space. Made the point that medical, school, transport provision is needed, asked if proposed housing could be restricted for locals and not holiday lets. SBC stated the developers would try to sell to locals, but cannot be enforced. Cllr Wild told SBC that consultation with Whitby locals was needed too

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/WhitbyTC/videos/895278007871403>

4b: Niall Carson

National Parks have development control powers when a local area has more than 20% second homes. Whitby is approaching 19%, and expect the next census to show over 20%. A town in Cornwall has changed development rules, so shows this can be done even if difficult. Hopes WTC will do what it can to protect the town.

Cllr Jackson: It's important that all residents engage in any consultation. An issue is what happens if the first owner of a controlled property sells on. WTC would support local residents where it can.

John Freeman: The rateable value of second homes should be changed to reflect they are not being used as residences. In the past they were charged 50%, this should be increased to balance the market towards residential provision and fund provision of local housing.

Cllr Nock: Second Home issue is vexed, but there are ways to deal with it if people are determined. SBC is consulting to review the current situation. The future unitary authority could take this on and progress it.

Cllr Harston: Whitby is not in national park, so cannot use national park planning controls. Expressed opinion that Whitby should be within the National Park, the reasons it was left out 50 years ago no longer apply.

Cllr Nock: Why was Whitby left out of the national park? This needs to be reviewed in light of changed circumstances.

Cllr Coughlan: Some years ago WTC discussed being within the national park. There are some national park planning restrictions that may not be suitable for a town.

Joyce Stangoe: The new Unitary Council should look at having planning policies in areas that are missed out by the national park.

There was a discussion about the Zip Wire proposals, the general consensus was that it was inappropriate for the location and the town. More appropriate for a theme park.

5: Meeting closed at 7:10.

Attendance

Cllr Linda Wild
Cllr Jonathan Harston

6 Well Court, Church Street
6 Rear Victoria Square

chairing
taking minutes

	Elector
Cllr Heather Coughlan	yes
Cllr Noreen Wilson	yes
Cllr Garath Jackson	yes
Cllr Bob Dalrymple	yes
Cllr John Nock	yes
Cllr Colin Winspear	yes
John Freeman	no
Michael Kilpatrick	yes
Joyce Stangoe	yes
Jane Ellis	no
Mi Mui	no
Niall Carson	no
Matthew Pells	no

Attendants normally supply an address to confirm they are on the electoral register. As the assembly meeting was held remotely, no formal attendance list was recorded.