

**ANNUAL MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL
held TUESDAY 12 MAY 2026 at
WATERFRONT HALL, HEBDEN BRIDGE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT

Councillors Woodhead (Chair from item 2), Bampton Smith, Butterick, Cammack, Guilfoyle, Hedges, Howes, Hoyle, Macdonald, Morse, Trickett and Turner.

Town Clerk Emma Green

HRTC Officers Ebony Andrews
Rebekah Cox (Minutes)
Jacqui Mack
Bryony Moore

Also - 40 members of the public.

ABSENT

Councillors Boden, Boggis, Borrowes, Fraser, Harvey, Parry

MINUTES

The Town Clerk opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

26(AMTC)001	1. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MAYOR It was moved by Cllr Turner Seconded by Cllr Morse and RESOLVED: That the Mayor for the Council year 2026-27 shall be Cllr Steve Woodhead. Cllr Woodhead accepted the role of Mayor and signed the declaration and announced that his consorts for the year shall be Winnie Woodhead and Jo Woodhead.
26(AMTC)002	2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllrs Boden working abroad, Boggis rehearsals or show, Fraser ill heath, Harvey attending a meeting and Parry attending a meeting.

26(AMTC)003	3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR It was moved by Cllr Woodhead Seconded by Cllr Butterick and RESOLVED: That the Deputy Mayor for the Council year 2026-27 shall be Cllr Alex Turner. Cllr Turner accepted the role of Deputy Mayor and signed the declaration and announced that his consort for the year shall be Dr Rana Khalaf.
26(AMTC)004	4. RETIRING MAYOR Cllr Keith Butterick presented his chosen mayoral charity for 2025/26, White Ribbon with a cheque for £3229.30. Hebden Royd Town Council were presented with the White Ribbon Supporter Organisation certificate. Cllr Keith Butterick gave an account of his Mayoral Year; 'I can't believe how quickly the year has gone. Being Mayor has been a hectic and enjoyable experience. It combines enjoyable events such as handing out cheques to schools to buy books, twinning events in Hebden and France and opening the iconic Hebden Film Festival. Then there is the serious business of charring meetings of the Full Council. In this past year Hebden Royd Town Council has had to consider a range of difficult and controversial issues such as car parking charges, the Hebden Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme and the proposed windfarm at Calderdale Energy Park. These are serious issues about which people have strong opinions. As chair of the Council I have attempted to ensure debates have been conducted in a manner that respects different opinions and maintain the dignity of the Council. It has not always been easy. The last few years have shown both the strength and fragility of community life. Social media can be a powerful tool for information and campaigning, but it can also deepen divisions and create an atmosphere where disagreement quickly becomes hostility. Hebden Royd, I believe, works best when people work together — not because everyone agrees, but because we recognise that we share the same town, the same challenges and ultimately the same future. Civic life depends on maintaining that sense of common purpose, particularly at difficult moments. The best part of being the Mayor though has been the privilege of meeting so many of the wonderful people that live in this amazing area where there is so much going on.

	The final two events I attended illustrate its diversity and richness. On the one hand the unique World Dock Pudding Championship, and the other, Happy Hounds run by HRTC and the RSPCA. What makes many of the events successful are the spirit of the volunteers who put the time and effort that make them a success. Finally, a word of appreciation and thanks to the hard-working staff of Hebden Town Council, Emma, Rebekah, Ebony, Bryony, Jacqui and Gareth who provide an important service to the whole community sometimes under trying circumstances.' Cllr Woodhead presented Cllr Butterick with the past Mayors Badge and record of his Mayoral Year.
26(AMTC)005	5. SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD 2025/26 Cllr Keith Butterick nominated Geoff and Sue Mitchell in recognition of their extraordinary contribution to Mytholmroyd and the wider Upper Calder Valley. Through their vision, perseverance and dedication, they have led the remarkable transformation of a long-derelict station building into what is now Local Motive – a vibrant new arts and community hub at the heart of Mytholmroyd. Over nearly two decades, they have driven this project forward with unwavering determination, overcoming setbacks including flooding, funding challenges and the many obstacles to come with restoring a historic building of this kind. Geoff and Sue's achievement stands as a powerful example of what can be accomplished through civic pride, voluntary commitment and belief in the potential of community action. Cllr Butterick presented Geoff and Sue with the Service to the Community Award shield and certificate. Geoff and Sue both thanked Hebden Royd Town Council, the Mayor and past Mayors, Councillors and staff for their support over the years.
26(AMTC)006	6. SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD – YOUTH SECTION 2025/26 Cllr Steve Woodhead nominated the Student Parliament at Calder High School for the way in which they mobilized, when the trust was faced with a very unpopular merger proposal, to provide a voice for children and young people across all the schools in the Pennine Alliance Learning Trust.

	The members of the youth parliament challenged the decision, presenting arguments that showed a true understanding of the needs of the children and youth people who live in the Calder Valley. In making representations they demonstrated a deep understanding of the issues faced and how the merger could have had a detrimental effect on young people's and family's freedom of choice. They showed they cared, not just for themselves, but for the whole community and the many and disparate needs of children and young people. Cllr Woodhead presented Lucia, the Prime Minister and Jude, the Deputy Prime Minister with the Service to the Community Award shield and certificate. Cllr Keith Butterick nominated Flossy (Florence Wardley) in recognition of her charity fund raising efforts. Flossy and her younger sister Emme have been busking locally to raise money for charity. Geraldine Wrathall from St Michael's Amateur Dramatics said a few words. Flossy has used her beautiful voice to raise money for Cancer Research through her Just Giving page. SMAJIC (St Michael's Amateurs Juniors in Concert) has collected £385 from donations collected at the end of each show, and have rounded this up to £500. With this and the £250 donation from the Mayor, it will take the amount raised by Flossy to just below her target of £5000. Geraldine added that £5000 is enough to keep a person in remission. Cllr Keith Butterick presented Flossy with the Service to the Community Award shield and certificate.
26(AMTC)007	7. MAYORAL ASPIRATIONS FOR 2026/27 & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAYORS CHARITY Cllr Steve Woodhead announced that his chosen charity for the Mayoral Year 2026/27 would be Calder Valley Search and Rescue Team. Rob Freeman the Team Leader at CVRST (Calder Valley Search and Rescue Team) said a few words. Thanking Cllr Woodhead for choosing CVSRT as his chosen charity and helping raise awareness about their work. The timing is perfect as this year is their 60-year anniversary. They are a registered charity providing an essential, lifesaving emergency service to the people of Calder Valley and beyond. The team comprises 50 unpaid volunteers, who work 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Their base is The Rescue Post, located in Mytholmroyd. They have recently been awarded the Kings Coronation Medal for their community contribution.

	Cllr Woodhead spoke about the role of Town Councillor and what a privilege it is to work with fellow councillors, the staff team and partners to provide services and opportunities, with and for, the people of Hebden Royd and how he looks forward to being even more involved during this Mayoral year. Cllr Woodhead praised the staff team for the excellent work they do in the direct delivery of services and in supporting councillors in their work. He reinforced their value as individuals and as a whole team in the positive way in which they provide services and opportunities for the people across all the wards of Hebden Royd. Cllr Woodhead referenced some of the partnerships that HRTC have forged over the years and spoke of his ambition to continue working with many amazing people, building new and cementing old partnerships. Cllr Woodhead thanked Hebden Royd Town Council staff, his consorts and the newly elected Deputy Mayor and looks forward to his coming year as Mayor.
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At the end of the meeting Florence Wardley performed a song.

Meeting finished at 8.15pm.