

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the PROJECTS, EVENTS & CHRISTMAS LIGHTING COMMITTEE Held TUESDAY 17 February 2026

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Fraser (Chair), Hoyle, Macdonald and Turner

ABSENT: Councillors: Hedges, Bampton-Smith, Young

HRTC Deputy Clerk: Ebony Andrews

451. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs, Hedges and Bampton-Smith.

452. MEMBERS INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEM

There were no members interests reported at this meeting.

453. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 11 FEBRUARY 2026

There were no matters arising.

454. PROJECT UPDATE 2025-26

Members received a verbal update to accompany the background report enclosed in the agenda concerning the current Christmas Lights & Christmas Switch On events offer.

RESOLVED: To revise the Christmas programme to better spread festive activity across the season. Two overarching programmes of activity will be maintained, one in Hebden Bridge and one in Mytholmroyd, with the lights switch on's taking place in November and Santa's grotto being moved to December. This approach aims to allow families to enjoy both performances and grotto visits without conflict, in a more relaxed context, while managing officer and event support capacity.

Christmas programming will be rebranded to more strongly reflect that is funded and delivered by Hebden Royd Town Council, with promotion aligned and featured on the free community event's platform *What's On*

Hebden Bridge to reach the local resident community as the primary audience.

The lights switch on events will be condensed with programming focusing on family-friendly, community-centred activity, emphasising local talent such as schools, choirs, and bands, with fewer large-scale acts and simplified ancillary activity. This revised approach responds to recent attendance trends, on the day community feedback, rising costs, and operational considerations, providing a sustainable and proportionate festive programme for 2026.

Members also expressed an interest in exploring the provision of a community winter activity that takes place in January/February thus extending the seasonal offer beyond the festive season, and more evenly distributing investment.

455. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There was no resolution to exclude members of the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

Meeting finished at 8:56pm