

Barnoldswick Town Council

15th December 2025

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting of the Full Council held on Wednesday 15th December 2025 at The Civic Hall, Barnoldswick

Present: Cllr John Spencer, Gillian Robinson, Chris Church, Mandy Boardman, Lola Whipp, David Greaves, Jodie Greaves, Callum Hird, Emma West, David Whipp & Leanne Barrett

25/68 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Angela Moran

25/69 Declaration of Interests

Cllr David Whipp declared an interest in Item 5 as this item refers to the events after Switch On 2025. He was aware that someone was asking for him to be personally liable so under the Code of Conduct must declare. As the discussion potentially would be identifying a person the police were investigating then this is exempt and shouldn't be discussed in public.

Cllr Emma West & Cllr Lola Whipp also declared an interest as they are closely related to Cllr David Whipp.

25/70 Open Forum

No members of the public present

25/71 Debrief on Christmas Light switch on 2025

A discussion took place around the legalities of discussing this item.

Resolved: Due to legalities it was agreed that this item would not be discussed.

25/72 Bands On The Square 2026

Cllr D. Whipp stated that as the requirements for rescinding a resolution are different and the requirements had not been met then the Council can discuss BOTS but they cannot make a decision that reverses the original decision. That the agenda item should be worded differently with a notice of what you are proposing.

Cllr Hird stated that he felt it was being played that none of them had done this before.

Cllr D. Whipp re-stated that BOTS could be discussed but you cannot rescind the previous decision but the item could be brought back to an ordinary meeting.

Cllr Whipp said that one aspect that had changed was the introduction of Martyn's Law. He felt that the event was far safer than when we had bring your own drinks. There were a lot of under 18's kept out of the event. They then attacked fencing/massing outside the entrances and causing problems. Discussions need to be held with the police, nature of music, alternative provision elsewhere or go even further and no under 18's full stop. He felt that this was something that Could be managed.

Cllr Spencer asked if it could be taken back to a more basic event and felt there were procedural issues. He volunteered and never had a briefing/requirements given to him. Asked if there was a safety briefing each morning?

Cllr D Whipp stated that the security was given a written briefing and paramedics were working to their brief.

Cllr Gillian Robinson said that in order to discuss this properly she felt that the BOTs committee should provide details down to risk assessments. She asked if these were updated annually. Is there a safeguarding lead? Where is the paperwork for the de-briefs? She would like to review previous paperwork.

Cllr Jodie Greaves has looked into Martyn's law and we would need to double the existing security. This would have an impact on the finances.

Cllr D Whipp stated that BOTS was an advisory group not a decision making body. This would've been discussed at GP but the meeting was cancelled. Full Council was not the right place for dialogue about the safety elements.

Cllr John Spencer asked about the IOSH course and it was agreed that the Clerk could do this under delegated authorities.

Cllr Barrett asked if there was a mechanism for checking capacity.

Cllr D Whipp stated that the security firm worked on Dynamic Capacity. Martyn's law would mean that this would need to be monitored.

Cllr Barrett asked if this was documented. That we need to consider how we safety plan events and that we have got large.

Cllr L Whipp stated that there was a person at the front of the stage that is in constant communication. That there was a safe system in place to make sure capacity was not exceeded. That there was the provision of crush barriers. That there had been improvements to the method statements better for site set up.

Cllr Hird stated that the issue with children wasn't a new issue as it had been an issue the previous year too. The event this year was unsafe. Security needs increasing and whatever comes in with Martyn's Law. Can this Council continue to run the event on a negative?

A discussion took place around the finances for the event and the effect this had on the businesses in town. Clerk asked to canvas businesses on their opinions.

Resolved: Clerk to attend IOSH course and canvas the businesses.

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The next meeting of the Full Council is on the 21st January 2026