

Skipton BID Annual General Meeting 2026 Minutes

Thursday 21st May 2026

Skipton BID Office 5pm

Attendees:

Neil Roe Louise Close Adam Dutton – Shepherd Partnership
Tristan Harris Sarah Howsen
Rebeca Elsworth Ed Horner
Julian Hotchkiss Gareth Dixon – Deputy Principle at Craven College

Representatives from businesses:

Stephanie Haithwaite – Spinning Jenny Ffion Bainbridge – Shepherd Partnership
Lynn Heslop – Body Shop Michaela Young – North Yorkshire Council

Apologies:

James Cunningham

Ivan Le Roux Anita Lall

Chairperson: Neil Roe

1. Welcome

Neil Roe welcomed the businesses attending the 2026 AGM.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ivan Le Roux, James Cunningham and Anita Lall. Gareth Dixon attended as proxy for Anita Lall.

3. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes held 21st May 2025

The Board had received the minutes of the last AGM previously. The Board agreed they were a true representation of the meeting held.

Proposed by: Julian Hotchkiss Seconded by: Adam Dutton

4 . Adoption of the accounts for the year 2024 – 2025

Financial Report presented by Adam Dutton from Shepherd Partnership

The accounts will be uploaded to the website. The Board accepted the accounts and had no further comments.

The 2025/26 accounts were approved.

Proposed by Louise Close and Seconded Rebecca Elsworth.

Neil Roe signed the accounts

5. Resignation of Directors

- Gary Roberts has resigned as no longer holds the role at Craven Court

6. Elections of Board Members

Neil Roe has acted as Chair of Skipton BID over the year since the last AGM and was required to be re-elected at the 2026 AGM.

Proposed: Julian Hotchkiss Seconded: Rebecca Elsworth

Anita Lall has acted as Vice Chair of Skipton BID over the last year since the last AGM and were required to be re-elected at the 2026 AGM.

Proposed: Julian Hotchkiss Seconded: Rebecca Elsworth

7 . Re-election of Accountants

Neil Roe proposed Shepherd Partnership Ltd be re-elected

Proposed: Tristan Harris Seconded: Julian Hotchkiss

8. Chair's Report – Neil Roe

As Chair of Skipton BID, it's my pleasure to open our 2026 Annual General Meeting as we look back on another highly productive, exciting year.

Over the last year, we've continued our hard work to ensure the money invested through the BID levy is utilised as best possible to benefit our businesses and town centre.

From excellent events at key times of the year and creative campaigns to shine a light on the wonderful work our Members offer, to vital services to ensure a safe and welcoming town, we continue to champion our place.

The annual investment made by BID Members through the levy is so important as we continue to build and enhance the future of our town, so I'd like to thank all Members for their contributions.

As we all know, Skipton is a special place with its own vibrant, unique character and we want to make sure it stays that way.

As we move further into our fourth term, we're pleased to have a dedicated Board of Directors - committing their time and effort for the good of Skipton. We do have a couple of spaces to represent different sectors on our Board, so if you're interested please do let us know.

In September 2025, we welcomed Ed Horner into the new Projects and Communications Executive role. He has been leading on the BID's social media, data analysis and communications, alongside supporting BID Manager Sarah with daily tasks.

We have consistently developed and grown relationships and connections with key individuals and organisations, including the likes of Craven College, Julian Smith MP, SELRAP and Skipton Building Society - our town's largest employer.

Thanks to external funding from David Skaith, Mayor of York and North Yorkshire's High Streets Fund, we have been able to deliver the Buzzing Skipton project alongside The Artery – improving and enhancing overlooked areas of to breathe a new lease of life into them.

We're also pleased to work in partnership with Skipton Town Council to boost sustainability and active travel in and around our town.

As the BID, we're all about helping our business community to succeed while ensuring our town remains a safe, clean and attractive place to work and live, as well as a must-visit destination.

If we continue to work together and support one another, Skipton will continue to flourish. To see Skipton crowned with multiple titles over the last year, such as the happiest place to live in the UK and the best place to live in the North, has been excellent and really does confirm everything that we know about our amazing town.

9. An Overview of the Year

Sarah Howsen presented an overview of the BID's work in the last 12 months and a look ahead to the upcoming 12 months.

2025-26 – 3rd year of 4th term – 17 years as a BID in Skipton now

Objective One - Safe & Welcoming

- Crime prevention always been a big part of the BID's work in Skipton
- SH ran through Schemelink, Pubwatch and Shopwatch and how they benefit Members
- BID has offered Street Marshals at key periods of the year – times of high footfall etc – offering more of a welfare service to support people at key times
- CCTV – BID pays for all CCTV and monitoring apart from 2 in Bus Station.
 - North Yorkshire Council (NYC) only covering Bus Station cameras but not any of the others.
 - NYC fully fund CCTV in other towns, Harrogate, Ripon etc but not yet in Skipton.
 - NYC currently reviewing which is due to take approx. 2 years.
 - SH reminded that if the BID doesn't pay for CCTV there won't be any in the town.
- Christmas Lights – 50/50 split with Skipton Town Council and will continue to do so to ensure Skipton gets a festive feel over Christmas.
- Cross Border Partnership – working alongside West Yorkshire and Lancashire Police forces, along with BIDs in other locations (including Colne, Keighley and Ilkley), to form partnerships on crime prevention.
- Buzzing Skipton – this project was made possible after successful application into Mayor's Vibrant High Streets Fund.
- 360 project – digitalising a map of the town to boost accessibility and create a permanent asset for Skipton.
 - Applied for mayoral funding which we then weren't successful for.
 - Now looking into other options for funding this project to keep it moving and continuing, with updates to be shared in the future.
- Accessible Skipton – poor uptake from businesses so far but BID team still working away on this in the background.

Objective Two - Thrive and Grow:

- Training and workshops – 16 different training sessions delivered over the last year, which trained over 140 different people working with different partners.
 - BID has worked with the likes of SBC Studio, Tyro Training, Heald Training and more to deliver these workshops for our businesses.
- Footfall – BID uses a company called HUQ as do a lot of other BIDs in North Yorkshire. Quarterly reports set to be shared via the BID website which can be easily accessed on the dedicated page.
- Business Awards – Another great success in 2025, well worth it for the good of the town as businesses enjoy it. Plans well underway for the 2026 event with an official launch to be held in early June.
- Media campaigns – focused around promoting businesses rather than just the town – working with the likes of Your Skipton, Leeds List, Absolutely Yorkshire to create content to draw people into Skipton.

Objective Three - Vibrant and Inspiring:

- Events – Seed fund different events – Car Show, Yarndale, Ghost Tour, Winnie the Pooh Trail. Also put on our own BID events, such as the Giant Easter Egg Trail – 137 different postcode entries and 2,000 people took part. Not just residents taking part so great to see people coming in to complete
- BID attended Visit North Yorkshire’s Literature Exchange, which was a great success and SH shared that the BID would definitely support and attend it again.
- What’s On Flyer – designed, funded and created by the BID and partners to showcase what’s happening in Skipton across the year. Distributed to businesses for them to share – e.g. hospitality sector and accommodation providers.
- Destination Marketing – Welcome to Skipton – BID continues to be solely responsible for this maintaining and operating both the website and social media channels.
- Skipton in Bloom – BID is primary source for this so would be a lack of floral displays in town without us.

Planned Activities for 2026 –

- SH shared that it's nice to see voluntary Members joining the BID with multiple signing up over the last few months – Nana's and The Pilates Room, for example.
- The BID plans to continue to lobby with the Mayor on different topics and campaigns, with the Mayor set to come and meet the BID in Skipton for the first time officially in early June.
- The BID team have quarterly meetings with North Yorkshire Council's senior management to have deeper discussions to try and make changes and a positive difference. Other NY BIDs also in attendance at these meetings to share similar experiences.
- The BID will continue to lobby against inappropriate NYC campaigns, projects and adaptations – such as earlier this year when parking charges were to be reconsidered, but a BID interjection led to an increase being postponed.

Safe & Welcoming

- Implement more accessibility projects across the town
- Work with Heart of Skipton CIC on
 - Renewing town maps and wayfinding signage
 - Shop Front Improvement Grants for businesses

Thrive and Grow:

- Provide new training opportunities to support businesses
- Investigate and deliver innovative new ways to connect all areas so the whole town benefits from footfall
- Implement accessibility projects to make the town Welcome for All
- Continue to build and develop Skipton Business Awards – official launch event introduced for first time ever set to be held on June 3rd.
- Working on developing the Welcome to Skipton Directory for businesses

Vibrant and Inspiring:

- Increase regional and national promotion of the town
 - SH spoken with Heart Radio offering positive promotional activities

- Develop and fund new events - Skipton Knitted Sheep Trail, Multi-Sport Festival, Buzzing Skipton Trail:
 - Woolly Sheep Trail – something quirky and different for the town centre – to be auctioned at the end of trail to raise money for Endeavour charity
 - Multi-sport festival – both Brownlee brothers attending – BID in support of this event with children’s activities
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- Floral Skipton - Skipton In Bloom no longer exists – everything floral is now the BID’s responsibility – fully funded by the BID – potential to get employers involved in this

- Website updates and continues growth of Social Media and digital presence
 - EH now sends out a Visitor Newsletter every 2 months
 - Vast increase in BID and Welcome to Skipton social media presence now EH putting a lot of work into it. Views and other insights increased massively.

10. Any Other Business (AOB)

LH from Then Body Shop wondered if there may be more inclusion for the chains in the Skipton Business Awards? The Body Shop team feels the larger stores in town do not feel included.

- SH shared that bigger chains don't engage with the Awards as tried to create an award to target them in previous years
- SH shared that this is why the BID is holding the launch to get more people involved.
- SH shared that it can sometimes be a challenge depending on the head office of chains and their opinions and thoughts on BIDs

SH (Spinning Jenny) highlighted the need to encourage residents to spend in the town and this would be a higher amount of spend than that of tourism.

SH (Spinning Jenny) wondered if a concept of encouraging people that live local to spend their money in Skipton could be worked on by the BID?

- SH shared details of the late-night shopping scheme – looking into introducing this in Skipton if possible.
- **Action for SH** - BID to speak to businesses to see what they can offer for late night shopping

Meeting ended at: 6.20pm