



# Brafferton & Helperby Parish Council

## Lands & Maintenance committee meeting minutes

**Wednesday 1 November 2023**  
**Held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr Nigel Denison (Chairman), Cllr Mark Darwin, Blake Edwards (co-opted member), Steve Laux (co-opted member), and Roger Clements (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence
  - 1.1. Apologies were received from Peter Mitchell.
2. Declarations of Interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
  - 2.1. No declarations were made.
3. Chairman's report: Nigel advised that Council needs to be cautious when considering future expenditure as necessary tree felling - on land recently taken into Council ownership - had brought financial reserves down towards the recommended minimum. Steve to research whether a felled tree may have a value if sold.
4. Previous meeting minutes and Clerk's report
  - 4.1. General maintenance now almost complete.
  - 4.2. The plan to improve the track between the St Peter's lych gate and Bridge Street is now ready for discussion with the occupants at 8 Bridge Street
  - 4.3. Cobbles care pamphlet is ready for distribution.
5. Public Forum – no points were raised.
6. Working party to improve the cobbled approach to Helperby surgery
  - 6.1. Following assessments of the compound used on the date panel and of the depth available between cobbles for its use on the sloping approach, it was thought unlikely that it would have a long enough life to be viable. The date panel will be assessed on how well it weathered this winter before a decision on the work will be made (assess after 31 Jan).
7. Traffic Calming Plan - the plan for improved traffic calming through village may now include recommending that the 30 mph sign on the York Road be moved further south. The Council is planning to invite Cllr Duncan - North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Member for traffic and transportation - to a site meeting to see the rationale behind each element in the plan.
8. Plan to improve access for wheelchair users
  - 8.1. Members noted with approval the plan sent by the Council to NYC and hoped money would be available for it to be carried out. The Council expected to receive a portion of Community Infrastructure Levy money by April 24 and may use this to carry out the cobbling work to improve access at the western end of Drury Lane.
9. Initial stretch of new allotment fencing – new post and rail fence has been erected by Steve on frontage to allotment plot BL2 and Council now has a post rammer for future use. When a fence deteriorates, Council will now consider providing materials for tenant to self-build to the Council's approved design.
10. Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)
  - 10.1. Data downloaded from the VAS on the Boroughbridge Road, before the new development work began, showed an average total of 1649 vehicles per day with an average speed of 26.7 mph, 22% of vehicles were speeding at an average of 33.7 mph and, overall, vehicles travelled at an 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed of 32.1 mph (The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85 percent of the drivers travel on a road segment. Motorists travelling above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed are considered to be exceeding the safe and reasonable speed for road and traffic conditions). Clerk to provide Blake with data files with a view to providing easily readable evidence which will support the Council's traffic calming proposals. Committee to consider setting up a manual traffic survey, time-linked to the VAS data record, to determine types of vehicles against speeds.



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11. 5-year Maintenance Plan – a plan, modelled on that in use at the village hall, was agreed to be appropriate and Council assets will be entered into a matrix with required maintenance, cost and frequency. Costs identified will be entered into the appropriate financial year's budget to improve long term financial planning. Clerk to continue to develop the plan.

**12. Cobbles Project**

12.1. Update: 3 x small areas are being assessed regarding viability for improvement once money is available. Members noticed that the Main Street drain outside the Old Brewery appears to be blocked; it has been reported to NYC and should be jetted at some point after leaf fall.

13. Agenda items for the next meeting

13.1. Lych gate track improvement

14. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 31 Jan 24