



# Brafferton & Helperby Parish Council

## Lands & Maintenance committee meeting minutes

**Wednesday 31 January 2024**  
**Held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

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

1. Apologies for Absence
  - 1.1. All members were present.
2. Declarations of Interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and declarations from co-opted members of any conflict of interest
  - 2.1. No declarations were made.
3. Chairman reported that several projects were underway but some awaited action by North Yorkshire Council (NYC):
  - 3.1. He will be attending a meeting at Area 2, Thirsk on 12 Feb when he hoped to obtain answers on both topics at item 7 below.
  - 3.2. The invitation to Cllr Duncan, NYC Executive Member for Highways and Transportation, to see at first hand the details on item 7 below had not yet received a reply.
  - 3.3. If the solar farm proposal at Pilmoor Grange goes ahead, there may be Community Benefit funds paid to the Council; additionally, current housing developments in progress in the parish will generate Community Infrastructure Levy payments. In combination, both sources of income should make some of the Council's projects become viable.
4. Clerk reported:
  - 4.1. Most village maintenance was agreed with contractors or volunteers but the lychgate borders needed a volunteer/contractor. Members and Clerk will attempt to find a gardener but the bank may be left untended, as an experiment, before a decision at the end of the season on whether to return the bank to grass only. Agenda item for next meeting.
  - 4.2. The next Tree Survey was expected in May 24. Actions from the previous survey were complete except for tree felling beside the Raskelf Road and a crown lift to the Pinfold beech tree (both now expected during February 24).
  - 4.3. Steve was invited to share his research on potential sale of felled timber – he reported that there was no practical method for the Council to sell this timber so the idea was shelved.
  - 4.4. The Cobbles Care pamphlet was awaiting printing/distribution. Chairman asked for distribution to go ahead.
5. Public Participation
  - 5.1. Steve Laux announced his intention to resign following this meeting as he was soon to move out of the village. Chairman thanked Steve for his skill and energy in giving unstintingly of his time in a wide range of activities in support of the Council and the village at large. Members added their appreciation and acknowledged that his departure will be a significant loss to the local community. Members will seek to identify an individual to co-opt.
6. Sloping access to Helperby surgery
  - 6.1. It had been hoped that the surface could be improved to make access easier for those with mobility issues especially users of wheelchairs. However, no durable way to make a significant improvement to the existing cobbled surface had been found. The introduction of a paved central strip with an adjacent handrail was thought to be the best option but there were concerns over: its use when icy; the potential for a handrail to be struck by vehicles and the cost. Surveys will be undertaken to canvas the opinions of those most likely to use this surgery access - rather than the current slope at the surgery wall - beginning with visitors to the Coffee Shop. Clerk to find whether the rear access to the surgery remains available.



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7. Review of plans for improved traffic calming through village and improved access for wheelchair users – see Chairman’s report at 3 above.
8. Improvement plan for the St Peter’s lych gate track – effort to precisely identify the extent of the highway remain ongoing. A draft plan concerning drainage, landscaping and track surface is ready in outline pending discussion with the householder at 8 Bridge Street.
9. Update on plans to improve fencing on Back Lane allotment frontages – the Council had resolved to purchase fencing materials to complete another Back Lane allotment frontage. A working party will be assembled to do the work in February.
10. Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) data – some issues in downloading and handling the VAS data had been resolved and Blake had designed an improved layout of the data, which was well received by members. It clearly showed the proportion of vehicles in the 3 speed groups of <30/30-40/>40 mph, showed sundry other speed data and was easy to upload with new data from each road site. Once data was available in this format from all 3 sites the results will be published.

#### **11. Cobbles Project**

- 11.1. Projects remain under consideration once money is available.

#### **12. Agenda items for the next meeting**

- 12.1. Lych gate borders.

#### **13. Meeting dates in 2024/25 were confirmed as 3 Apr 24, 3 Jul 24, 2 Oct 24, and 29 Jan 25.**