

# Brafferton & Helperby Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday 20 November 2024**  
**Held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Nigel Denison (Chairman), Cllr Peter Mitchell, Cllr Mark Darwin, Cllr Deirdre Brown, Cllr Andy Gale, Cllr Angela Horner and Roger Clements (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence
  - 1.1. Cllr Alyson Baker (NYC) sent her apologies.
2. Declarations of Interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
  - 2.1. Cllrs Denison and Gale ref 14.1 (neither voted).
3. Public Participation
  - 3.1. AH had received new reports of barking dogs – Chairman reiterated advice that individuals should make reports to North Yorkshire Council where the noise warrants it ( visit <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/environment-and-neighbourhoods/pollution/noise-pollution/barking-dogs> )
  - 3.2. MD noted the installation of modern LED streetlamps on Raskelf Rd and was concerned that the traditional lamps on Main Street might be replaced. Clerk to check with NYC.
4. Chairman's report
  - 4.1. The collapsed building on allotment plot RR11 had been made safe. Further work was required to clear the site – a work party would be assembled at a date tbd.
  - 4.2. The Council wished to carry out maintenance works on some parcels of land in the parish where ownership was unknown. YLCA had been asked to provide advice regarding: the major part of Swale Green, the triangular area south of the St Peter's lych gate and the Brafferton Pinfold (areas that had been maintained for decades by successive parish councils). Its advice concluded that the Parish Council may continue to manage, maintain and improve the parcels of land in furtherance of the pastimes as stated in the Schedules within the Hambleton District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) (Brafferton and Helperby) Order 2019.
  - 4.3. A Newsletter to parishioners on recent Council activities and future plans would shortly be produced.
  - 4.4. The Council's Method Statement for re-laying cobbles had been sent to Northern Powergrid's contractors and 2 recent works, involving trenching work in Main Street cobbles, had been concluded with re-laid cobbles to a satisfactory standard.
5. News from North Yorkshire Council (NYC) – our Divisional cllr was unwell and had sent in a list of current topics from which the Clerk would select relevant topics for a Facebook post.
6. The minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 October 24 and the Lands & Maintenance committee meeting held on 6 Nov 24 were accepted as true records and signed accordingly by the Chairman.
7. Clerk's report
  - 7.1. Boroughbridge Road traffic speeds comparison with or without the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) showed that the VAS reduces average speeds by 2mph. Approximate traffic speeds entering the village showed that 78% of vehicles were below 30mph; 22% in the range 30-40mph and .73% at 40-60mph.
  - 7.2. A letter had been received concerning parking issues on the Raskelf Road to the east of Back Lane. An investigation will be carried out.
8. **Financial Matters**
9. Clerk's financial report
  - 9.1. Community Infrastructure Levy payments totalling £22,647.10 had been received from NYC.
10. Bank reconciliation
  - 10.1. The Financial Working Group confirmed the reconciliation to be in order.

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11. Amendments to Council Financial Orders and Council Standing Orders
  - 11.1. An additional paragraph was approved for each set of orders and both sets of revised Standing Orders will be published on the Council's website.
12. The Council noted the new rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, published by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC), which will be applied to the Clerk's salary.
13. Budget and Precept for FY 2025/26
  - 13.1. Clerk explained the rationale for the draft budget and Precept for FY 25/26. Chairman proposed adoption of the proposed budget and Precept of £17,500 (which would represent an increase of 2.94% for a Band D property) – **resolved**. Details will be published in the New Year following submission of the Precept to NYC.
14. Grant application from St Peter's PCC
  - 14.1. The application requested a grant towards churchyard maintenance for the tasks not managed by volunteers. Cllr Mitchell proposed a grant of £1,000 – **resolved**.
15. NYC 'Let's Talk Money' consultation
  - 15.1. The consultation invites all residents to comment of the NYC budget for 2025-26 and Chairman encouraged cllrs to participate via [www.northyorks.gov.uk?/LetsTalk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk?/LetsTalk)
16. Council's advert in the village magazine during 2025
  - 16.1. Chairman proposed that the Council renewed its advert, cost £40, in 2025 – **resolved**.
17. Quotations for work to trees in Main Street
  - 17.1. Council considered 3 quotations for work to 2 chestnuts on Main Street. Cllr Gale proposed acceptance of the quotation from Josh Rennison Tree Contractors – **resolved**.
18. The Council noted 2 payments to NYC, site clearance at RR11 and routine accounts received and settled:

18.1.	NYC	Traffic data tubes	£132.00
18.2.	NYC	Domain transfer	£38.40
18.3.	E Moorey & Son	Site clearance at RR11	£931.80
19. **Matters for Consideration**
20. Christmas tree on Main Street
  - 20.1. Tree selection had been made and plans were in place for its erection and decoration by the Helperby & Brafferton Community Association (CA) with Switch On at 5pm on 1 Dec followed by carols plus mince pies and mulled wine by the Parochial Church Council.
21. Cutting plan for Swale Green in 2025
  - 21.1. Following a recommendation from the L & M committee it was agreed that there should be 4 cuts in 2025: cuts 1 & 2 paid by the Council, 3 & 4 paid by the CA (Feast and Fireworks). Who will complete each cut yet to be agreed.
22. Work to cobbles/concrete in Drury Lane
  - 22.1. Council viewed photos and work details for an extension of the lane's concrete path to the roadside edge of the White House and the relaying of cobbles from the Main Street gully to the Old Coach House plus a quotation for the work in the sum of £12,529 (+VAT). Cllrs opined that this work should be a priority for CIL spending on village infrastructure for reasons of improving access from Back Lane to Main Street and to respond to safety concerns over the area's current condition. Chairman proposed that the work should proceed at the quoted price – **resolved**. This work to be one of the topics for the Newsletter (see 4.3).
23. Feedback on Area 2 Highways workshop
  - 23.1. Cllrs Darwin & Horner reported on the workshop and had found it valuable in promoting an understanding of how the department operated. A re-designed Parish Council portal was soon to open and Clerks should have improved access to advice and

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remedial responses. Also, on 11 December, a new Customer portal for parishioners would replace the existing Parish portal.

### 24. Footpath linking Back Lane with the Sports Ground entrance

- 24.1. The Recreation Trust's (RT) planning application for a Recreation Area (see 27.4) had been held up by issues over pedestrian access and Sport England's concerns over ball strikes to people using the footpath from Back Lane to the Sports Field. The Council supports this venture and believes it could help push the case forward. A meeting between the Council, the RT and the Sports Association was planned with the intention of moving forward the provision of a footpath between Back Lane and the Sports Field entrance. The item to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

### 25. Ongoing Issues

- 25.1. Cobbles project – see 22.1.
- 25.2. Works to the cobbles outside Brafferton House - subsidence at the corner of Bridge Street with Hall Lane meant that there was a semi-permanent puddle at the corner forcing pedestrians (often with children) to walk into the main road. This verge is not in Council ownership and enquires will need to be made to ascertain what was the best way to improve the situation.

### 26. Planning Matters

- 26.1. Planning Application ZB24/02123/TPO, works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order in Main Street, Helperby (Clerk advised that this was a necessary forerunner to precede work to 2 Council maintained chestnuts trees) – awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council.

### 27. Planning Decisions/information

- 27.1. Planning Application ZB24/00913/FUL, proposed residential scheme for 8 units on land to the south of Raskelf Road, adjacent to Balk Avenue, Helperby - awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council
- 27.2. Planning application ZB24/01778/FUL, single storey Orangery & two storey extension at Pheasants Walk, Stinton Lane, Helperby - **granted** by North Yorkshire Council
- 27.3. Planning Application ZB24/00065/FUL, construction of 2 dwellings on land at St Peter's Close, Brafferton - **granted** by North Yorkshire Council
- 27.4. Planning Application ZB23/02384/FUL, proposed creation of a locally equipped play area at the Sports Ground, Back Lane, Helperby - awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council
- 27.5. Planning Application ZB23/00771/OUT, outline planning application for 1 x dwelling with all matters reserved except access on land at Brafferton Manor, Brafferton – awaiting decision from North Yorkshire Council

### 28. Closing Matters

#### 29. Agenda items for the next meeting

- 29.1. Footpath linking Back Lane with the Sports Ground entrance.
- 29.2. Works to the cobbles outside Brafferton House.
- 29.3. Update on NYC intentions for Main Street streetlamps.

#### 30. The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed as Wednesday 11 Dec 24.