

Brafferton & Helperby Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 15 January 2025
Held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Nigel Denison (Chairman), Cllr Mark Darwin, Cllr Andy Gale, Cllr Peter Mitchell, Cllr Andy Gale, Cllr Deidre Brown, Cllr Alyson Baker (NYC), Roger Clements (Clerk) plus two MoP.

1. Apologies for Absence
 - 1.1. None were received.
2. Declarations of Interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
 - 2.1. Cllr Mitchell ref item 10 & 14.1.
3. Public Participation
 - 3.1. The new bus service 28, running Mondays and Fridays from Flawith to Easingwold via Helperby was raised with the focus on its timing into and out of Easingwold. Current timings do not allow use of existing services into Thirsk or York to provide useable periods in either location. Chairman will raise the issue at the Easingwold District & Villages Community Partnership and he encouraged parishioners to pass opinions to the Council.
4. To receive the Chairman's report:
 - 4.1. The Advent windows were a splendid lead up to Christmas and the Christmas tree switch-on with carols, mulled wine and mince pies was very well supported. He proposed that the Council set aside £200 for a tree and improved lighting for Christmas '25 – **resolved**.
 - 4.2. The Recreation Trust continued to move the Sports Field recreation project forward and will be attending the next Council meeting to provide an update on their proposal to resolve the 'ball strike' issue at the football pitch.
 - 4.3. The two chestnut trees on Main Street had been pruned.
5. News from North Yorkshire Council (NYC)
 - 5.1. Cllr Baker advised that bids for Locality Funds might be successful for small projects like those at 12.1 and 12.5.
 - 5.2. Local groups were encouraged to take advantage of guided visits to Allerton Waste Recovery Park.
6. The minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 Dec 24 were accepted as a true record and signed accordingly by the Chairman.
7. Clerk's report
 - 7.1. The Council's computer (PC) uses the Windows 10 operating system and is experiencing issues as W10 reaches the end of its life. The PC would need an upgrade to run Windows 11 and a replacement should be considered. Clerk will bring costed options to the next meeting.
 - 7.2. Additional dog waste signs have been displayed.
 - 7.3. The damaged Open Reach/BT cover opposite the Oak Tree has been replaced.

Cllr Baker needed to leave the meeting as soon as possible. Cllr Mitchell proposed a Procedural Motion to advance items 12.2 and 12.10 – **resolved**.

12.2 Drains clearance – a NYC letter had been received explaining why it was too expensive to jet drains outside the cyclical jetting program. The Council believed that jetting needed to be carried out to a higher standard, clearing drain sumps and connection pipes, if drainage was to be improved on the Raskelf Road (and probably on the York & Boroughbridge roads too). Enquiries will be made to Kyle and Ure Drainage Board regarding the viability of bringing the old drainage ditch beside the Raskelf Road back into use.

12.10 Footpath linking Back Lane to Sports Field main gate - a discussion took place but no decision was possible until after the 'ball strike' issue is resolved – see 4.2.

8. Financial Matters

9. Clerk's financial report

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- 9.1. Council reserves at end-December '25 stood at £9,587.41 with expected bills of about £2k to come in January '25.
10. Grant request from Helperby Village Hall
- 10.1. Cllr Darwin proposed that the Council make a grant of £500 to defray costs associated with the children's play area and the dovecote – **resolved**.
11. Accounts received were approved for payment:
- 11.1. J Rennison tree surgery £1,450 (+VAT) (CIL Fund)
- 12. Matters for Consideration**
- 12.1. Streetlamp painting in Main Street - NYC was expected to soon discuss painting of the two galvanised lamp posts but no specific plan had yet emerged.
- 12.2. Drains clearance – advanced to follow 7.3 above.
- 12.3. Thornton Bridge traffic issues – letter to go to NYC Highways to review/improve signage to make motorists more aware of hazards and to consider raising the southern approach, where it dips before rising to cross the bridge, to improve visibility.
- 12.4. Meeting dates for 2025/26 – confirmed as each third Wednesday except June and December: 19 Feb, 19 Mar, 16 Apr, 21 May, 11 Jun, 16 Jul, 20 Aug, 17 Sep, 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 10 Dec, 21 Jan 26, 18 Feb 26, 18 Mar 26, 15 Apr 26 and 20 May 26.
- 12.5. Bridleway fence repairs – Clerk to seek contractors estimates for a full like-for-like repair and a simpler stabilising repair using additional fence posts.
- 12.6. Bus service 28 timings – A discussion took place during the Public Forum (see 3.1). Chairman will raise the issue at the Easingwold District & Villages Community Partnership and he encouraged parishioners to pass opinions to the Council.
- 12.7. Christmas Tree 2025 – a sum of up to £200 will be budgeted in FY25/26 to cover purchase of an 18 ft tree, plus additional lights and decorations and possible use of mains power to replace use of DC battery power.
- 12.8. Lych gate border – the border was expensive to maintain and no volunteer gardener had come forward. Nearby parishioners to be canvassed for their views as the border may have to be grassed over. If the bank is to be grassed over then consideration will be given to cutting back and stabilising the lower edge of the bank to provide additional width for parked vehicles on Bridge Street.
- 12.9. Council vacancy – Clerk to publicise co-option procedure and invite applicants to apply by 10 Feb 25.
- 12.10. Footpath linking Back Lane to Sports Field main gate – advanced to follow 7.3.
- 13. Ongoing Issues**
- 13.1. Cobbles project – the Drury Lane improvement project will go ahead when an acceptable date is agreed with Drury Lane residents and the Golden Lion.
- 13.2. Report by Cllr Mitchell on village hall provision in disaster planning – The village hall Trustees had successfully applied for a grant to increase the number of solar panels and install battery storage. Once installed this would enable the village hall to act as temporary accommodation, in the event of a village disaster including loss of mains power, for 24 hours, while a generator is procured.
- 14. Planning Matters**
- 14.1. Planning Application ZB24/02418/FUL, proposed demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with single storey rear extension at Old Manor House, Boroughbridge Road, Brafferton – the Council had no objection to the proposal.
- 15. Planning Decisions/information**
- 15.1. Planning Application ZB 24/02411/CAT, work to a tree in a Conservation Area at Toft House, Tofts Lane, Helperby - awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council

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- 15.2. Planning Application ZB24/02089/OUT, outline application to consider access for the construction of 2 x self-build dwellings on land adjacent Telephone Exchange, Back Lane, Helperby - awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council
 - 15.3. Planning Application ZB24/02254/CAT, to fell a tree in a Conservation Area at the Sallings, Tofts Lane, Helperby - **approved** by North Yorkshire Council
 - 15.4. Planning Application ZB24/02113/FUL, proposed small porch extension, side extension and single storey rear extension at High Farm Cottages, Raskelf Road, Helperby - awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council
 - 15.5. Planning Application ZB24/02314/CAT, works to tree at 5 The Orchards, Brafferton - **approved** by North Yorkshire Council
 - 15.6. Planning Application ZB24/02123/TPO, works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order in Main Street, Helperby - **approved** by North Yorkshire Council
 - 15.7. 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
 - 15.8. 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
 - 15.9. 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
16. **Closing Matters**
17. Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.
- 17.1. None were proposed.
18. The date of the next meeting of the Council was confirmed as Wednesday 19 Feb 25.