



**Brafferton & Helperby Parish Council**  
**Lands & Maintenance committee meeting minutes**

**Wednesday 29 January 2025**  
**Held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr Nigel Denison (Chairman), Cllr Mark Darwin, Cllr Peter Mitchell, Dan Knight and Roger Clements (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence – all members were present.
2. To receive from councillors any Declarations of Interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and from co-opted members declarations of any conflict of interest – no declarations were made.
3. Resignation of Blake Edwards – members acknowledged the resignation of Blake Edwards and expressed their gratitude for his practical involvement in the committee's work; his willingness to continue to process the VAS output was much appreciated. A replacement member would be sought.
4. Chairman's report
  - 4.1. Stretches of the Swale Green fence had been damaged in the recent gales and repairs would be necessary. Clerk had invited tenders and an application for a grant from the NYC Locality Budget had been submitted. A small group will assemble to move the broken fencing onto Swale Green.
5. The previous meeting's minutes were reviewed and the Clerk reported that all ongoing topics were on the agenda.
6. Public Participation – no comments were raised.
7. The meeting dates in 2025/26 were confirmed as 2 Apr 25, 2 Jul 25, 1 Oct 25, 7 Jan 26, 1 Apr 26.
8. Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) data
  - 8.1. The most recent data from the Boroughbridge Road was reviewed (traffic speeds: below 30mph 78.3%, 30-40mph 21%, above 40mph 0.7%).
  - 8.2. Additional solar powered VAS units will be considered but price was an issue (up to £4,000 per unit).
  - 8.3. A Community Speed Watch team could influence traffic speed; recruitment of a team was mooted but deferred for further discussion.
  - 8.4. Total numbers of vehicle passing the VAS would be included in future summaries.
  - 8.5. Chairman to raise the subject of speeding issues/controls at the next Easingwold & Villages Community Partnership Group meeting.
9. Removal of sycamore trees on Swale Green bridleway – the trees were to be removed soon. NYC Public Rights of Way (PROW) department have already advised that the trees are not appropriate along the bridleway and will be taken down as soon as funds allow.
10. Provision of skip and working party to clear Allotment plot RR11
  - 10.1. Clerk to investigate cost of replacement boundary fencing and gate.
  - 10.2. A working party would be required to clear site and future use decided upon – agenda item for next Council meeting.
11. Improvement plan for the St Peter's lych gate track
  - 11.1. As well as draining, landscaping and reinstating the track on the triangle of land, the Council should consider cutting back the base of the bank thus providing additional width for parked vehicles on Bridge Street. Chairman to investigate likely costs. Bridge Street householders to be approached for their views on maintaining the bank border and the possible cutting back at its base.
12. Grass cutting of Swale Green in 2025
  - 12.1. General arrangements agreed: Community Association for two cuts, prior to the Feast and Bonfire Night. Parish Council to arrange 2 further cuts on dates tbd.



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**13. Cobbles Project**

13.1. Drury Lane cobbles project – ready to go ahead on date to be agreed with householders on Drury Lane and the owners of the Golden Lion.

14. Agenda items for the next meeting – none proposed.

15. The next meeting date was confirmed as 2 Apr 25.