

Brafferton & Helperby Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday 19 November 2025
Held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Peter Mitchell (Chairman), Cllr Mark Darwin, Cllr Angela Horner, Cllr Andy Gale, Cllr Steve Lewis, Tony Whiting (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence
- 1.1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Nigel Denison and Deidre Brown.
2. Declarations of interest not already declared under the council's Code of Conduct or members' Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. None declared.
3. Public participation – four members of the public attended. Three were volunteers wishing to assist with the Vehicle Activated Signs, one of whom had contacted Cllr Denison. All three were thanked for their interest and told Cllr Denison would be in touch with them. Concern was expressed about vehicles speeding through the village. Item to revisit the village's speeding plan to go on the agenda for the 10 December meeting. Clerk to investigate the cost of a second VAS. In response to a question about flags, Chairman said the Union flag was flown on the council's standard to commemorate certain events. A fourth member of the public said a report would be coming from the group which was advocating a playpark.
4. To receive comments from councillors
 - 4.1 Cllr Horner said the village needed another lamp on Boroughbridge Road near the Pinfold as people living in the Broad Ford Drive area had to walk into the village partially in darkness. Clerk to write to Highways copying in Cllr Baker.
 - 4.2 Cllr Horner raised the issue of the poor state of the road leading to the lychgate on the east side of the church. Clerk to write to Highways pointing out that, despite appearances, this was an adopted highway.
 - 4.3 Concern was expressed about a car covered with a tarpaulin that never seemed to move. If it proved to be untaxed and on a public highway, it could be reported.
5. Chairman's report
 - 5.1. Chairman reported the idea for the InPost lockers for the side of the village hall had been abandoned by its promoters as this would require applying for listed building consent which they considered too onerous.
 - 5.2. He said that the Sports Association had succeeded in a bid for a £20,000 Lottery Fund grant. This could pave the way for applications for other grants.
6. News from North Yorkshire Council (NYC)
 - 6.1 Cllr Alyson Baker was present and her notes of items of interest had been circulated by the clerk before the meeting. She highlighted that the last garden waste collection would be between 24 November and 5 December. People with green bins could chop up their Christmas trees and put them in their bin but it would not be collected until March. She added that she had found the Remembrance Day service in the village very moving.
7. The minutes of the council meeting held on 15 October 2025 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
8. Clerk's report and correspondence
 - 8.1. The clerk and Cllr Denison had responded to a Freedom of Information Request from the Adam Smith Institute.
 - 8.2. The council's printer had stopped working so the clerk had bought a new one for £137.50. That had proved unreliable until its anti-virus software had been removed. It was working fine now.
 - 8.3. Teething problems with the automatic diversion to the clerk's phone had been resolved

- 8.4. The clerk was now the nominated administration manager for the council's payment card.
- 8.5. Cllr Horner and the clerk had attended a meeting of the Easingwold Community Partnership Forum where representatives of NYC, Transdev and the police had spoken. Cllr Horner had asked about restoring an effective bus service to the village and had been advised to contact the Mayor's Office which she had done. She encouraged others to do the same.
- 8.6. NYC's latest Let's Talk Money survey had been circulated to all councillors by the clerk.

9. Financial Matters

10. Clerk's financial report

- 10.1. At 31 October, Current a/c £6,630.16, Reserve a/c £5,097.20, CIL a/c £9,045.86. These figures had been confirmed as correct on the bank reconciliation statement by Cllr Darwin of the Finance Working Group before the meeting.
- 10.2. In early November the council received £9,574.35 from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) re St Peter's Close.
11. To note Payment Card Purchases (PCP) and note or approve accounts received:
 - 11.1. Friends of Bridge Street £2,394.40 top-up donation **noted**
 - 11.2. Boroughbridge Computers £10 **noted**
 - 11.3. Helperby and Brafferton Community Association £337.68 fireworks insurance **noted**
 - 11.4. Community Traffic Management £252 for road closures on Remembrance Day **noted**
 - 11.5. Nick Buchanan £1699.50 for grass/verge cutting **noted**
 - 11.6. Society of Local Council Clerks £118 annual subscription **noted**

12. Matters for Consideration

- 12.1. Request for village noticeboard. A resident had asked this should be put on the agenda as there was no longer a noticeboard on the wall of the former St Cuthbert's Methodist Chapel. Clerk reported that the building's owners had removed the board to renovate it which had now been done. They would put it back when the weather had dried up. Clerk to write to thank them.
- 12.2. Christmas tree purchase and switch-on arrangements. It was agreed to buy a tree which would be decorated by the Community Association in preparation for the switch-on at 5pm on Sunday 7 December. The Alne Tractor run would be passing by at 5.15pm which it was felt would add to the occasion. The council would provide volunteer marshals to keep people safe.
- 12.3. Future of the Golden Lion. A representative of the group campaigning to buy the pub as a community asset said they had submitted a low offer which had been rejected. There had been no other offers. The group was continuing to talk to potential investors. It was meeting in the following week and would issue an update afterwards. It would seek to extend the pub's registration as an asset of community value, which runs out in January 2026, and hoped the council would do the same.
- 12.4. Budget. Chairman said proposals would be made at the December meeting. This time separate budgets would be presented for the council's day to day income and expenditure and also for its CIL budget.

13. Ongoing Issues

- 13.1. Cobbles project – no comments

14. Planning Matters

- 14.1 None received

15. Planning Decisions/information

- 15.1 Planning Application ZB25/01773/FUL, proposed replacement of outbuildings at Spring Dallah, Main Street, Helperby. No objections from the Parish Council. Awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council.
- 15.2 Planning Application ZB25/01602/FUL, proposed alterations 2 new bi-folding doors in dining room, window raised in kitchen, new vertical timber boarding to replace tile hanging on dormer windows at Burnside, Dunroyal – GRANTED.
- 15.3 Planning Application ZB25/00126/FUL, construction of 27 dwellings including associated infrastructure, open space and landscaping on land off Broad Ford Drive, Brafferton - awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council.
- 15.4 Planning Application ZB25/00954/FUL, proposed change of use of land for the siting of 24no holiday cabins (phase 2) at Brafferton Manor Farm, Brafferton Manor Station, Brafferton - awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council.
- 15.5 Planning Application ZB24/02089/OUT, outline application to consider access for the construction of 2 x self-build dwellings on land adjacent to the Telephone Exchange, Back Lane, Helperby – GRANTED
- 15.6 Planning Application ZB24/00913/FUL (amended), 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.
- 15.7 Planning Application ZB23/00771/OUT, outline planning application for 1 x dwelling with all matters reserved except access on land at Brafferton Manor, Brafferton – WITHDRAWN.

16. Closing Matters

17. To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting: budget, speed plan.
18. To confirm the date of the next meeting of the council as Wednesday 10 December 25