

# Brafferton & Helperby Parish Council Meeting Minutes April 15 2026

## Held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

1. **Apologies for absence.** None received.
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** – a member of the public expressed concern at proposals for the Sedgeby Solar Farm near Sessay. It would be a 350-megawatt solar farm spread over two sites each of around 500m acres. A group, Protect Hambleton, had been formed to oppose it and had the backing of Sessay Parish Council. A formal planning application is expected to be lodged with the government in 2027. Chairman asked that the issue should go on the agenda of the June meeting.
4. **Comments from councillors.**
  - 4.1. Cllr Horner said she had met a resident who had successfully campaigned to get a 7.5 ton weight restriction imposed in Scotton and had offered assistance to achieve the same in the village here. Chairman to meet him.
  - 4.2. Cllr Darwin had been told Yorkshire Water signage by the junction of Boroughbridge Road and Raskelf Road should have gone by the weekend.
5. **Chairman's report.**
  - 5.1. Yorkshire Water had not dealt with the leak in Boroughbridge Road well, especially in the way signage had been erected, and it was pointed out by a member of the public that the diversion involved driving miles and the road should have been fixed much more quickly. However, there had been faults on both sides with some motorists verbally abusing workers who were trying to deal with the leak and its aftermath.
  - 5.2. Cllr Denison had had a successful meeting with Paul Crosby from NYC Highways who promised a team would be dealing with the drainage problems and damaged drain issue on Raskelf Road on April 21.
  - 5.3. Cllr Denison had also had a very positive meeting with the agent of Helperby Estate about several issues including Parish Council support for the Recreational Trust.
  - 5.4. Cllr Denison invited people to join him at a commemoration on May 16 at 4.30pm attended by the RCAF at the Halifax Memorial for the Canadian airmen who had been shot down in the war.
6. **News from North Yorkshire Council.** Cllr Baker had sent an email shortly before the meeting apologising that she was unable to attend for medical reasons. She had submitted a written report which had been circulated earlier.
  - 6.1. It was noted that NYC would not require people to have an extra container for food waste as this would continue to be dealt with at the Allerton incineration plant.
  - 6.2. It was also mentioned that it would be helpful to register as a user at the tip before April 27.
7. **Minutes of the previous meeting.** The minutes of the council meeting held on 18 March 2026 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
8. **Clerk's report and correspondence**
  - 8.1. The resignation of Cllr Brown had created a casual vacancy. There would not be a formal election as fewer than 10 electors had requested one. Notices asking anyone interested to contact the Clerk had been posted on the website and noticeboard. The deadline for expressions of interest was April 17. So far only one person had expressed interest.

- 8.2. A new allotment holder had taken over BL1. A potential tenant for RR19 was to be shown the allotment by the Clerk.
- 8.3. The insurers had been informed about RR11 where they had been double counting the former building and wall.
- 8.4. The Clerk had visited a Raskelf Road resident at his request. The resident suggested moving the 30mph sign on Raskelf Road a little further from the village to reduce speeding by the chicane. Following a discussion, the Clerk will investigate criteria for moving 30 mph signs.
- 8.5. The Clerk is to attend a short training course in May about financial matters
- 8.6. The former clerk had been extremely helpful in offering guidance about year-end matters.
- 8.7. NYC had been told the council had no objections to work on Thornton Bridge. NYC had been asked for details of the dates and diversion route, but no answer had been received.
- 8.8. The joiner who had mended the fencing by the village green a year ago had been told that ten posts had blown over backwards in Storm Dave. The Clerk had asked him to attend.
- 8.9. 800 poo bags for the public dispenser had been ordered and were given to Cllr Horner.

## 9. Financial Matters

### 10. Clerk's financial report

- 10.1. At year-end 31 March 2026 the balances were Current account £662.82; Reserve account £5,574.81; CIL account £18,664.97.
- 10.2. The bank reconciliation statement had been prepared.
- 10.3. Interest of £122.37 from the Reserve and CIL accounts had been transferred to the Current account as had £1,000 from the Reserve account.
- 10.4. Rents from allotment holders of around £600 had been received.
- 10.5. Nick Buchanan had been reappointed to do six cuts of grass and verges in the new financial year at a cost of £1,785.
- 10.6. Church Lane surgery had reimbursed the council £173.40, half the cost of the defibrillator battery.
- 10.7. The annual meeting of the Finance Working Group was being arranged for mid-May.

### 11. To note Payment Card Purchases (PCP) and note or approve accounts received:

- 11.1. The PCP was in credit by £45.05. **Noted**
- 11.2. Ken Westerman, gardening £48. **Noted**
- 11.3. Myers fencing for allotments £159.41 **Noted**
- 11.4. Terry Bowman hedge cutting £162.50 **Noted**
- 11.5. NYC domain hosting £45.60 **Noted**
- 11.6. Honorarium for former clerk for helping with year-end matters. **Resolved** £100.

## 12. Matters for Consideration

- 12.1. **Formalising relationship between the Parish Council and the Recreational Trust.** Advice from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) was that the council was not a 'qualified council' and as such had no legal powers to act as guarantor for a lease between Helperby Estate and The Recreational Trust. The Chairman proposed that the council appointed a councillor as a trustee of the Recreational Trust. This would demonstrate ongoing support and engagement by the Parish Council for the Recreational

Trust and would provide the necessary assurance to enable the lease to be signed enabling the Recreational Trust to proceed with its project, **Resolved**. To appoint Cllr Horner as a trustee of the Recreational Trust.

12.2. **Traffic volumes and speeds.** The prevailing theme was that more data is needed if we are to tackle the problems of speeding. The Vehicle Activation Sign had been turned to record speeds from vehicles travelling out of the village as this would provide fresh insights. It was suggested that a 20mph limit at the double bend on Boroughbridge Road could be explored. In Back Lane a resident's photo of two delivery vans travelling in opposite directions jammed next to each other against the wall was shown to the meeting. Various potential solutions were discussed. It was thought that the most appropriate way forward was to take up Cllr Darwin's offer to use council's speed gun to collect more evidence of vehicle speed/behaviour on Back Lane.

12.3. **Footpath, York Road.** The Chairman had obtained verbal agreement from Helperby Estate to create an upgraded footpath capable of taking wheelchairs and pushchairs using the existing track through the woods from York Road. This would separate pedestrians from the vehicles using the main entrance. Liaison with NYC Highways would be required for any work on the verge and with the Sports Association as it held the lease. The estate was also supportive of any project by NYC Highways to create a footpath along the verge towards Pasture Lane.

12.4. **Letter to Yorkshire Water.** No reply had been received to a detailed letter of complaint about flooding from the sewage plant sent a month before. Clerk to chase this up as Yorkshire Water's published policy is to reply to complaints within a week.

### 13. Ongoing Issues

13.1. Cobbles project – no comments.

### 14. Planning Matters

14.1. An application for a conservatory received after the agenda had been published had been circulated to councillors for their comments after the meeting.

### 15. Planning Decisions/information

15.1. Applications ZB26/00123/FUL and ZB26/00124/LBC received after date for issuing the agenda for planning and listed building consent at Laurel Farm, Brafferton had been circulated to councillors. No objections from the Parish Council. The application for listed building consent had since been withdrawn.

15.2. Planning Application ZB25/01955/FUL, formation of off-street parking and retrospective application for construction of a dropped curb at 2 Chestnut Row, Raskelf Road. No objections from the Parish Council – awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council.

15.3. Planning Application ZB26/00056/CAT, works top fell a Cypress tree, Holly tree and Hawthorn bush in a conservation area, Burnside, Dunroyal and replace with fruit trees. No objections from the Parish Council – **granted**

15.4. 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.

15.5. 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.

15.6. 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. Clerk confirmed this application had not been withdrawn.

**16. Closing Matters.**

17. The date of the annual meeting of the council was confirmed as Wednesday, May 20 2026.