

# **Brafferton & Helperby Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday 18 March 2026**  
**Held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

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

1. Apologies for absence
- 1.1. Apologies were received from Cllr Andy Gale and Cllr Peter Mitchell
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 – two representatives from the Recreational Trust attended. They set out the progress being made re the Play Park. They had funds of £60,000 towards the phase 1 costs of £121,000. A financial adviser had come on board and they were developing an increasingly resilient structure for the trust. The lease was to be discussed later as an agenda item.
4. Comments from councillors. Cllr Horner said residents in Back Lane were concerned about the speed of vehicles and one person's cat had been run over and killed. How to stop speeding here was problematic and would be an agenda item at the next meeting. Cllr Horner also raised the poor state of the road from the church gates to the school. This had been confirmed by NYC as public highway. She had reported it to Highways. Chairman to raise the issue with Paul Crosby from NYC at their meeting on 19 March.
5. Chairman's report. Chairman reported that Cllr Brown had resigned after the last meeting and he thanked her warmly for her years of service. He said the post box, which had been taped up, would be replaced by an automated version which would have facilities to take small parcels. He spoke of problems with effluent from the sewage treatment works contributing to flooding in a farmer's field. He read out a letter to Yorkshire Water asking for clarification of several related issues and asked that this should be on the agenda of the next meeting. He had met Rob Reveley to discuss cobbles and the area by the church's lychgate. He congratulated the Sports Association on gaining a grant of almost £50,000 from the Mayor's Movement Fund.
6. News from North Yorkshire Council  
Cllr Baker attended having submitted a written report which had been circulated earlier. She referred to several items including news that Sir Alec Shelbrooke would be holding a surgery in Easingwold in May. She left the meeting at 8.10pm.
7. The minutes of the council meeting held on 18 February 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 been reported to NYC's Electoral Services team. An official notice had been received and posted on the council's website and on the council's noticeboard. It said that if ten electors wrote to NYC's Proper Officer by 23 March asking for an election, one would have to be held. If not, co-option was open to the council. One resident had contacted the clerk to express his interest in being co-opted.
  - 8.2. A letter had been received from NYC that afternoon confirming that the Golden Lion had been registered again as an Asset of Community Value following an application from the council. The council was thanked for its efforts by members of the public at the meeting.

- 8.3. An order had been placed for a second Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). A grant of £400 had been received towards it from the NYC Locality Fund. It would be delivered in about ten weeks.
- 8.4. A new battery had been bought for the defibrillator and fitted on 14 March. Its cost of £346.80 would be shared with the surgery.
- 8.5. Emails had gone to allotment holders asking for their rent for 2026-27. One person was giving up their allotment and a replacement tenant was due to be shown their plot by the clerk the following day. Cllr Darwin added that he would be giving up his allotment too.
- 8.6. An invitation had been sent to a charity reception on 24 April by the NYC Chairman and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. It would be held at the Pavilions of Harrogate.

## 9. Financial Matters

- 10. Clerk's financial report
- 10.1. At 28 February Current a/c £1,436,55, Reserve a/c £5,546.20, CIL a/c £18,171.21.
- 10.2. The bank reconciliation statement had been prepared. Cllr Lewis is to replace Cllr Brown on the Finance Working Group.
- 11. To note Payment Card Purchases (PCP) and note or approve accounts received:
  - 11.1. Technical assistance re the printer £36 on the PCP. This and a similar amount in December had both been refunded. As a result, the PCP was in credit by £45.05. **Noted**
  - 11.2. Invoice from Barnes Associates for the tree survey of £516.40 had been paid. **Noted**
  - 11.3. Nick Buchanan proposed a fee of £1,785 for six cuts compared with £1,699 last time. **Resolved.** To accept this proposal.

## 12. Matters for Consideration

- 12.1. Highways. Following a meeting with Paul Crosby the clerk had written to him asking for a proposal for primrose no parking markings along the north side of Raskelf Road from its junction with Boroughbridge Road to just beyond the Chestnuts. The clerk had written to Mr Crosby again about filling in the longstanding excavation on Raskelf Road. He had apologised and said it would be done soon. Several pothole and gully problems had been reported to NYC. Chairman to discuss various issues with Mr Crosby at their meeting on 19 March.
- 12.2. Traffic volumes and speeds. The latest VAS data from York Road had been circulated. The sign had now been moved to Raskelf Road.
- 12.3. Recreational Trust lease. Advice from the National Association of Local Councils was that the council had no legal powers to act as guarantor. Chairman to discuss with the estate. A suggestion that a parish councillor might become a trustee of the trust was discussed and welcomed by the trust's representatives at the meeting as it was felt this would strengthen its governance.
- 12.4. Footpath, York Road. Instead of a new footpath along York Road to the entrance to the Sports Field, an alternative of creating a short footpath leading to an upgraded track capable of taking wheelchairs and buggies through the woods was discussed. This would be much cheaper.
- 12.5. Ideas for untenanted allotments. Two suggestions had been received. One was for creating a biodiversity area and the other for a community orchard. Chairman to follow them up.
- 12.6. Christmas tree arrangements. Deferred to next meeting
- 12.7. Litter pick. It was decided not to do this for the moment as a community event as litter did not seem too pressing a problem in the village and we had a paid litter picker.

## 13. Ongoing Issues

13.1. Cobbles project – those outside Yvonne Moorey’s house were seen as the most urgent.

#### 14. Planning Matters

##### 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 to 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 24 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.Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting: Speeding in Back Lane; Yorkshire Water’s response to letter; Christmas tree arrangements.

18. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 15 April 2026.