

BRAFFERTON AND HELPERBY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on 17 June 2026

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Horner, Cllr Vaughan.
2. Declarations of Interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or Members' Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: None declared.
3. Chairman's report:
 - 3.1. Chairman read a statement from the group seeking to convert the Golden Lion into a pub and community hub. A public meeting to discuss next steps would be held at 11am on 11 July.
 - 3.2. Olivia Spillman hoped to re-open the former butcher's shop into a village shop and café in late August.
 - 3.3. The church now had Superfast Broadband.
 - 3.4. Chairman thanked the volunteers for erecting the new Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). VAS data showed there was twice as much traffic approaching the village on Boroughbridge Rd as Raskelf Rd.
 - 3.5. Chairman asked that the agenda for the next meeting should include an item about potentially reducing the number of meetings from 12 a year.
4. To receive news from North Yorkshire Council (NYC):
 - 4.1. Cllr Baker said she had received a request from Amber Bee CIC for financial support from her Locality Fund to assist a project at St Peter's School to improve children's mental health. She had asked the school if they knew anything about it and was waiting for a response. Clerk to ask the PTA if they had any knowledge of it.
 - 4.2. She spoke about Feast activities being organised by NYC for school children. Cllr Horner to be asked to publicise them on the council's Facebook page.
 - 4.3. Cllr Baker left the meeting at 7.52pm.
5. To receive comments from Councillors:
 - 5.1. Cllr Mitchell gave an update about the Village Hall. Two new planters had replaced old ones, an aerial was to be erected on the hall to detect water leaks, the pop-up pub had raised £1,500 in extra revenue, volunteers from Barclays Bank had spent a day working on improvements to the hall.
6. Sedgeby Solar Farm (moved up the agenda by a procedural amendment):
 - 6.1. Two representatives of Protect Hambleton, a group opposing the scheme, spoke. Earlier a letter and a leaflet they had produced about the scheme had been circulated to councillors. They said the 350 MW solar farm and associated energy storage system would take up around 1,000 acres of productive farmland, equivalent to 600 football pitches west of Sessay. It was ten times bigger than the Pilmoor Solar Farm would be, so large that it would be decided by the Planning Inspectorate and Secretary of State, not NYC.
 - 6.2. The group was approaching the 11 parish councils within two miles of the power lines for their support. The group's first general meeting would be held at 7pm on 10 July in Sessay Village Hall, Representatives of the Parish Council hoped to attend and the solar farm would be an item for the July meeting.
7. The minutes of the last meeting of the Council on 20 May 2026 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
8. Clerk's report and new correspondence received:
 - 8.1. The AGAR internal audit had been successfully completed and the information needed for the external audit sent to the external auditors.
 - 8.2. The website had been audited for its accessibility and had been ruled to be partially compliant, like most parish councils' websites. Information about accessibility had been added in a new tab at the end of the website.
 - 8.3. Two blocked gullies had been reported to NYC but not been acknowledged. Clerk to chase up.
 - 8.4. NYC had emailed to say the swing bridge improvements were still in their programme. It was a standing item at their Countryside Team meetings.
 - 8.5. Councillors' addresses are to be removed by NYC from public access.

BRAFFERTON AND HELPERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on 17 June 2026

- 8.6. Planning changes are in the pipeline. Applications validated after 19 June will be advertised by site notices only. When they are determined, parish councils will no longer be emailed with a decision letter. Parish councils can sign up to a new public access system and save searches there. The new system and the old Hambleton system will run in tandem until they are combined in August.
- 8.7. Cllr Vaughan is booked on a training course for new councillors on 22 July.

9. Financial matters

9.1. Clerks' financial report:

- 9.1.1. Balances at 31 May were Current a/c £1,379.12; Reserve a/c £12,546.20; CIL a/c £18,571.21.
- 9.1.2. An annual report about CIL had been sent to NYC. In the year to March 31 2026, CIL receipts were £9,574.35 and spending £16,977.
- 9.1.3. Clerk was chasing NYC about a contribution of around £400 for cutting verges on behalf of NYC in 2025.
- 9.1.4. A VAT reclaim had been sent to HMRC for £3,991.46.
- 9.1.5. A cheque had been received from Northern Power for cobbles rental of £9.20.
- 9.2. To note Payment Card Purchases (PCP) and note or approve payment of accounts received:
- 9.3. Meetings held in the village hall Jan to June 26 £126 **Noted**
- 9.4. Ken Westerman gardening in May £48 **Noted**
- 9.5. Website compliance £222 **Approved**
- 9.6. Paul Considine repairs to noticeboards, repainting bench, hole for Christmas tree £832.48 **Approved**

10. Matters for Consideration

- 10.1. Request from the Helperby and Brafferton Community Association for £375 to provide 150 free ice creams and lollies to children at the Feast, 27 June. - The Council felt this was not an appropriate use of its funds. Clerk to inform the association that if it applied for a donation of around £375 towards the cost of specific attractions, this would be approved.
- 10.2 Christmas tree arrangements. Deferred
- 10.3. Volunteering. Cllr Gale to submit a report to the next meeting

11. To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary

- 11.1. Cobbles project

12. To consider the following Planning Matters

13. To receive the following Planning Decisions/information

- 13.1. Planning Application ZB26/00793/CAT to reduce laurel tree by 8ft in a conservation area at Church Gate House, Brafferton. No objections from the Parish Council- **granted**
- 13.2. 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.
- 13.3. 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.
- 13.4. 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.

14. Closing Matters

15. Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting: number of meetings; Sedgeby Solar Farm; volunteering
16. The date of the next Council meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 15 July 2026.