

BRAFFERTON AND HELPERBY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on 15 July 2026

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Gale, Cllr Lewis, 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 had been contacted by NYC about a possible commuted sum payment. He was hopeful it would provide extra funds for the Sports Association and the Recreational Trust.
 - 3.2. Sycamore trees along the bridleway to the Swing Bridge had been cut down to prevent future damage to the bank and bridleway access, prompting some concerns. Permission had been granted by NYC some time ago, but it was accepted that communication could have been better. Replacing the sycamores with native small trees, subject to NYC's permission would be on the agenda for the September meeting.
 - 3.3. The drain on Raskelf Road had still not been repaired
 - 3.4. A road closure would have to be arranged for Remembrance Sunday which would require traffic management support. This would be on the September agenda.
 - 3.5. The website contact form was still not going to the clerk who was continuing to chase the designers. This would be discussed at the September meeting including the possibility of changing the website hosts.
 - 3.6. Information about a rural bus study had been put on Facebook and would go on the noticeboard.
4. To receive news from North Yorkshire Council (NYC):
 - 4.1. Cllr Baker had sent her apologies.
5. To receive comments from Councillors:
 - 5.1. Cllr Horner said she would report on the street works workshop at the September meeting under Comments from Councillors.
 - 5.2. She added that Facebook was resulting in much more engagement with the Council. Discussion of a social media policy would be on the September agenda,
 - 5.3. Cllr Darwin said volunteers would be needed for the Remembrance Sunday Road closure.
 - 5.4. He added the Council should mark the death of Arnold Moss in the minutes of the meeting. Chairman said he had been a councillor on Helperby Parish Council for many years, Chairman of the War Memorial Association, a county councillor and had contributed to village life in a number of ways.
6. Public participation: None.
7. The minutes of the last meeting of the Council on 17 June were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

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8. Clerk's report and new correspondence received:

- 8.1. Cllr Baker referred at the last meeting to a group as wishing to run courses at St Peter's School and had asked the Council to look into them. The clerk had been told by a school governor the school did not wish to be involved with them.
- 8.2. The clerk was chasing NYC over two blocked gullies reported earlier.
- 8.3. A resident in Main Street had asked that a tree whose branches had become too close to his house could be included in the Council's maintenance programme. The clerk had told him it would be.
- 8.4. The clerk had signed up to the new NYC planning portal and a new website for clerks.
- 8.5. External auditors had said they were reviewing the Council's AGAR submissions.
- 8.6. A request had been received to run forest school courses in woods on the village green. The clerk was waiting for more details from the individual.
- 8.7. An email about precept arrangements had been received from NYC.
- 8.8. The clerk had received a message via the website from a resident calling for a 20mph limit in the village. It was agreed this matter would be on the September agenda.
- 8.9. Clerk to show Cllr Darwin bank statements to confirm agreement with the bank reconciliation statement for the end of June.

9. Financial matters

- 9.1. Clerks' financial report:
 - 9.1.1. Balances at 30 June were Current a/c £4,123.21; Reserve a/c £11,592.94; CIL £12,809.01
 - 9.1.2. NYC has submitted Purchase Orders for the Parish Council to claim refunds for verge cutting of £423.79 in June 2025 and £438.20 in June 2026. NYC has now been invoiced.
 - 9.1.3. VAT of £3,991.46 has been reclaimed.
- 9.2. To note Payment Card Purchases (PCP) and note or approve payment of accounts received:
- 9.3. Payment card virtual landline £12.85 **Noted**
- 9.4. Ken Westerman gardening £48 **Noted**
- 9.5. Paul Considine repairs to noticeboards, repainting bench, hole for Christmas tree £832.48 **Noted**
- 9.6. Community Association donation towards the Feast £314 **Approved**
- 9.7. Swarco second VAS £5,019 **Approved**

10. Matters for Consideration

- 10.1. Reducing number of meetings. Meetings in August and December were thought to be unnecessary. **Resolved:** to hold 10 meetings a year. If necessary, extraordinary meetings could be called to deal with urgent business.
- 10.2. Sedgeby Solar Farm. Given its scale and location, the Council agreed to become an affiliate member of the Protect Hambleton Association.
- 10.3. Volunteering. Deferred to the September meeting.
- 10.4. Lloyds Tour of Britain 5 September Helmsley to Leyburn. It was agreed to seek funding of up to £500 for bunting and other items from the mayoral community grant fund. Deadline for applications is 31 July.

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

- 11.1. Cobbles project. No action required.

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12. To consider the following Planning Matters

- 12.1. Planning Application ZB26/00954/FUL to install 16 solar panels on rear roof, 6 panels to the front of the property, battery and back-up gateway. Construct pergola and shed/sunroom to the rear at 8 St. Peters Close. Clerk to advise NYC no objections from the Pariah Council.
- 12.2. Planning Application 26/02977/LB to convert outbuildings at Old Starr Cottage, Back Lane to form habitable accommodation, erect a single storey extension, internal alterations and erect a detached twin car port. Clerk to advise NYC no objections from the Parish Council.

13. To receive the following Planning Decisions/information

- 13.1. 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.
- 13.2. 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.
- 13.3. 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. **Resolved:** In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the Press and public were excluded for discussion of the proposed agreement from PS Renewables re the Pilmoor Solar Farm as publicity would be prejudicial to the nature of the business. It was agreed that the proposed agreement with PS Renewables promising the Council financial community benefits of £10,000 immediately and a further £30,000 when the farm is energised should be signed and that Cllr Horner and the clerk would join a Whatsapp group set up by the company.
- 16. **Resolved:** In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the Press and public were excluded for discussion regarding the Clerk's working hours as publicity would be prejudicial to the nature of the business. The clerk left the meeting for this item. It was agreed that given the workload, the clerk's weekly hours should be increased from an average of 6 to 8 hours from 1 July 2026.
- 17. Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting: bridleway trees, fee for road closure notice re Remembrance Sunday, website design and hosting, social media policy for Facebook, resident's request for a 20mph speed limit, volunteering report.
- 18. The date of the next Council meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 16 September 2026.