

BRAFFERTON AND HELPERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on 16 September 2026

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Gale.
2. Declarations of Interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or Members' Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: The Chairman as Chairman of St Peter's Church Fabric Committee and Cllr Mitchell as Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees, both in relation to agenda item 10.1.
3. Chairman's report:
 - 3.1. Ken Westerman's contribution as village litter picker and gardener was recorded.
 - 3.2. The shop's opening was having a very positive impact on the village.
 - 3.3. The village barbecue had been well attended.
 - 3.4. Bunting had been erected for the Tour of Britain, paid for by the Mayor's fund.
 - 3.5. Gullies were still blocked in Raskelf Road, York Road, by the Old Brewery and by the Oak Tree. Clerk to send a letter to Cllr Baker about them so she could follow up.
 - 3.6. Double yellow lines proposed for Raskelf Road were still to be finalised. Paul Crosbie at NYC would be contacted again for an agreed plan.
 - 3.7. Various communication and IT issues needed to be addressed including the phone, website, computer, council email addresses, WhatsApp group for councillors. The starting point would be a council phone. This would be discussed after further research at a future meeting.
 - 3.8. The PCC and the Parish Council had had their objections to proposed work on a beech tree in the churchyard had been rejected by NYC which had given permission for the work to go ahead...
 - 3.9. Permission had been granted for up to six fishermen to park on Swale Green for a special competition on 12 September. This was considered a reasonable response to an exceptional event.
4. To receive news from North Yorkshire Council (NYC):
 - 4.1. Cllr Baker attended and spoke to her report which had been circulated earlier. She encouraged the Golden Lion team to apply for a locality budget grant of £300 for marketing. Councillors were encouraged to complete the Mayor's consultative transport survey to underline the paucity of bus services in this area. She left the meeting at 8.04p.m.
5. To receive comments from Councillors:
 - 5.1. Cllr Darwin had reported a streetlight that was not working by a neighbour's house. He also confirmed the tractor run would take place on 6 December.
 - 5.2. Cllr Horner asked if double white lines in the middle of the road on the S bends on Boroughbridge Road would be helpful.
 - 5.3. Cllr Vaughan asked about the cost of councillors having official email addresses. It was agreed to consider this as part of the wider question of communication and IT issues.
6. Public participation:

A member of the public spoke of her concerns for the safety of pedestrians, especially children and elderly people, given the volume and speed of traffic. The best solution she believed would be a 20mph limit as had been introduced in Roecliffe. Alternative pedestrian routes to Main Street were discussed using Back Lane and the Hornby. These were deemed unsuitable alternatives by the resident for a variety of reasons, including darkness, mud, traffic volume, speed and safety on Back Lane.

Potential renewed traffic calming measures were mentioned as a possible solution. NYC had said in the past that the criteria for having a 20mph limit had not been met but the Chairman said the issue would be revisited and would be on the agenda for the next meeting. The Clerk read a comment from a website form in support of a 20mph limit from another member of the public and is to ask Roecliffe how they did it.
7. The minutes of the last meeting of the Council on 15 July 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. The Chairman was thanked for standing in for the Clerk during the Clerk's annual leave for three weeks in August.
- 8.2. New pads had been bought for the defibrillator and installed by the surgery.
- 8.3. PK Littlejohn had signed off the AGAR audit.
- 8.4. The website contact form was working again.
- 8.5. The Clerk had contacted the insurers about public liability cover for people on the cobbles by the shop and about plans for a forest school to be run from late September to late October in the wood by the swing bridge. The organiser had met the Chairman and sent a detailed proposal to the Clerk.
- 8.6. The Council had joined the Protect Hambleton group which was opposing the Sedgeby Solar Farm
- 8.7. The Chairman, Cllr Horner and the Clerk had joined a WhatsApp group organised by PS Renewables Ltd the company constructing and managing the Pilmoor Solar Farm,
- 8.8. People were invited to attend a drop-in day at the Galtres Centre on 25 September about the Easingwold Town Council Investment Plan.
- 8.9. The Clerk had written a short article for the October edition of the Village magazine about the vacancy for a litter picker. Cllr Horner had posted it on Facebook.
- 8.10. Bus times had been added to the noticeboard.

9. Financial matters

- 9.1. Clerk's financial report:
 - 9.1.1. Balances at 31 August were Current a/c £3,705.85; Reserve a/c £21,635.48; CIL £11,951.73
 - 9.1.2. Funds received since the July meeting: NYC refunds for verge cutting £423.79 in 2025 and £438.20 in 2026; PS Renewables £10,000; NYC Tour of Britain contribution on behalf of the Mayor to bunting and refreshments £318; Helperby Surgery £40.77.
 - 9.1.3. Transfers made £10,000 from Current to Reserve a/c and £768 from CIL to Current a/c re repairs to fencing on Swale Green originally paid out of the Current a/c.
 - 9.1.4. The Clerk is to invoice for expenses later re a poppy wreath and stationery £36.98.
- 9.2. To note Payment Card Purchases (PCP) and note or approve payment of accounts received.
- 9.3. Payment card virtual landline £12.85 and Microsoft £9.85 in both July and August. **Noted**
- 9.4. Clerk's expenses re new defibrillator pads £81.54, half the cost reimbursed by the surgery **Noted**
- 9.5. HMRC PAYE £239.82 **Noted**
- 9.6. Vivienne Watson IT tuition for the Clerk £100 **Noted**
- 9.7. Ken Westerman gardening £48 **Noted**
- 9.8. Mick Harland re fencing on Swale Green **Noted**
- 9.9. PKF Littlejohn external auditors re AGAR sign-off £252 **Approved**
- 9.10. Chairman's expenses re Tour of Britain bunting and refreshments £276.71 **Approved**
- 9.11. Paul Consadine for refurbishing benches and noticeboard £520.55 **Approved**
- 9.12. Terry Bowman cutting back the Pinfold £87.50 **Approved**

10. Matters for Consideration

- 10.1. Allocation of Community Benefit Funds up to £10,000. The Chairman presented a report on options. It was agreed to donate £8,000 to the Helperby and Brafferton Sports Association and £2,000 to St Peter's Church towards the £2,750 cost of sensors.
- 10.2. Lychgate steps. It was agreed to buy a black metal handrail costing £258.95 for the steps from the top of the bank by the lychgate to the bottom of Bridge Street.
- 10.3. Social media policy for Facebook. The draft policy circulated earlier was adopted.
- 10.4. Litter picker. A successor to Ken Westerman was being sought. Applications must be with the Clerk by 20 October.

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- 10.5. Gardening on church bank. The Chairman is preparing a specification. Cllr Mitchell is seeking volunteers in the Bridge Street area.
- 10.6 Replacing felled sycamore on the bridleway by Swale Green. The Chairman is to contact the Bridleways team for permission.

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

- 11.1. Cobbles project. No action required.

12. To consider the following Planning Matters

- 12.1. Amended 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 26/04228/TPO. Pruning two lateral branches of beech tree in the churchyard overhanging a resident's garden. Parish Council and Parochial Church Council had both objected. **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 **Granted.**

14. Closing Matters

- 15. Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting: 20mph speed limit,
- 16. The date of the next Council meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 21 October 2026.