

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on 21 October 2026

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Vaughan. Present: Cllr Denison (chairman), Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Darwin, Cllr Horner, Cllr Gale, Cllr Lewis.
2. Declarations of Interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. Cllr Denison re 9.6; 12.1. and 13.3. Cllr Gale re 13.1.
3. Chairman's report;
 - 3.1. Seven volunteers had come forward to help people struggling to get prescriptions or attend appointments in Boroughbridge during the surgery's closure in September, but they had not been called on.
 - 3.2. The shop was well liked and would be coming forward with plans for an awning;
 - 3.3. A member of the public was invited to speak about the Golden Lion and said an offer had been accepted by the owners, but the identity of the buyer was not known;
 - 3.4. The Oak Tree Inn was for sale for £850,000.
 - 3.5. No one had come forward to fill the vacancies in the Community Association. A member of the public said the school PTA was interested in taking over the Christmas tree arrangements.
 - 3.6. Work had started on the Pilmoor Solar Farm.
 - 3.7. Sue Graham had been appointed as the new litter picker for the village.
 - 3.8. Louise Denison and Georgey Spanswick were thanked for looking after the flower borders by the church lych-gate as volunteers.
 - 3.9. NYC had confirmed road closure arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.
 - 3.10. Construction work had started at the Sports Association pavilion. A further c. £37,000 was required to achieve its funding target.
 - 3.11. A member of the public said the lease for the Recreation Trust was close to being completed by the Estate which would open the way for grant applications.
 - 3.12. A meeting was being held in the village hall about plans to replace chicken sheds with new buildings in the neighbouring parish of Kirkby Hill
4. News from North Yorkshire Council (NYC):

Cllr Alyson Baker said she would be laying a NYC wreath at Raskelf on Remembrance Sunday and could therefore not attend at Helperby. She spoke of her surgeries, Locality grants, new arrangements for bins late next year and that she had sent the clerk updates on highway matters. She left the meeting at 8.30pm.
5. Comments from Councillors:

Cllr Horner was going to put information on the Council's social media policy in a prominent place on Facebook and that she would speak to the school about their interest in getting involved with litter picking. Cllr Gale asked about implications of the offer for the Golden Lion, The Chairman said the pub could not be converted into a house without change of use being granted.
6. Public participation

There were 13 members of the public present. One raised the implications of the Community Association no longer being able to function due to lack of support. It was agreed she would email the clerk an inventory of its physical assets, their location and the balance of funds held so that these could be discussed offline. This would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

The rest of the session involved discussion about highways issues. One speaker referred to vehicles going too quickly by the S bend on Boroughbridge Road and added that lighting there was non-existent. Another speaker spoke of the poor condition of the pavement and said that the point at which people were supposed to cross the road to St. Peter's Close was obstructed with a pile of soil. The Chairman said he would raise the issue of lighting with NYC and examine the obstruction the next day. He said that the engineer had drawn up a scheme to resurface the pavement from Broad Ford Drive to the Oak Tree and from the Oak Tree on the south side of Raskelf Road but they would not be done until the new financial year, if NYC's budgets allowed.

Another speaker said taking children with bikes along Main Street was a nightmare as it was a shared space. He had collected evidence of vehicle speeds and movements on sensor and would be happy to make that available and attend a meeting with the traffic engineer. A further speaker said the Vehicle

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Activated Signs (VAS) had found one vehicle doing 75 mph and that every day some vehicles were doing at least 50 mph on all three roads into the village.

The Chairman said traffic calming measures introduced 25 years ago needed to be renovated and updated. He summarised his position saying that the village needed a proper, considered strategy to mitigate the situation that would never be ideal but would make the best of what we had and be achievable. He would discuss the options at a site meeting with the Highway Engineer and report back. Finally, Cllr Gale spoke of NYC's speed limit assessment process. He said the parish council needed to work with the engineer to see how far we met the criteria for a 20 mph limit. We would do well on some points such as the shared space on Main Street and on-air quality concerns but less well on others. It could take years to achieve that speed limit, but this should not stop us from pressing for better traffic calming measures.

7. The minutes of the last meeting of the Council on 16 September were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
8. Clerk's report and new correspondence received
 - 8.1. Six emails and one handwritten letter had been received re road safety concerns and circulated to councillors. All the authors had been invited to attend the council meeting. A further email had been received the previous day about a particular serious incident which had been reported to NYC as soon as it was known. The Chairman spoke about the detailed responses received from NYC to a variety of highways matters.
 - 8.2. Letters of thanks for two donations were received from the Sports Association and St. Peter's Church.
 - 8.3. A Forest School had been held in the Millenium Wood following risk assessments being made by the organiser and the council.
 - 8.4. Four blocked gullies and two defective lights had been reported to NYC.
 - 8.5. The council's social media policy and AGAR completion certificate had both been uploaded to the website.
 - 8.6. Brash at the corner of Main Street and Dun Royal had been reported to Broadacres.
 - 8.7. A handrail for church bank had been ordered and installed.
 - 8.8. The new litter picker, Sue Geraham, had been appointed, briefed and issued with collection bags and a grabber.

9. Financial matters

- 9.1. Clerk's financial report
 - 9.1.1. The balances at 30 September were Current a/c £11,792.19; Reserve a/c £11,704.93; CIL a/c £11,492.00. These were confirmed by Cllr Darwin of the Financial Working Group who also agreed the bank reconciliation statement.
 - 9.1.2. Funds received since the September meeting were £9,300, the second tranche of the precept from NYC.
 - 9.1.3. Transfers made were £10,000 from the Reserve to the Current a/c to cover the two donations of £8,000 and £2,000; £520.55 from the Cil a/c to the Current a/c to cover the costs of repairs to the fencing on the village green; £264.90 from the CIL to the Current a/c to cover the cost of the church bank handrail.
 - 9.1.4. Interest received for the quarter £60.82 CIL and £69.45 Reserve.
- 9.2. To note Payment Card Purchases (PCP) and note or approve payment of accounts received: All the payments below were **Noted**
- 9.3. Monthly Microsoft subs plus Virtual Landline £37.05
- 9.4. PK Littlejohn re AGAR audit £252.
- 9.5. Clerk's expenses re stationery and poppy wreath £36.98
- 9.6. Chairman's expenses re Tour of Britain cycle race £276.71
- 9.7. Paul Consadine refurbishing benches and noticeboard £520.55
- 9.8. Terry Bowman cutting back Pinfold Hedge £87.50.
- 9.9. St Peter's Church, Brafferton community benefit fund payment re sensors £2,000
- 9.10. Helperby & Brafferton Sports Association community benefit fund payment re sports hub £8,000.

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- 9.11 Kyle and Upper Ouse Drainage Board annual rates £5.40
- 9.12. Terry Bowman work on the Hornby £162.50
- 9.13. National Allotment Society annual subscription £84
- 9.14. Clerk's expenses re handrail purchase £264.90.
- 9.15. HMRC PAYE for quarter £441.21

10. Matters for Consideration

- 10.1. Matters arising from the termination of the Community Association. Discussed in public participation. **Resolved:** that the council acknowledges the good work done over the years by the Community Association, particularly on the Feast, the bonfire and the Christmas tree lights and thanks the group's members for their efforts.
- 10.2. Parking for the visit of the Archbishop of York, 6 December. This could be provided in the village hall if there were no events on; in the school's premises and, if ground conditions allow on the day, up to 12 spaces on the village green as it was an exceptional event.
- 10.3. Highways issues and potential for a 20mph limit. Discussed in public participation. It was noted that the more evidence that could be gathered, the better and that any near misses should be reported to the police.

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. Planning application 26/06492/TPO Crown lift a beech tree covered by TPO reference 1989/04 in St Peter's churchyard, Brafferton. **Resolved:** no objections from the Parish Council.

13. To receive the following Planning Decisions/information

- 13.1. Amended Planning Application 26/0977/LB for conversion of outbuildings Old Starr Cottage, Helperby. **Granted**
- 13.2. Amended Planning Application 26/05489 for alternative solar panels 8 St Peter's Close, Brafferton. **Granted**
- 13.3. Planning Application 26/05128/TCON for pollarding six lime trees, The Doctors House, Helperby. **Granted**
- 13.4. Planning Application 26/05363/FUL for construction of three-bay garage, Laurel Farm, Brafferton No objections – awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council.
- 13.5. Planning Application 26/05364/LB for construction of three-bay garage, Laurel Farm, Brafferton **Withdrawn**
- 13.6. 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.
- 13.7. 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.

14. Closing Matters

- 15. Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting; the future of the Community Association's physical assets and funds.
- 16. The date of the next Council meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 18 November 26