

MINUTES OF THE EAST WITTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 March 2025 IN THE PARISH ROOM.

Present

Mrs M de Vaal	Vice Chair
Mr R Wells	Councillor
Mr A Fullerton	Councillor
Mrs C Dent	Councillor
Ms Sarah Sayer	Clerk to the Parish Council
PSCO Don Watson	NY Police
Cllr Karin Sedgwick	County Councillor

Item 1 **Introduction and Apologies**

The Vice Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Apologies received from Cllr Mary Fawbert – Chair. This was due to a health related reason and the reason was accepted.

Item 2 **To note any Declarations of Interest**

None

Item 3 **Item 3 – Public Participation**

None

Item 4 **Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 20 November 2024 were approved and signed by the Vice Chair.

Item 5 **Matters arising**

Street Lighting

Cllr Sedgwick will chase this up on our behalf as no reply has been forthcoming.

Rotary Club donation

Suggestions included:

- Grinding out an old tree stump from tree felled a few years ago, and plant something in that location.
- Look at planting trees adjacent to garage at 1 Fell View, East Witton, on an area of land between track/path.
- Buy seeds or plug plants to rejuvenate the wildflower patch. RW to speak to Pauline Hargill.

Flooding on A6108

A meeting was held with Highways, Peter Casey – Strutt & Parker, agents for East Witton Estate and the Parish Council (Cllr Christine Dent). The Highways Engineer will schedule another effort to blast/flush out the blockage.

Highways felt the issue has arisen due to agricultural development higher up the land, which has resulted in more water and debris using the culvert. Peter Casey, land agent for East Witton Estate, was not convinced this was to blame at all. Cllr Dent queried if the culvert could have collapsed, but Highway engineers said that there was no collapse. A camera had been used previously to rule this out, but will be used again when the work is scheduled.

No timescales have been given, but Karin Sedgwick will try and get an indication of where we are in the 2025/26 works programme.

Cllr Dent to keep on top of the issue.

Karin Sedgwick – Update on broader Council issues

The demand for services is increasing but the Council budget is decreasing. The Government grant for Rural Services has decreased by 14.3 million. NYC have mounted a legal challenge, but so far Government have rejected the assertions that the needs in rural areas are greater than elsewhere.

Savings have been made at NYC by reducing Managers and disposing of buildings. Council Tax has been raised by the 5% maximum and also resolved to charge double Council Tax on second homes.

Services such as home school transport have been cut. This can be appealed on an individual basis.

Cllr de Vaal asked if school mergers and the closure of Leyburn 6th Form had cut costs for the Council. Not really as transport to alternative schools had increased.

NYC have a target to build 4200 new homes per year. The challenge is to find suitable sites. Currently in our local area there is a scheme for 127 in Leyburn and 55 in Middleham. The Yorvick homes scheme in Leyburn provides for £400,000 to build a new classroom at Leyburn Primary School plus £150,000 to create a bus link from the Moor Road Estate into town. This forms part of the Section 106 legal agreement. The infrastructure considerations in place are in terms of drainage and water attenuation, but Cllr Sedgwick was not sure about improvements to the sewage system. R.Wells raised concerns about overflow into the Ure. The recent flooding in the area enabled an outflow of 3800 continuous hours.

Advised that the Locality Budget has been halved to £5,000 per year from April.

PCSO Don Watson

Community Messaging Forms were handed out and completed so that Councillors would be aware of crimes in the area quicker. This can then be shared more widely via FB page etc. The Noticeboard has details of this initiative, and anyone can sign up.

Discussed the monthly crime report and the resources available in North Yorkshire, which are quite limited for such a large area.

PC noted its appreciation to the Community Officers and praised the regular patrols of the village.

Item 6 Planning

- a) To consider planning applications received. Actions noted in the box.

Planning Consultations

Reference No.	Proposal	Comments
R/89/132	Full planning permission for re-construction of a semi-derelict garage (retrospective) at Braithwaite Cottage, Braithwaite Lane, East Witton	Only a comment received from Richard Wells – no objection
ZD25/00026/FULL	Full Planning Permission for change of use from seasonal play area/maize maze to site for 10no. cabins at High Jervaulx Farm Jervaulx Ripon North Yorkshire	10 seems quite a lot. Possible issue with ingress and egress onto the highway. Highways have been consulted so leave it for them to give a professional opinion.

		Comments not yet submitted. Clarify if Clerk needs to respond - No
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Planning Decisions

Reference No.	Proposal	Decision	Date
ZD24/00280/FULL	Full Planning Permission for Change of Use of Garden Land for the Siting of 2 no Log Cabins for Short Term Holiday Accommodation at (Revised Application) at 1 Jervaulx Cottage Kilgram Lane Jervaulx Ripon	Granted	23 December 2024

- b) To consider any other planning related issue.
The cottage at 1 Jervaulx Cottages was noted as being available as a long term let. Were interested persons aware of the log cabins? Possibly not being made aware.

Item 7 Accounts

- a) To approve payments and receipts as detailed in Appendix 2

2024/25	Payments	
10/12/24	SL Sayer (Clerks Salary)	£274.66
08/12/24	SL Sayer MICROSOFT sub	£79.99
31/12/24	HMRC	£68.80
		£423.45
2024/25	Receipts	
	Vat refund due but no Dec/Jan Bank Statement as yet	£361.67

- b) To note budget situation as detailed in Appendix 3

Appendix 3 - On-going 2024/25	Budget Situation
Income to date (£4248.74) plus balance b/f from 2023/24 of £1,110.34	£5,359.08
Expenditure to date 2024/25	£4,095.38
Balance	£1,263.70

Resolved: To approve the accounts as presented.

- c) To appoint the Internal Auditor as Mrs T Lambert, Treasurer at Carperby Pavilion.
Resolved to accept Tracey Lambert as the internal auditor.
- d) To note the need to remind the grass cutting contractors, GCH Garden Maintenance, that there is an agreement to cut the grass up to a maximum of 14 times a year. **Clerk to write.**

Item 8 Correspondence

- a) To note the correspondence received and sent.
- b) To decide if we wish to partake in the Rotary Club Best Kept Village Competition 2025.
Voted not to participate this year. **Clerk to email a response to the organisers.**
- c) **Clerk to Contact Catherine Greenwood and Peter Casey** about Braithwaite Lane gulleys and the requirement to keep them open.
- d) **Clerk to contact Dents and Browns** regarding large tractor movements and advance warning. Cllr de Vaal to put a generic post on the FB page.
- e) **Clerk to Contact Catherine Greenwood and Julia Brown** about the Annual Meeting date in May 2025
- f) **Clerk to contact GCH Garden Maintenance** to clarify number of times per annum to cut the village green

Correspondence received from 11 Nov 2024 to 21/02/25

From	Description	Action
LRSS	Groundworks & Maintenance	Request to tender for grass cutting. Replied to say we will bear in mind.
20's plenty	Zoom meeting relaunch 14/01/25	Circulated
North Yorkshire Mayor	Raising awareness of the budget consultation	Circulated
Opinion Research Services	Gypsy and traveller accommodation Assessment	Circulated – replied only site opposite Cover Bridge affects EWPC.
Cameras For North Yorkshire	Please join the campaign.	Circulated
Parliament UK	Asking for events which may tie in with Rishi Sunak's visit.	
Peter Casey – Strutt & Parker	Request for a joined up approach to water on the Highway at Mill House	Christine to attend site visit.
YDNPA	Spring Parish Forum invite	RW to attend
YDNPA	Trees & Woodlands weekly updates	Circulated
YDNPA	Autumn Parish Forum recording of presentation.	Circulated
YDNPA	Management Plan Consultation	Circulated
YDNPA	Parish Newsletter – Winter edition	Circulated
RPM Bike trials Display Show	Email asking if we have any suitable events planned.	Circulated
Leyburn Police	Monthly crime reports	Circulated
PCSO NY Police	Request for meeting dates	Replied with dates
NYC Police	Deputy Mayor Newsletter	
NYC	Parish Liaison Meetings Nov	Circulated
NYC	Consultation on changes to age range at Wensleydale School by ceasing the 6th Form provision	Circulated – No comments
NYC	Disruption to bin collections due to weather	Circulated
NYC	NY Parish Liaison update Nov & Dec 2024	Circulated
YLCA	Training Bulletins	Circulated
YLCA	Civility & Respect Newsletters	Circulated
YLCA	Chief Executives Bulletins	Circulated

YLCA	White Rose Bulletins	Circulated
YLCA	Law & Governance Bulletin	Circulated
YLCA	Protocols for death of a senior national figure	Circulated

Correspondence sent from 11 Nov 2024 to 21/02/25

Recipient	Description	Comments
NYC signs on highway	Emailed via the new Parish Portal in respect of chevron signs near the church. Michele had raised the issue via email.	Parish Portal logged issue on 10/01/25
NYC water on highway	Christine has logged this again with Highways and will keep pushing.	Jan/Feb 2025
Recipient	Description	Comments

Item 9 Other Business and Items for next meeting agenda

- Information Boards – Locality Budget?
- Road flooding A6108.
- Flooding on Braithwaite Lane.
- Farm Machinery in the village.

Item 10 To confirm date and time of next meeting

Date of the next meeting is Wednesday 07 May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Parish Room. This will also include the Annual Meeting.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY PUBLIC QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE CLERK AT LEAST 3 WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING.

Signature.....

Date.....