

MINUTES OF THE EAST WITTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 November 2025 IN THE PARISH ROOM.

Present

Mr Richard Wells	Chair
Mr Alan Fullerton	Councillor
Mrs Christine Dent	Councillor
Mrs Andrea Cooper	Councillor
Mr Tony Whitbread	Councillor
Ms Sarah Sayer	Clerk to the Parish Council
Cllr Karin Sedgwick	North Yorkshire Council
Ms Mags Cran	Resident of East Witton
Mr Donald Farquharson	Resident of East Witton
Mr John Cooper	Resident of East Witton

The meeting started with a minutes' silence in memory of Mary Fawbert, resident of the village for a great many years and former Chair to the Parish Council.

Item 1 Introduction and Apologies

None

Item 2 Co-option of new Councillor

The vacancy was advertised in September for the prescribed period. One application was received from Mr Tony Whitbread. This was accepted by the Chair and Councillors present at the meeting and Mr Whitbread was co-opted on to the Parish Council. The 'acceptance of office' papers were completed at the meeting and signed by persons present. **Clerk to retain on file.** The Declarations of Interests Form was also completed and handed to the Clerk, who will **notify Democratic Services.**

Item 3 To note any Declarations of Interest

None

Item 4 Item 3 – Public Participation

Mr Farquarson raised an issue with potholes in the Parish and the crumbling road edges. The road next to the church was highlighted as an area which may be eligible for repair. Karin Sedgwick advised that potholes were always assessed if they have been raised as a concern and if the pothole met the criteria, they would be repaired. Anyone can report a pothole.

Item 5 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 September 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

Item 6 Matters arising

- Flooding on Braithwaite Lane.
The obstructions in the culverts have been cleared, following many months/years of requests to the Estate. The situation will be monitored to see if the remedial works can cope with future flooding events. It was noted by the Chair that Sue Ebbidge has had a hand in getting this resolved by contacting Catherine Greenwood daily.
- Streetlights
NYC have now replied to say that the Council is undertaking a survey of all streetlights. Mags Cran advised that East Witton has now been surveyed and she herself has had some success in asking the Council to change the light on No.19 to a lower watt bulb and to angle the beam away from the

house windows. The long term plan is for North Yorkshire Council to review the on/off times and the bulbs used. Residents said that the lights are on ALL NIGHT. The Parish Council may wish to request specific on/off times, but it was decided to wait and see what NYC do as a result of their survey.

Our preference would be:

Turn on at Dawn and off at Daylight every morning (approx. 5.30am -8am)

Turn on at Dusk and off at 10pm every night (approx. 4.30pm to 10pm)

- Items stored outside houses and edging stones/timber blocks adjacent to Highway
Clerk has been in contact with Strutt & Parker, who have drafted a letter to deliver to all residents. **Clerk to chase progress.**
- Requirement to have a .gov.uk domain name and email address
Clerk attended training event on Zoom. Having a .gov.uk domain is not yet mandatory as long as we have a.co.uk domain name or .com, .org. Also to change the Clerks email address to match the web domain name.

Councillors resolved not to move to a .gov.uk domain name until it became mandatory.

Clerk to action the email address change.

Item 7

Letter from Jackie Thirsk

The Chair summarised the letter which raised concerns by a neighbour over the use of power tools by Mr John Cooper and the noise generated by this on a daily basis. Mr Cooper attended the meeting and was able to respond to say that he has adhered to the rules set out by North Yorkshire Council and has not used power tools outside of the hours 8am-6pm Mon-Fri and 8am to 1pm Saturday and not at all on a Sundays/Bank Holidays. This was challenged by Mags Cran, resident of East Witton, who was at the meeting, but it was acknowledged that Mr Cooper does now stay within those times. Cllr Dent asked if the work was now complete at the property. Mr Cooper advised that the construction of the walls was complete and only maintenance required going forward. The Chair acknowledged that the grievance had been aired and Mr Cooper has given his response and that the issue was not a Parish Council matter.

Item 8

Planning

- Noted planning applications received (Appendix 1)

Planning Consultations

Reference No.	Proposal	Comments
ZD25/00597/FULL	Erection of single storey garden room/potting shed at Harkerbeck, Jervaulx	None
ZD25/00557/FULL	Creation of new access and track at Angram Cote Farm, Stark Bank Road, Ellingstring	None

Planning Decisions

Reference No.	Proposal	Decision	Date
ZD25/00359/FULL	Extension of earth banked slurry store at Low Newstead, Newstead Lane, Jervaulx	Granted	06/11/25
R/89/132	Re-construction of a semi-derelict garage (retrospective)at Braithwaite Cottage, Braithwaite Lane, East Witton	Granted	10/10/25

- To consider any other planning related issue – None raised

Item 9 Accounts

- a) To approve payments as detailed in Appendix 2 – done but Clerk raised concern over the cost of the Microsoft Office Subscription.

Clerk to look into cheaper options.

Appendix 2		Sum
Payments since last papers	Payments 2025/26	
06/09/25	GCH Garden Maintenance	£320.00
16/09/25	S Sayer - 2nd Quarter	£274.86
16/09/25	HMRC	£68.60
13/10/25	GCH Garden Maintenance	£160.00
06/11/25	Royal British Legion	£20.00
06/11/25	St Johns Church	£150.00
06/11/25	YLCA webinar	£10.00
26/11/25	Microsoft Office Subscription	£104.99
	TOTAL	<u>1108.45</u>
2025/26	<u>Receipts</u>	
	None	

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

Appendix 3 - On-going 2025/26	Budget Situation
Income to date (£4250.00) plus balance b/f from 2024/25 of £963.39	£5,412.13
Expenditure to date 2025/26	£3,327.51
Balance	£2,084.62
Anticipated approximate expenditure to end of year	£1100.00

- b) To set the Parish Precept for 2026/27

The precept was discussed and potential additional costs anticipated for:

- Grass cutting cost increase
- Tree assessment
- Possible tree works
- Insurance cost increase
- Clerks salary increase

It was there for decided to increase by £200 from £4250 to £4450. **Clerk to advise NYC of the Precept sum for 2026/27**

Item 10 Correspondence

a) To note correspondence received.

Correspondence received from 25/08/25 to 15/11/25

From	Description	Action
Michele de Vaal	Letter of resignation	Read at the last meeting
Michele de Vaal	Email to highlight a concern at 4 Fell View regarding large vehicles catching the tree branches opposite their house.	Read at the last meeting. RW and AF to look at it.
Jackie Thirsk	Letter regarding power tools	Read, but not discussed in detail. Put on agenda in November 2025.
Citizen Advice	Request for donation	PC does not give to external charitable organisations
Boundary Commission	North Yorkshires Electoral arrangements	Circulated
Rural Services Network	Newsletters	Circulated
YDNPA	Trees & Woodlands weekly updates	Circulated
YDNPA	Autumn Parish Forum invitation	R Wells to attend.
YDNPA	Autumn Newsletter	Circulated
YDNPA	Management Plan 2025-30 published	Circulated
YDNPA	Local Plan submitted to MHCLG	Circulated
Leyburn Police	Monthly crime reports	Circulated
NYC Highways	Road closures	Circulated when relevant
NYC Definitive Map Team	Information about upgrading footpath to bridleway at Stark Bank Road to Sowden Beck Road	Discussed at Sept meeting
NYC Democratic Services	Richmondshire Area Committee Meeting 15 Sept 2025	Papers circulated
NYC	Parish Liaison updates/Parish Newsletters	Circulated
NYC/Cllr Sedgwick	Streetlight issue.	Update PC at the meeting
NYC	Consultation about Middleham & Spennithorne Primary Schools	Circulated
NYC	NY Parish Liaison – radio tele-switch meter phase out	Circulated
NYC	NY Parish Liaison – virtual surgeries	Circulated
YLCA	Richmondshire Branch Meeting date	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

Recipient	Description	Comments
Michele de Vaal	Letter of thanks from the PC and flowers	
Mags Cran	Letter of concern regarding flooding on Braithwaite Lane	21/10/25 replied and advised of the Estates position and assurances.
Strutt & Parker	Clerk sent chase up letter regarding the blocked drainage channels.	15/10/25 and estate replied to say they have

		reached an agreement with landowner and culverts will be unblocked in the 'coming weeks'.
Strutt & Parker	Asked Estate to assist with the issue of items being placed on areas of the village green.	17 Oct 2025 – Peter Casey replied to say the Estate will write a blanket letter to households.
NYC Highways	Village sign opposite church has been damaged	Reported via the Parish Portal Oct 2025
Adam Curtis	Clerk correspondence with web provider regarding name and email address.	Email address will be changed to align with domain name
GHC Garden Maintenance	Emailed contractor to remind that only 3 cuts left from now to end of March 2026	06 Sept 2025 – no reply.
NYC Streets Management	Emailed regarding the streetlights in the village	16 Oct 2025 – NYC replied to say a County wide programme/survey is being undertaken and that will inform the future of our lighting strategy.
NYC Electoral Services	Notified of vacancy on the PC	12 Sept 2025
Heather Campbell Leyburn Police Station	Request for 2026 dates for Parish Council Meetings	Advised they are arranged at each meeting and will let her know when March meeting will be.
Diane Crosier	Booking for November meeting	16 Sept 2025

Item 11 To note matters for information and items for next meeting agenda

- Potholes
- Streetlights
- Village sign
- Culverts on Braithwaite Lane
- Appointment of the internal auditor
- Extending the reach of the Parish Council within the Community

Item 12 To confirm date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7.30pm.

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

Signature.....

Date.....