

ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

held on Thursday 24th July 2025 starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Helen Dawson (Chair)
Councillors Jason Boakes Mark Walker David Wiseman
Kathryn Smith

In attendance: One resident, Ward Cllr. Hook and the Clerk.

1. CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

As Vice Chair, Cllr. Dawson agreed to chair the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES.

There were no apologies.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.

None.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One resident was in attendance being the person who was cutting the grass on the Recreational Area (and also the churchyard). He had emailed the Clerk but his email had not been picked up in time for his request to be an agenda item. He advised the PC that the hover mower was in need of replacement. This was used to cut the mounds and was not urgent. The hover mower was twenty-five years old and had originally been bought jointly by the Church and the PC. He advised that the tractor mower was also twenty-five years old and had also been bought jointly by the Church and the PC. The tractor mower was probably good until the end of the 2025 growing season but with ever increasing maintenance costs, the 2026/27 budget might need to be an allow for the cost of a replacement. He suggested either a new mower or a second hand one, Councillors were not in favour of the latter option. The estimated cost of a replacement hover mower was £450 and a tractor mower would be between £2,000 and £3,000. Cllr. Walker agreed to speak to his cousin about this (in about September). There was also a strimmer. The Ward Councillor advised that Ward Committee grants might be available. The Recreational Area would be rolled in the autumn.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PC HELD ON 26th JUNE 2025.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the PC held on 26th June 2025 (198-200) be approved and that Cllr. Dawson who chaired that meeting be authorised to sign.

6. PLANNING

a. Planning Applications Received

- i. 25/01286/TCA - Hjem, 99 Main Street - Fell 1no. Conifer tree (T1) and hedge (H1) - tree in a conservation area.
- ii. 25/01388/TCA - Hjem, 99 Main Street - Remove dead wood and up to 10% crown thin 1no. Oak - tree in a conservation area.

It was **resolved** to raise **No Objections** to either of the above two applications.

b. Planning Decision Notices Received

No planning decision notices had been received since the last meeting.

7. CRIME REPORT

There were no reported crimes in June.

8. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR.

The Ward Councillor reported that a road in Skelton had been resurfaced, however, there had still been no progress on Chapel Lane other than the fact that two weeks ago, pot holes had been highlighted by marker sprays. The road had been closed recently for works being carried out at one of the adjacent properties. The Ward Councillor agreed to pursue this. She also reported on the park and ride which would be operating additional hours (5:30pm to 10:30pm) and associated overnight parking was being introduced.

9. OTHER MATTERS.

9.1 Village Hall matters.

This was now a standing agenda item as per item 3 of the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2025 (page 198). There was nothing to report, possibly due to a lack of communication with the Village Hall informing them of this. They would therefore be made aware.

10. FINANCE

10.1 Report of invoices to be paid.

It was **resolved** that payment of the following invoices to be approved, all in favour.

- a) Monthly bank charges - £4.25.
- b) Insurance Premium – Zurich - £500.
- c) Seven trays of geraniums for Askham Bryan planters (7 x £2.90) plus a bag of compost (£6.00) - Dalby's Nurseries Limited - Jo Fell

10.2 Report of budgeted income and expenditure to date versus actual.

The monthly report of budgeted income and expenditure to date versus actual had been circulated and the contents noted. There would be an agenda item next time to consider amendments to the budget with a view to reallocating funds budgeted elsewhere towards the cost of a new hover mower.

11 ACTION TRACKER

An Action Tracker had been circulated with the agenda papers listing all previously agreed actions and reports on progress.

The following items would be considered as completed and taken off the Action Tracker;

- a. 20mph zones. It was agreed that Cllr. Wiseman did not need to make further enquiries to gauge how much interest there was in the Parish in having this restriction.
- b. Concerns of the Village Hall regarding the Christmas Tree. This would be considered as completed until the November 2025 meeting when it would be reinstated as part of the plans for the 2025 Christmas event. It was suggested that a smaller Christmas Tree be purchased next time, between ten and twelve feet high and a location be agreed.
- c. Trees overhanging the public highway and footway which were less than the required clearance above the kerb of 5.2 metres. Councillors were now happy that there was sufficient clearance of the tree canopy above the public highway and footway.
- d. There was discussion about the Glebe land and the tenant who rented it. It was agreed that Cllr. Wiseman did not need to make further enquiries.

The following actions were agreed in order to progress other items;

- a. Consultation by City of York Council (CYC) on proposals to extend smoke control areas (SCA). Cllr. Wiseman agreed to draft a letter to the Public Protection Team (as suggested by the Ward Councillor) for formal submission by the Clerk.
- b. In response to the challenge issued at the last meeting that every Councillor make a personal approach to someone regarding becoming a Councillor, Cllr. Dawson had approached a husband and his wife and Cllr. Barber had approached someone, in each case the offer to join the PC was declined.
- c. The Twenty's Plenty signs were still to be taken down.

- d. Purchase a shed for storage of PC equipment once a suitable location for the shed had been found. Cllr. Boakes would speak to former Chair about this as materials for the twelve days of Christmas were being stored at his house.
- e. Newsletter article to address concerns that some residents were continuing to exercise their dogs on the Recreational Area. Cllr. Wiseman agreed to draft an appropriate article for the newsletter, suggesting that failure to pick up dog mess was a fineable offence.
- f. The Clerk would pursue CYC Planning Enforcement regarding a gate put up without waiting for planning permission. The Clerk would send another email to CYC Planning Enforcement having not had a reply to his previous two emails.
- g. With the resignation of Cllr. Peers, a new person would be needed to administer the Facebook page. An appeal for a volunteer would be made.
- h. Cllr. Smith had requested that the contact details for the PC on the back of the newsletter be updated, it no longer showed the former Chair with the Clerk now being the only contact listed.
- i. In the interests of business continuity, the Clerk would produce a list of organisations who would need to be informed of a change of address if this became necessary. This list would be held by the Chair alongside the user ID and password information already supplied. This was still ongoing.

12 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates for forthcoming meetings in 2025 were;

28th August, 25th September, 23rd October and 27th November.

All to be held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 8:24pm.

Signed

28 August 2025