

ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

held on Thursday 22nd January 2026 starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

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

In attendance: 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

There were no members of the public in attendance.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PC HELD ON 27th NOVEMBER 2025.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the PC held on 27th November 2025 (211-213) be approved and that Cllr. Dawson be authorised to sign.

6. PLANNING

a. Planning Applications Received

- i. 25/02326/TCA - 135 Main Street - Crown reduce 1no. Picea abies ("Christmas tree") in rear garden up to 25% - tree in a conservation area.
This application had been determined by from the Local Planning Authority since the agenda had been circulated.
- ii. 25/02481/TCA - Chapel House, 2 Chapel Lane - Up to 4m crown reduction 10% thin of 1no. Oak - tree in a Conservation Area.
It was **resolved** to raise **No Objections** to this proposal.

b. Planning Decision Notices Received

There was one planning decision to report since the last meeting. There had been no objections from the Local Planning Authority.

- i. 25/01932/TCA - 2 Saint Nicholas Croft - Fell 3no. Plum (rear gdn) and remedial pruning of Ornamental Plum (front gdn) to crown raise to 2.4m over pavement and lateral reduction of branches growing towards to property to give up to 2m clearance - trees in a conservation area.

c. Planning Enforcement Case

- i. Response to the email from City of York Council (CYC) regarding 2 Main Street (case 24/00513/NOCONH).
The response by CYC Planning Enforcement regarding the above was discussed (item 6c of the minutes of the meeting of 27th November 2025, page 212 refers). Although the size of the gate was considered de minimus by CYC, it nevertheless breached permitted development rules (as permitted development rules allowed a one metre gate). The hedge had been restored but the new hedge was not a native species (bay leaf). It was noted that the property was up

for sale. It was **resolved** to write to CYC Planning Enforcement to express disappointment with their conclusions and to raise concerns about the hedge not being a native species and to suggest that allowing this would set a precedent.

7. CRIME REPORT

There were no reported crimes in November nor December. There were ongoing concerns about illegal hunting with lurchers but these had not been reported to the Police.

8. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR.

There was no report this time.

9. OTHER MATTERS.

9.1 Precept for 2026-27.

It was noted that the Council Tax Support (CTS) grant for 2026/27 would be £247. There was discussion about likely expenses in 2026/27, in particular the need to replace the tractor mower and storage of a new mower (especially if the old mower was not disposed of as soon as the new one was bought). The old one could be sold, Cllr. Walker agreed to speak to the leader of the grass cutting team about this. Replacements for the strimmer and the flymo were not needed. There was also discussion about playground maintenance and the use of glyphosate weedkiller. It was **resolved** to keep the precept the same as 2025/26, i.e. £11,073 which was in effect a reduction in real terms.

9.2 Concerns about a monthly street style drag racing event.

Concerns were expressed about a monthly street style drag racing event taking place at Rufford airfield, item 7 of the minutes of the PC meeting of 27th November 2025, page 212 refers. Those minutes suggest that Ward. Cllr. Hook would raise the matter at the next meeting of Rufforth Parish Council. An email would be sent to her to ascertain what their response had been. There were concerns about noise pollution, that cars using the public highway to attend the event were not roadworthy, concerns about traffic trying to access the event via Westwood Lane and the impact on users of the public right of way. It was noted that residents of Askham Richard were unhappy about this. The next event would be on 22nd February 2026. This item was deferred pending a reply from the Ward Cllr.

9.3 Village Hall matters.

There was nothing to report.

9.4 Matters for referral to the CYC Community Care Team.

There were no matters to refer this time.

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 - £4.75.
- b) Village Hall hire 2025 – 16th January*, 23rd January, 27th February, 20th March*, 27th March, 24th April, 22nd May^², 26th June, 24th July[†], 28th August, 18th September*, 25th September, 23rd October, 20th November* and 27th November. Those marked * were Natural Environment Committee (NEC) meetings at £9 each, the one marked ^² is for the two annual meetings plus an NEC meeting at £31.50, the one marked [†] was a combined NEC and Parish Council meeting at £27. All the others are Parish Council meetings at £18 each. Total £256.50
- c) Planting – 28 primulas and primrose £24.30, one bag of compost - £6, three trays of pansies for the pond - £6 – £36.30. Vertigrow Limited, Jo Fell.

- d) TEEC Limited - Hosting – Re-occurring Charges 12 months website hosting - £156 + VAT.
- e) TEEC Limited - Domain Migration Transfer / Purchase of a .org.uk domain - £9.99 + VAT.
- f) Annual Playground Inspection - Play Inspection Company - £155 + £31 VAT = £186.

An expenses claim was awaited for the 2025 Christmas trail. Cllr. Dawson was holding the cash raised at this event, mainly in the form of coins.

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.

11 CORRESPONDENCE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

A list of correspondence had been circulated and the contents noted. Item 880 was an email from Askham Bryan College regarding the festive displays saying that they were impressed with the creativity on show. A thank you letter would be sent to the residents who put together the Christmas trail.

12 ACTION TRACKER

An Action Tracker had been circulated with the agenda papers listing all previously agreed actions and reports on progress. It was agreed to consider the item about needing a storage shed as closed. There was a discussion about the Christmas event and whether to do something different in 2026 such as an event in September at harvest time or a barn dance. It was suggested that instead of relying on unpaid volunteers, paid contractors be engaged and it was suggested that such an event could be ticketed with the money raised being used to pay the cost of the event. It would still need someone to coordinate the planning. There would be an agenda item at the next meeting to consider this further and an appropriate article in the March newsletter and meanwhile, Cllr. Wiseman would investigate likely costs.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting would be 26th February 2026.

Meetings for the rest of 2026 after that would be;

19th March, 16th April, 21st May, 18th June, 16th July, 20th August, 17th September, 15th October and 19th November.

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

The meeting closed at 8:39pm.

Signed

26 February 2026