

ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

held on Thursday 26th February 2026 starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Helen Dawson (Chair)
Councillors Julie Barber Kathryn Smith Mark Walker

In attendance: Three members of the public and the Clerk.

1. CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

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

2. APOLOGIES.

There were apologies from Cllrs. Boakes and Wiseman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.

None.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two representatives of Curly's Athletes who spoke about a proposed 10K run to take place on the morning of 16th August 2026 which would start and finish at the College. This would raise funds for Project Moon Bear, a charity raising funds to protect Asiatic Black Bears. The run would go through Askham Richard and Bilbrough, subject to the consent of the three Parish Councils. They were seeing Askham Richard PC the following week but had heard nothing from Bilbrough PC. There would be a maximum of a thousand participants, a figure based on the car parking capacity of the College. Steps would be taken to prevent traffic exiting the College from using the Village as an alternative exit. There would be rolling road closures (although they hadn't yet reached the stage of making a formal application). There would be at least one drinks station, there would be a team who followed behind the runners known as plodders whose had responsibility for picking up discarded cups and any other litter arising from the event. The cups would be made of biodegradable material. They were experienced organisers of such events having run one in Bishop Burton in 2025 and with another planned for Escrick in 2026. They would liaise with local farmers, the owners of a wedding venue (which was on part of the route) and any other businesses affected by the event. Supporting literature was circulated to Councillors.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PC HELD ON 22nd JANUARY 2026.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the PC held on 22nd January 2026 (214-216) be approved and that Cllr. Dawson be authorised to sign.

6. PLANNING

a. Planning Application Received

- i. 26/00246/FUL - 153A Main Street - Replacement of all timber windows to uPVC, portico to front and alterations to boundary walls including front gate. The need to replace the existing windows was recognised but there were concerns that the proposed replacement was white polyvinyl chloride frames. It was felt that these were not in keeping with the street scene in a conservation area and that something similar to the windows in the convent next door would be more appropriate. Consideration was also given to the proposals for the gates. It was **resolved** to **Object** to this proposal for the reason given.

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.

7. CRIME REPORT

There were no reported crimes in January 2026.

8. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR.

- a. Ward Cllr. Hook reported that the number of potholes was four times more than in the same period last year and that funding had been diverted from elsewhere to help repair them. The contact point for such matters was Dave Atkinson, Director of Environment and Regulatory Services, City of York Council (CYC).
- b. A consultation about bin collections was ongoing with proposals to have a wheelie bin instead of a recycling box for paper and a recycling box for plastic. This would mean having four bins in total, the black and grey wheelie bin collection would be unaffected by this change.
- c. Regarding item 9.2, Ward Cllr. Hook reported that Rufforth had attempted to address concerns about the drag racing event at the airfield and had spoken to the event organisers but had given up trying. Cllr. Walker agreed to speak to the event organisers himself.
- d. Last November (or thereabouts) the top of the banking had been taken off along Westwood Lane and there had been a promise to put in a lid/join. Ward Cllr. Hook advised that the contact point is Mark Henderson.

9. OTHER MATTERS.

9.1 Annual inspection of the Recreational Area.

The annual inspection of the Recreational Area and playground equipment has been carried out and a report of their findings had been circulated to all. It was noted that all equipment surveyed had been classed as low risk or very low risk and as such, there were no matters requiring immediate attention. A post had been damaged by a strimmer.

9.2 Concerns about a monthly street style drag racing event.

This item had been dealt with under agenda item 8c (above).

9.3 To consider organising an event for the Village.

This item had been raised by Cllr. Wiseman at the January 2026 meeting, item 12, page 216 refers. In the absence of Cllr. Wiseman, this matter was deferred to the March meeting.

9.4 Village Hall matters.

A representative of the Village Hall management committee was in attendance and shared with the PC, aspirations for a dedicated Village Hall website which was up and running but not live. Permission was sought (and given) to use some of the images of the Village Hall currently on the PC website on the Village Hall website. Each website would contain links to the other.

9.5 Matters for referral to the CYC Community Care Team.

The Community Care Team were doing an hour and a half walkabout. It was considered, given the timescales, unlikely that they would manage to get to Askham Bryan but a request was made for them to clear Chapel Lane, time permitting. There would be an agenda item for the March meeting to consider asking for Chapel Lane to be made into a one-way street.

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.

An expenses claim was awaited for the 2025 Christmas trail. Cllr. Dawson would ask the landlord of the Nag's Head public house to submit a claim.

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 885 was an email from the organisers of the proposed 10K run (see public participation above). Item 891 was a notification from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to say that Askham Bog would be closed for several months starting from 23rd February 2026.

12 ACTION TRACKER

An Action Tracker had been circulated with the agenda papers listing all previously agreed actions and reports on progress. It was noted that the Natural Environment Committee were proposing a bug hotel and this had generated some comment on the Village WhatsApp group and that they had removed some ivy from the trees by the pond. It was agreed that going forwards, the Clerk would circulate a draft copy of the minutes of the Committee to all Councillors to keep them informed of what they were planning.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting would be 19th March 2026.

Meetings for the rest of 2026 after that would be;

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 8:28pm.

Signed

19 March 2026