

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Weaverthorpe Parish Council held on Monday 12th May 2025 at
7pm in Weaverthorpe Village Hall**

Present: M Rowland, S Taylor, O Burdett, R Downes, J Mason, T Thomson, F Shellard (Chairman), J House (Clerk)

There was one member of the public in attendance.

- 1. Election of Chairman of Weaverthorpe Parish Council:** The existing Chairman invited nominations to take on the role of Chairman for the next year, there were no nominations, F Shellard was proposed by S Taylor and seconded by M Rowland.
- 2. Election of Vice Chairman of Weaverthorpe Parish Council:** The Chairman invited nominations to take on the role of Vice Chairman for the next year, there were no nominations, M Rowland was proposed by J Mason and seconded by S Taylor.
- 3. Confirm YLCA Representatives:** F Shellard and J Mason will continue to be the YLCA representatives, proposed by S Taylor and seconded by T Thomson.
- 4. Apologies for Absence:** H Milner, N Carter.
Keri Hetherington who has applied to be a Councillor was welcomed to the meeting as an observer.
- 5. Matters to be raised by Members of the Public:** There have been complaints about horse riders from a property on the road to Fosters Wold not being visible to vehicle drivers because they do not wear hi viz waistcoats. The clerk will investigate with the relevant authorities.
- 6. To approve the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of Weaverthorpe Parish Council held on 17th March 2025:** The minutes of the last ordinary meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.
- 7. Matters arising from those minutes:**

Broadband: reliability in the village: The Clerk asked the question of NYC on this matter and the reply received was that our broadband connectivity would come under a Government project called Project Gigabit. The Clerk asked the Government department responsible for further details. This was sent on 2nd April 2025, no reply received as yet. The Clerk will chase in a few weeks in no reply received.

Community Emergency Plan: In reply to a request at the last meeting on whether we should have instigated the CEP for the power outage on 24/25 January 2025, the Clerk sent the following request to the NYC Emergencies Department. "During a storm on 24/25 January 2025, Weaverthorpe had a power cut which lasted for approximately 28 hours. Northern Powergrid were sending out SMS messages and also they established a mobile communication presence (but only after 24 hours). The SMS messages were not received by all as with no power, it is often very difficult to receive messages. The Parish Council did not consider this constituted an emergency.
The Parish Council have asked me to seek your advice on whether we should have done more?"

The reply we received was as follows: "Great to hear from you; I hope you're well. I'm glad to hear the Parish Council are engaged with the emergency plan!

Storm Eowyn had widespread impacts across North Yorkshire and did trigger our emergency structures here at the council. We were working closely with Northern Powergrid throughout the storm to track power cuts and have our adult social care teams reach out to vulnerable individuals wherever possible.

With regards to Weaverthorpe specifically, it is of course your decision what the threshold is for activating your Community Emergency Plan. One of the biggest challenges we face is getting 'on the ground' intelligence and local information, and this is where community groups have a distinct advantage -- as far as I am aware, we did not hear anything that suggested that Weaverthorpe was disproportionately affected by this incident, so if your assessment of your own community was that this did not constitute an emergency, I'm inclined to say you were right. As I said, I do know that we were receiving hourly updates from Northern Powergrid on the latest outages and comparing these against our known vulnerable persons data for adult social care to follow up with certain individuals.

In terms of further action by the Parish Council, my only suggestion would perhaps be that you might consider writing into the plan some kind of measure for power cuts lasting more than 24 hours -- opening the village hall, perhaps, with the understanding among residents that those impacted could gather there to receive support, or perhaps a texting/WhatsApp (or door knocking) plan to check up on those individuals who are most vulnerable once a power outage has gone on for a certain length of time? Often our biggest challenge is figuring out who needs help, so anything straightforward that can be put into the plan to reassure you that your community is indeed coping could be really valuable."

It was agreed that putting specific timings in the CEP could lead to problems so each situation will be taken on board as they occur.

Whilst discussing power cuts, S Taylor raised another issue related to power. There have been several instances of low voltage which can damage equipment and turn off equipment in some cases. If residents experience this they should contact Northern Powergrid and report the issue getting a reference number from NP. S Taylor to produce an article for the Warbler regarding this.

8. Finance and Governance

As our income was more than £25K in the last financial year we come into a different regime as far as the audit is concerned and have to complete AGAR Form 3 which goes to the External Auditor for audit. There is a fee of £240 to be paid for this. The External Auditor invoices us for the fee when the audit is complete.

The Internal Audit has been carried out by G Ashby and no anomalies were found. The auditor queried the fact that G Downes was the addressee on the Bank Statements, when he has resigned from the Council. The Chairman has raised this with NatWest. The auditor says he does not want to be paid for the audit, but the Clerk proposed we get him a garden voucher for £30. This was agreed.

The Annual Governance Statement was completed and approved by the Council and signed by the Chair and the Clerk

Accounting Statement was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

The Spreadsheet of Accounts was signed by the Clerk and the Chairman.

Review the Explanation of variances, only one of which is significant is the total other receipts which rose from £2219 to £29525 because of the £20,000 grant received from the Lottery Community Fund and the transfer of funds from the Reserve Account to cover the VAT on the play equipment.

The Risk Assessment and Management Statement was approved by the Council.

The Notice of Public Rights and Publication of the Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return will be posted on the website and the noticeboard on 30th May 2025, and a period of inspection by any person interested from Tuesday 3rd June 2024 until Monday 14th July 2025.

Normally the VAT reclaim would have been carried out at the time of completing the audit documentation, but as we will have to pay £4000 VAT on the play equipment in the next few weeks, the VAT return will be delayed until we can reclaim the £4000 from HMRC.

Three invoices were paid since the last meeting, to NYC for footway Lighting £185.15, membership fee for YLCA £157 and our domain registration to Wordpress, annual fee of £19.20 . NYC have presented another invoice for lighting maintenance for £429.54 which was the replacement of an LED on LP1 outside the Village Hall.

Zurich have notified us of the Insurance Renewal due on 1st June 2025 which is a sum of £419.77. The premium last year was £493.30. The Play equipment will be added to the Insurance.

We have been notified by NatWest that the interest rate on the 95 day notice account will decrease from 3.49% to 3.25% from 24th July 2025.

The precept of £5000 was paid by NYC on 30th April 2025.

The forward expenditure to include the Clerk's wages, Tax, payroll, grass cutting, Safety inspection, auditor's fee and expenditure already mentioned is estimated to be £4180, excluding the play / fitness equipment, so out of what is left of the precept we could transfer £800 to the reserve account. This will be reviewed at the September meeting.

The balances at the Bank after the above payments have been made will be:

Current Account £ £7852.73

Reserve accounts £ 23354.28

The amended Financial Regulations and Standing Orders were adopted by the council and will be posted on the web site.

9. Correspondence:

The proposed changes to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England were sent to all Councillors. The consultation closes on 9 June 2025. Under the proposal Weaverthorpe will become part of Hunmanby and Staxton ward. It was agreed that the clerk would draft a reply to the consultation as it was felt that the Wolds villages in the Great Wold Valley had been almost ignored by incorporating them into other wards. And in addition an extra NYC Councillor will be elected and this would increase costs.

The PC did consult with the community on the removal of the phone box on the village green which has been in a poor state for many years now. Four replies were received from members of the community which included, it's an eyesore and needs to go, adopt it and move the defibrillator into it, retain it for emergency calls only and retain it because we might find a use for it later. There is no financial sense in moving the defibrillator and BT would not leave a line there if we adopt it. Therefore the Clerk has written to NYC to say we have no objections to the removal.

Other correspondence sent out since the last meeting included Parish Updates from NYC, East Riding Plan, mayoral updates on bus services, skills updates and a £5 million mayoral fund.

10. Planning

Planning Application no. ZE25/00191/HOUSE: Harlequin Cottage. Reply to NYC that WPC is unable to support this application.

Planning Application no. ZE25/00134/HOUSE. 4 Waddale End. Application approved 7 April 2025.

Planning Application no. ZE25/00041/FUL. The Greens, Back Lane. Application approved 24 March 2025

A discussion took place on how we deal with Planning Applications in between meetings and it was agreed that when points are raised all the Councillors should be involved in replying to the points before they are sent to NYC.

11. Police Matters : None

12. **VAS Data:** The data from the VAS from 27th March (when it was moved to outside the Blue Bell) to 5th May was that 33,534 vehicles passed through the village in an easterly direction, the average speed was 26.5 mph and the top speeder was 60 mph at 21.25 on 27th March.
13. **Role of the Parish Council:** The Facebook page has been established which gives the details of the role of the Parish Council and allows people to contact us. The link will be published on the PC web site. That will also be a subject for an article in the Wrabler.
14. **Installation of Play equipment:** The installation was started today and will be complete by Thursday. We will then be invoiced and we can do the VAT return.
The fencing on the village green needs cleaning. The Clerk will organise a date for a working party.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm.

Date of the next meeting is 21st July 2025.