

# SKELTON CUM NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Nick Reed, Clerk, 9 Little Market Place, Masham, N. Yorks HG4 4DY

## MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
**TIME:** 7.00pm  
**LOCATION:** Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure  
**PRESENT:** Cllrs Guy Critchlow (Chair), Chris Delf, Emma Gerrard, Jane Mosley, Jim Spillings  
**CLERK:** Nick Reed (minutes)  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** 15 members of the public [MoP]

23.32	<b>Declarations of interest</b> and requests for dispensation There were none.
22.33	<b>Apologies</b> and consideration of reasons for absence There were none, all Councillors being present.
22.34	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July</b> These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
22.35	<b>Ongoing issues from the minutes for updating</b> (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)
22.351	<b>Skelton Newby Hall Primary School:</b> The Council heard that the school was now formally closed, with North Yorkshire Council and Newby Hall as landowners negotiating about removal of the school fixtures and fittings. It is hoped that the building may re-open as a nursery or similar pre-school provision, given the evidence of need shown during the campaign against school closure.
22.352	<b>Christ the Consoler Church:</b> The Council heard that the Friends of Christ the Consoler group has been formally constituted, with the aims of bringing life back to this unique building, and raising money for its conservation, especially restoring heating to reduce window deterioration and refurbishing one of the country's only remaining Willis organs. Events planned at the church include a production of "A Christmas Carol" on 6 <sup>th</sup> December, and a family service by candlelight on 19 <sup>th</sup> December.
22.353	<b>Black Lion pub:</b> The Council heard that the Black Lion pub group had been successful with a bid of £300,000 to the Community Opportunities Fund, with £250,000 going towards purchase and £50,000 for business support. Complicating factors have however emerged, including a possible alternative bidder, the cellar buildings having no registered owner, and COF funds not yet being available. The Council THANKED the Black Lion Group for its work on the project.
22.354	<b>Pop-up pubs:</b> Cllr Critchlow reported that the monthly events had been a great success and that another was planned for 20 <sup>th</sup> October by popular demand – a week earlier than usual to avoid any clash with Hallowe'en or fireworks events. BBC York would be attending this event to showcase the parish as working enthusiastically towards the re-opening of its pub.
22.36	<b>Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors</b> In response to a question about litterpicking, the Council noted that a community litterpick is planned for November. <i>Clerk's note: The litterpick and bulb planting are now set for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November.</i> In response to a question about vandalism of and near the bus stop, the Council noted that North Yorkshire Police have identified individuals they believe to be responsible and that there are no plans to replace the glass until police action has taken its course.

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<b>22.37</b>	<b>Financial Statement and approvals for payment</b> The Council was noted as having on hand £19,669.84 at the end of September, with recent receipts of £810 (pop-up pub takings). It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages (Clerk Jul-Sep, Cleaner Jul-Sep); Clerk's expenses/training qtr 1 £261.33 inc NYC Licensing £63 (3x temporary event notices for pop-ups); HMRC (PAYE qtr 2); Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 1) £30+VAT; YLCA (training) £66.80; Advance Fire Services (annual equipment service) £42.85+VAT; and Rudgate Brewery (beer for pop-up pub) £85.41+VAT. It was further RESOLVED to formally approve payments necessarily agreed between meetings of £170.83+VAT to Rudgate Brewery for pop-up refreshments, £298.95+VAT to Net World Sports for equipment per item 23.40, and £150.81 to Cllr Critchlow for pop-up pub stock, and noted direct debit payments to Scottish Water (£46.35, Reading Room supply, and £7.47, allotment supply), E.On Next (£151.49+VAT, electricity for Reading Room), and Unity Trust Bank (£36, bank charges). The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £18,251.49.
<b>23.38</b>	<b>Planning applications and decisions</b> The Council noted decisions necessarily arrived at between meeting that the Council strongly objects to application ZC23/01168/DVCMAJ for variation of conditions of the existing planning permission for a motorway service area at Kirby Hill; that the Council has no objection to application ZC23/02535/OUT, outline permission for a new property in the garden of "Fairfield", Ripon Road; and, that the Council has no comment to make on application ZC23/02600/FUL, retrospective permission for a fence above the existing stone wall at 7 Church Wood Close. The Council noted the granting subject to standard conditions of the last of these applications.
<b>23.39</b>	<b>Grass cutting</b> The Council noted that it is unclear where the responsibility lies for maintaining the grass verges in Skelton-on-Ure village, and that there are also differences of opinion as to how these should be managed. The Council RESOLVED to appoint a working group consisting of Cllrs Critchlow and Spillings, along with Tim Gerrard and David Pearson, to consider the situation and make recommendations for ongoing maintenance of the verges and playing field. <b><i>ACTION: Any Councillors or parishioners with opinions on grass cutting to contact Cllr Spillings</i></b>
<b>23.40</b>	<b>Sports equipment</b> The Council noted the purchase agreed between meetings of football nets and balls, and basketballs, for young parishioners to use on the playing field as an incentive to avoid anti-social behaviour. Cllr Mosley reported that Inspire Youth would be running an event in the parish on Hallowe'en, followed by weekly sessions in Boroughbridge open to all 8-14 year olds in the area including this parish. The Council also RESOLVED to apply to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to fund weekly sessions within the parish, with Cllr Mosley offering to lead on this.
<b>23.41</b>	<b>Parish councils forum</b> The Council noted with approval NYC Cllr Brown's intention to set up this body, and RESOLVED to appoint councillors to attend on a meeting by meeting basis.
<b>23.42</b>	<b>Highways issues</b> The Council noted that High Moor Road remains a problem, and that while it is welcome that North Yorkshire County Council's (as was) Highways department identified the road as "in need of a capital project" in 2021 there is as yet no timetable for this. The exit from High Moor Road onto the B6265 Ripon Road is badly surfaced, with less than ideal visibility splays and at a position where drivers on the

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	<p>B6265 are tempted to speed up.</p> <p>The Council also noted issues with visibility and signage at the right turn off the B6265 towards the village just to the north of the Ure bridge coming out of Ripon, and that it would be desirable for the junction to be better signposted.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Cllr Critchlow to draft a letter to NYC Highways; Clerk to review and send</b></p> <p>Finally, the Council considered the state of Back Lane but was of the opinion that it is better used by walkers as a path than it would be if appropriately surfaced as a highway.</p>
<b>23.43</b>	<p><b>Budget 2024-25</b></p> <p>The Council considered its level of reserves and likely expenditure for 2024-25, and RESOLVED to maintain the current level of precept at £2,508, this being 50% of that set in 2020-21. The Council further RESOLVED to set a budget item of £800 in 2024-25 for parish maintenance, possibly via the appointment of an individual or company as caretaker. <i>Clerk's note; the meeting further noted the possibility of an extraordinary meeting being needed due to a change in precepting deadlines by NYC, but NYC has now confirmed that it will accept a precept requirement after the regular January meeting.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION: Clerk to draft and circulate ahead of January a budget bearing these decisions in mind</b></p>
<b>23.44</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p>
23.441	<p>MoP interested in family history. Cllr Delf to liaise with Clerk about putting them in touch with parishioners knowledgeable about local history.</p>
23.442	<p>Pensions Regulator: Acknowledgement of the Council's re-declaration of compliance.</p>
23.443	<p>PKF Littlejohn LLP: Confirmation as external auditor that the Council's declaration of exemption has been accepted and that therefore the 2022-23 audit process is concluded without notes.</p>
23.444	<p>North Yorkshire Council: Introduction of Parish Charter</p>

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

SIGNED: ..... (Chair)

DATE: