

# 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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
**TIME:** 7.00pm  
**LOCATION:** Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure  
**PRESENT:** Cllrs Guy Critchlow (Chair), Emma Gerrard, Alexandra Lake, Jane Mosley, Jim Spillings  
**CLERK:** Nick Reed (minutes)  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** 5 members of the public [MoP]

24.48	<b>Declarations of interest</b> and requests for dispensation There were none.
24.49	<b>Apologies</b> and consideration of reasons for absence There were none, all Councillors being present.
24.50	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b> These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
24.51 24.511 24.512	<b>Ongoing issues from the minutes for updating (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)</b> <b>Parish caretaker:</b> The Council APPROVED an appointment to this position, to start on 1 <sup>st</sup> April. <b>Highways:</b> The Council heard that Cllrs Critchlow and Spillings had met with a North Yorkshire Council Highways senior engineer for a full discussion of highways issues within the parish. Areas reviewed included drainage on Lodge Lane, High Moor Road, and its junction with the Ripon Road, the safety of the Ripon Road / Skelton Lane junction, and drainage along Skelton Lane, the bottom of Back Lane, and the corner outside Moor End Farm House. The meeting was welcomed and constructive, and an action plan with timescales is awaited from NYC.
24.52 24.521 24.522	<b>Reports from parish organisations / activities (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)</b> <b>Black Lion pub and community hub:</b> The Council heard that the community café had opened on 13 <sup>th</sup> December, and is currently open from 10am-2pm Fridays-Sundays, thus completing phase 1 of the project. Work starts on the other side of the bar shortly, with the aim of being a functioning “wet pub” by Easter, and landscaping behind the pub is beginning to show improvement. The Council thanked Trisha Sidebottom and Pat Watson for their work with the café. <b>Christ the Consoler Church:</b> The Council heard that fundraising work at Christ the Consoler had generated “remarkable traction” with the Churches Conservation Trust to help get underlying issues dealt with; for example, CCT has recently dealt with damp in the bell tower. Newby Hall has also been helping to identify grant sources and high-wealth individuals to approach for support, and will shortly be meeting the campaign group to discuss weddings and events at the church. Public events at Christ the Consoler in 2025 include a theatre production of Pride and Prejudice, and a Christmas show.
24.53	<b>Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors / NY Police</b> There were brief discussions of actual and potential broadband provision within the village, and recycling bins, where it was noted that even withal recycling in a single bin the facility at Allerton Park can separate waste and recycling out into discrete reusable sections. The issue of land at High Moor Road known as “Hag Pot” was discussed, and it was NOTED that there is no record that the Parish Council owns, or has ever owned, land in that area.
24.54	<b>Financial Statement and approvals for payment</b> The Council was noted as having on hand £12,526.89 on 30 <sup>th</sup> December, with recent receipts of £310 (Reading Room hire fees).

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	<p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages and PAYE (Clerk Oct-Dec, Cleaner Oct-Dec); Clerk's expenses/training qtr 3; Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 3) £30+VAT; Cllr Mosley (expenses re planting) £3; and Cllr Spillings (rock salt for Reading Room paths) £6.29+VAT. The Council further RESOLVED to formally approve payments necessarily agreed between meetings of £149.07 (Cllr Spillings, Xmas tree and equipment further to item 24.43) and Shawgas (£142.86+VAT, Reading Room heating) and NOTED direct debit payments to Scottish Water (£45.07, Reading Room supply, and £5.42, allotment supply), Compton Estate (£30, Reading Room rent), and Unity Trust Bank (£36, bank charges).</p> <p>The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £11,072.98.</p>
24.55	<p><b>Planning applications and decisions</b></p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to approve formally the decision necessarily arrived at between meetings to support ZC24/04041/FUL for installation of external chiller units and air source heat pump cooler at the Black Lion pub.</p> <p>There were no principal authority decisions to note.</p>
24.56	<p><b>Budget 2025-26</b></p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to adopt the draft budget as circulating, noting the return of the precept to 2021 levels after several years of this being levied at a 50% rate due to excessive reserves.</p>
24.57	<p><b>Playing field</b></p> <p>The Council noted that the play area is in a poor state of repair and maintenance, including moss on play equipment and bins going unemptied for months. The Council AGREED to approach North Yorkshire Council to ask them to improve their maintenance and about their intentions regarding the play area including replacement of deteriorating features. The Council further AGREED to consider fundraising toward improved equipment, and to consider the possibility of this including taking on the play area as a Council asset.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>ACTION: Clerk to progress in consultation with Cllr Gerrard</b></p>
24.58	<p><b>Grit bins</b></p> <p>The Council considered whether or not to purchase for Skelton-on-Ure main street two grit bins from North Yorkshire Council at a cost of £50 each, plus £75 each for annual refilling, and RESOLVED that this was not necessary. Cllr Critchlow offered to talk to local contractors about possible alternative grit provision. The Council also noted the poor condition of the grit bin on Crowgarth, and asked the Clerk to investigate its ownership and management situation.</p>
24.59	<p><b>Parish Caretaker</b></p> <p>There were no tasks identified within the parish which needed attention before the caretaker takes their post on 1<sup>st</sup> April..</p>
24.60 24.601	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>North Yorkshire Council; confirming receipt in good order of the 2025-26 precept requirement.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm

SIGNED: ..... (Chair)

DATE: